

WHY ARE SMALL GROUPS IMPORTANT?

We believe in sharing the ministry, not in keeping it for a handful of paid clergy. In fact, we believe the clergy should be equipping people to do the work of ministry. We know of no better way to do that than through small group ministry.

Small groups offer a caring atmosphere. It is difficult for people to show the love of Christ if they only meet on Sunday mornings or for committee meetings. Caring for each other is one of the most important commands God gives.

Small groups also offer the best atmosphere for personal growth. There is no better place in the church for people to develop their gifts, knowledge, leadership, and Christian character than in a small group.

OUR VISION FOR HOME FELLOWSHIPS

We envision nine characteristics for Home Fellowships.

- 1) **A Close Family**: As the Body of Christ we should care for each other.
- 2) **Unlimited Opportunities for Meaningful Service**: We want to equip people to do ministry for which they are gifted.
- 3) **Relating God's Word to Daily Life**: Our lives are centered on the Word of God, not mere topics or feelings.
- 4) **Sharing Personal Spiritual Challenges**: Encourage each other with stories of spiritual growth and how God is working to change us? If you know, share it!
- 5) **Effective One-to-One Ministry**: Address specific needs with the small group, formally or informally. Tailor-make ministry for individual needs.
- 6) **Non-threatening Friendship Evangelism**: We can reach out to other people in a genuine and authentic way. Plan how to grow! Share a good thing!
- 7) **Discipleship and Encouragement**: We plan for personal growth and encouragement.

- 8) **Development of Strong Leadership:** Future leaders of small groups come from small groups; and we are committed to ongoing training.
- 9) **Worshipful Responses:** We don't want to begin and end with ourselves. Our goal is to give God the glory, to know him and center our lives around him.