



# WHY SMALL GROUPS?

**We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.**

**-1 Thessalonians 2:8**

## Why do we do Small Groups?

We offer Small Groups because we believe true life change happens in community. Acts 2:42-47 & 4:34-35 show people living in community together contagiously as they grow in Jesus and live out the good news. We believe that right now, small groups offer the most ideal way to become part of Biblical community and continue the conversation started about the Word on Sunday mornings.

We long for our people to not only hear the Word, but live out what it says; head knowledge married with heart knowledge. Small Groups combine Bible study, fellowship (food!), life application, and service. We anticipate and have witnessed Christ-centered transformation in individuals and our community through Small Groups.

## Why are the Small Groups at FHPC sermon-based?

Each Small Group has its own personality, but all are based on the biblical text from the previous Sunday's sermon providing participants the opportunity to dig deeper and practically apply truth. The question sheets used can be found in Sunday's bulletin or online. We believe sermon-based small groups offer the benefit of unifying the church under a single preaching theme, allowing greater retention of and depth in the Word, life application, and a multigenerational, church-wide conversation.

## What is a Small Group?

Small Groups are groups of 8-12 people that meet weekly at different homes (and occasionally FHPC) to **grow** in the Word, experience **fellowship**, **share** life in Christ in word and deed, and **serve** alongside one another. When a person commits to a Small Group, it is our hope that the person not only hears the sermon and comes ready to engage in discussion, but that they also come ready to care for one another. We anticipate this happening through friendship, prayer, conversation, and what happens outside of the Small Group. And we hope the Small Group provides a context for people to receive support in their greatest times of need.

## How do I join a Small Group?

During each of our 8-week sermon series, we offer open enrollment on our patio and website. If you are new to the church or exploring Christianity, we would be happy to make space for you mid-session.

## What is the duration of a group?

We have quarterly Small Group sessions that generally run eight weeks long. We desire that people build long-term relationships with others and share community. We believe sustainability and choice is critical in this, so we hold breaks between each Small Group session to take a breather, enjoy multi-generational gatherings, and allow individuals to change nights or small groups to best facilitate growth for a given person.

## What role does service play in small groups?

As people in relationship with one another, increasingly transformed by the Spirit, we expect our love and growth won't only stay in the group, but will find expressions flowing from the group into the outside world. We pray our small groups live incarnationally in our neighborhoods, workplaces, campuses, families, and spheres of influence. We don't want to identify ourselves as 'churchgoers' but as representatives of Christ; a priesthood of believers serving the King. As a people who seek to subversively and contagiously live out the aroma of Jesus in everyday, ordinary life, we aim to serve alongside each other for the benefit of those inside and outside our faith family. Some groups serve a church ministry in need, others have chosen to adopt a classroom in our preschool, offering supplies, encouragement and prayer for the children, teachers, and families represented. Groups have participated in trash pick-ups, visitation for our elderly or sick friends at home, or organized Rescue Mission donations. We seek to be attentive and responsive to the need in and beyond our midst, living on mission in whatever context God calls us to.