



Small Group

Is an Agreement or Covenant a good idea for your group?

Having challenges getting people on the same page about your small group? An Agreement or Covenant is a potential guide to assist you. GFC groups are focused on one-anothering. Our hope is to be building significant Christian relationships where burdens are borne by one another and we are spurred on to maturity as followers of Christ. (Gal. 6:1-2)

A few things to remember:

- **Guidelines are not rules. Be careful to avoid any Pharisaical tendencies.**
- **Be Patient:** involvement takes time and involvement precedes any real transformation. This is why as leaders we must first bathe our approach with grace and fostering relationships with people. Christ speaks to the heart, and though we may be one tool he uses, we can be confident that merciful grace should precede that usefulness. Be merciful and gracious in tone and approach.
- **Model Transparency:** Desiring the group to grow in their honesty and willingness to share will normally begin with someone modeling it. That person is the leader. What God is teaching you, comforting you and convicting you about is normally a window into others lives. All of us are interpreting what is going on in us and around us. We are not mere participants. "The poor in spirit" that Jesus launches the Sermon on the Mount with immediately grasped their attention. Why? Everyone knows the feeling of being poor on the inside.
- **Delegate Responsibilities:** Everyone needs to be part of the small group team. Each person that has a responsibility will normally see the group as something other than a place to consume. We live in a consumer culture and stronger groups grow stronger by expecting investment. Don't ask for volunteers; ask specifically of people...will you do this? This will also help identify future leaders as great leaders take initiative. Do less and accomplish more.



Small Group *Small Group Agreement*

Basic Purpose: Small groups exist to build significant Christian relationships, bear one another's burdens and grow in our devotion as Christ followers in all areas of life. (Galatians 6:1-2; Hebrews 10:24-25; Romans 8:29)

What to Expect: Our time together will be focused around "Four W's" which are Welcome, Worship, Word, and Work. The small group leader will clarify what these may mean for a particular group.

Study: The leader will typically choose the focus. Sometimes this is a book study, which people read together and discuss. Some groups focus on booklet studies, which tend to be shorter and practical in application. Some study will be focused on a biblical book or passage. Some groups discuss the previous Sunday's sermon for more intense understanding and application. Talk with your leader about things you see as needful.

Comfort, Safe, Challenging: A group may feel a little awkward at first. Likened to a first day in school, some things are new and unfamiliar. No one will be required to read or pray. You should expect, however to hear about some deep, important things from God's word and life issues. We want people to feel safe and welcomed, so unless something is illegal or harmful, you can anticipate confidentiality.

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Meeting Dates: _____

Time: Arrive between _____ and _____ and we will begin at _____. I'll call or text if I cannot make the meeting.

Preparation: I will be expected to read for about _____ minutes before the meeting, or review the sermon notes during the sermon, and the day before the meeting.

Participation: I will share with the group both insights and questions I have about the study. I will be careful to not monopolize the discussion and allow others opportunity to share.

Prayer: The group will be praying each week for one another and specific needs that are being faced in their personal lives. I will not be required to share, but should expect to be encouraged to do so.

Childcare: I am responsible for securing childcare unless the group provides it. I will be responsible for making sure my child is respectful and considerate of the adult small group time by not interrupting unless absolutely necessary.

Signatures on reverse:

We agree together to honor this agreement and are committed to living out the biblical one-another's below. **Note:** Renew agreement every semester and/or when new individuals join the group.

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<p>Love One Another – Care Intentionally (John 13:34; I Peter 4:8; Ephesians. 4:15)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Be earnest in my love at all times – Always speak the truth in love – Listen to understand, don't assume or accuse. – Pray for one another with compassion 	<p>Be Devoted To One Another – Commit Wholeheartedly (Rom 12:5-10; Prov. 17:17; Prov. 13:3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Be there in the hard times – Seek reconciliation between others – Guard my relationships with truth and love – Go gently if correction is needed
<p>Forgive One Another - Pursue Unity (Eph. 4:1-32; 1 Cor. 1:10; Matt. 18:15-20)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Be quick to forgive and ask forgiveness – Let personal offenses roll off my back or to God in prayer – Model unity by resolving conflict quickly – Be a peace-maker, not peace-faker or breaker – Get the whole story, including both sides in personal conflict 	<p>Encourage One Another – Cultivate Meaningful Relationships (1Thess. 5:1; Rom. 1:12; Eph. 4:29)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Be a safe person to get real with – Seek to build up always and never tear down – Complement other's character when I think it twice – Value the person more than their performance – Point to Christ for hope and help
<p>Serve One Another – Minister Actively (Gal. 5:13; Ex. 17:11-12; Prov. 19:20; 1 Cor. 12:21-26)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Be intentional in blessing others – Stay teachable and show deference – Be flexible to meet situational needs – Maximize my strengths and recognize my constraints – Be committed to the whole, not just the part 	<p>Consider One Another – Esteem Others Highly (Eph. 5:21; 1 Pet. 5:5; Phil. 2:3-4; Matt. 7:3-5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Be the first to lead in humility and honor – Serve others' interests before my own – Check my motives and expectations before speaking – Know my limits and respect the boundaries of others

DATE: _____