

# Small Group Covenant Agreement

## Covenant Purpose

The purpose of having a group covenant is to try to provide a predictable environment where attenders can experience authentic community and spiritual growth (Ephesians 4:2-3, 29, 32).

## Group Values

- *Relationships* – While prayer and discussion of curriculum are key elements of a small group, the driving force behind the group is the building of relationships (John 17:21; 1 Thessalonians 5:11).
- *Authenticity* – The atmosphere of a small group should encourage openness and transparency among members. This is an environment where people should feel free to be themselves (James 1:26).
- *Confidentiality* – For authenticity to occur, members must be able to trust that issues discussed within a small group will not be shared outside the group (Proverbs 11:13).
- *Respect* – Group members should never say anything that will embarrass another member or members of the group (Romans 12:10).
- *Availability* – A primary responsibility of community is to prioritize for specific relationships. This requires a willingness to be available to meet each other's needs (Hebrews 10:24-25).

## Group Goals

1. This group study schedule will meet from \_\_\_\_\_(date) through \_\_\_\_\_(date). The group will regroup after that once the group has had an opportunity to discuss calendars. Any special dates will be announced in upcoming weeks.
2. This group will meet on \_\_\_\_\_(day of week). The group sessions will begin at \_\_\_\_\_ a.m. or p.m. and end around \_\_\_\_\_ a.m. or p.m. Please try to be on time so the group has enough time for the various elements of a meeting without running over.
3. The group time will typically consist of about \_\_\_\_\_ minutes for sharing/social time; about \_\_\_\_\_ minutes for study and discussion time, and about \_\_\_\_\_ minutes for prayer time.
4. This group currently *is* or *is not* accepting new members. Before inviting prospective members into the group, please be sure to talk to the group leader.
5. Group members are expected to attend and participate in each meeting if possible or call the group leader when they will not be able to attend. Also, if you utilize the childcare offered, it is especially important to call when unable to attend.
6. Members agree to pray for other group members on a weekly basis between meetings. Pray for members to honestly pursue their next steps in their spiritual growth.
7. As a group grows together spiritually, a natural outflow of a maturing relationship with Christ is sharing one's faith. Opportunities to interact with those outside the faith can happen by partnering with our church in its local missions efforts. Together, we will decide how we can serve as a group in local missions each semester.

*I covenant together with the other members of this group to honor this agreement.*

Group Leader(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Group Members: \_\_\_\_\_

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Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_