



Developing Community The Power of ONE

How Important Are Growth Groups?

A Growth Group is made up of 10-16 people who meet biweekly to study, to share, and to support one another in their Christian lives. Each group will be led by a trained leader and host couple. A typical meeting will last for an hour and a half, followed by light refreshments.

When and Where Do These Groups Meet?

Our Growth Groups will meet on various days and nights of the week in homes throughout the community. There will be a few groups, mostly for senior adults, that will continue to meet on Sunday mornings. Children's GG will meet on Wednesday evenings and youth GG will continue to meet on their current weekly schedule. All groups will adopt the sermon-based teaching style rather than the current Sunday school system.

What Will We Study?

The studies are based on the previous weekend's sermon. Growth Groups will be built upon what we call a "Lecture-Lab" model. If you imagine the weekend sermon as a lecture on Christian living, then the group meeting is a lab where you get to roll up your sleeves and discuss how the sermon works out in real life.

How Will Growth Groups Impact The Assembly?

We believe that Growth Groups will develop a stronger sense of community within The Assembly. We believe that through this ministry those who attend the church will feel a sense of belonging. The practical conversation which we believe will take place in this model will impact the lives of people. This impact will have a positive effect on the emotional and spiritual lives of those who attend, thus building happy, healthy families of Christians. We believe that the comfortable atmosphere created in each group will encourage people to invite those who would not normally feel comfortable attending a large church or come to church at all. Our goal is to launch with fifty Growth Groups.

How will Growth Groups Impact the Community?

Each Growth Group will be required to participate in two community projects each year, one each in the Fall and Spring sessions. With a minimum of 50 Growth Groups that translates into 100 community projects each year. These projects will be coordinated with the help and direction of the Outreach Pastor and will all take place somewhere other than the 715 Cypress campus.

Purpose

Growth Groups exist to foster authentic relationships by connecting people with people, God, and ministry.

Our Model

Growth Groups operate on a Biblical model outlined in Acts 2:42-47 which includes four primary elements: Eat Together, Learn Together, Pray Together, & Serve Together.



Acts 2:42-47

Scriptural Basis for Growth Groups Model

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching (*learn together*) and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread (*eat together*) and to prayer (*pray together*). Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles (*serve together*). All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to

anyone as he had need (**serve together**). Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts (**eat together**), praising God (**pray together**) and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

1. **Eat Together** – Relationship building around food inside and outside group meetings.
2. **Learn Together** – Meaningful discussion around Biblical relational curriculum.
3. **Pray Together** – Quality time praying for the needs of one another.
4. **Serve Together** – Caring for each other, sharing group meeting responsibilities, and serving together on a service project.