

The Vision, Purpose, and Core Values of Small Groups @ Emmanuel

Purpose:

To make lifelong followers of Jesus Christ in all nations, who are living obediently, growing in maturity, bearing fruit, and being transformed into Christlikeness

We believe that Small groups provide the best context for genuine discipleship to happen, through spiritual growth in Biblical community. Sustained life change takes place best in the context of intentional relationships where people are personally challenged and encouraged in their relationship with God and others. This is especially true when the challenges of life occur, and eventually those challenges come to everyone. We believe that a person who is continuing to mature in his faith is meaningfully and regularly connecting with other believers.

Our Core Values:

Studying & Applying God's Word

(Acts 2:42; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Timothy 4:2)

Prayer

(Acts 2:42-43; Matthew 18:18-20)

Authentic Biblical Relationships

(Acts 2: 42-47; Hebrews 10:25;)

- Genuine and mutual care. (Acts 2:41-47; Romans 12:10-15)
 - Spiritual Accountability (James 5:16; I John 1:7-9)
- Encouragement for Spiritual growth (Hebrews 10:25; Ephesians 4:13; Rom 8:29-30; Rom 6:22; 1 Thess 4:3)

Serving God, the Church, and one another through Spiritual gifts

(Mathew 10:5; 1 Corinthians 12:4-7; 2 Corinthians 516-21; 1 Peter 4:7-10)

Leadership Development

(2 Tim 2:2; Titus 2:3-7)

Outreach & Multiplication:

(Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:47)

Our Vision:

To see **every believer** at Emmanuel participating in a small group growing in their discipleship with Jesus; experiencing biblical community; being known and cared for; and Serving.

Small Group Covenant, Values & Expectations

A Small group doesn't belong to the leader, it belongs to God and to each member. Small groups don't succeed unless everyone is committed to the same vision, purpose and values together. We challenge each person to commit to these values and expectations:

Purpose - The primary purpose of small groups at Emmanuel is Discipleship: To make lifelong followers of Jesus Christ in all nations, who are living obediently, growing in maturity, bearing fruit, and being transformed into Christlikeness.

Commitment - Making Small Group meetings a priority, doing my best to attend regularly and be on time.

Participation - Coming to Small Group meetings prepared and ready to participate, opening my life to others, being honest and transparent but without disrupting or monopolizing the time and attention of others. Using my gifts and abilities to contribute to the group as needed.

Openness, Transparency, & Unity - Creating a safe place for each member to share with openness, honesty and transparency in mutual respect and love. Accepting others and doing my best to contribute to the unity of the group and church, building others up, loving and forgiving others, and working through any conflict, being constructive and not destructive.

Relationships – Being committed to building biblical relationships with other believers where I and others can be known and cared for.

Confidentiality - Maintaining confidentiality of the personal information that is shared. Avoiding gossip and slander. Understanding that my Small Group leader may contact a Pastor if there is a situation that he/she doesn't know how to handle, where a person is being harmed, or if there is serious ongoing unrepentant sin.

Accountability & Spiritual Growth - Coming with the purpose to learn and apply Gods word, and develop relationships for the goal of spiritual growth and maturity, striving to help one another take the next step in our spiritual growth and development and allowing others to hold me accountable for growing spiritually and living a life that honors God.

Caring – To do my part to care for others in my group, to help meet their needs with the love of Christ.

Outreach & Multiplication - Committed to seeing our group work together to reach out to others in and outside the church. Being open to new members, as it grows, being willing to multiply a new group when the time is right to allow others to experience biblical community.

Show up...Join In...Be Real