



River Rock Church Small Groups

Our Most Frequently Asked Questions

How Important Are Small Groups?

The Small Group Ministry is part of our GROW ministry. You will notice that ministry in small groups is present in all age group ministries at River Rock Church. Many times, building on our Sunday morning worship, small groups are the place where the real community and transformation into followers of Jesus by the Holy Spirit's power happens. They are the place we encourage, support, and challenge one another. God doesn't want any of us to be left to walk alone – we need each other.

What Is a Small Group?

A River Rock Small Group is an intentional gathering varying in size, meeting regularly. They may be as large as 12 people or as small as 3 people. We have groups that are couples, same gendered and inter-generational groups. A typical meeting lasts for an hour and a half and it may include refreshments.

How Long Does A Group Last?

Each Small Group session lasts an average of 7 weeks. Basically, we've broken the year into 3 sessions (fall, winter and spring). At these times, the small groups go deeper on the sermon preached on Sundays. At the end of each session, you have the choice of staying in the same group, trying a new group, or taking a break. Most groups stay together throughout the entire year. Many groups do not meet regularly in the summer, however may meet informally, socially or serve together in the summer.

Which Group Should I Join?

We understand it is not a "one size fits all" answer when joining a group. What do you need to grow that suits your life situation? There are 1828's (young adults), those in the same season of life, inter-generational, same gender groups and mixed groups. Your schedule and availability may also dictate the group that you join. We understand that sometimes it might take two or three groups before you find the perfect fit. But don't worry, you'll find it!

What Is The Required Commitment?

Joining a Small Group requires a commitment to match the sermon series or to attend the weekly meetings. We understand there are occasions when sickness, vacation, work conflicts, and other special events keep you from your small group. We have found that this commitment is the key to strong relationships and healthy groups.

What About Childcare?

Each group with kids finds their own answer to this question. Here are a few ideas:

- Hire one shared sitter that will take the children to another area of the home or outside during the discussion
- Rotate adults taking turns spending time with the kids in another area of the home or at a different home
- Each family takes care of securing their own childcare
- Older children within the group is asked to watch the younger children

What will We Study?

The studies are based on the previous weekend's sermon. Most of our Small Groups are built upon what we call a "LectureLab" 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 do I sign up?

Church wide signups begin at the start of each new session, you can sign up on our website (www.RiverRockCommunity.com) or by emailing Grow@RiverRockCommunity.com. Many times there is a "kick-off" event for those wanting to join a new group. We will work with you to get you connected to a group.

When and where do these groups meet?

Many groups meet on Sunday afternoons or evenings; meeting times are determined by the schedules of individual group members.

Do groups meet at the church?

We do not offer facility-based Small Group space. We are committed to fostering the relationships and intimacy built within the framework of meeting in homes. Some groups meet at coffee shops or quiet restaurants when homes are unavailable. If a small group desires to meet at the school, the time and space is coordinated around the school calendar.

Do all groups follow the Sermon Based Small Group Series materials or can we do our own thing?

We encourage groups to participate in the Sermon Based Small Group Series 3 times a year, however it is not required. If your group has a specific need or shared interest, you may choose to do a different study. Many of the gender specific groups study different material than the sermon-based series.

Does our group have to be open to new members?

Each group determines at what point they are full based on the relationships that have been formed and the number in the group that is comfortable for the group. We do not require or ask groups to split or end, however we understand that groups may come to an end due to life commitments, many times around children's activities. There are some groups that have been together for years.

Do we have to meet every week?

We encourage groups to meet weekly. This works well when the group makes a commitment to meeting, for example, 6-8 weeks consecutively, then taking a planned break before starting a new study.

What if we need to take a break from our group?

Our Sermon Based Small Group Series are planned with breaks built in. This allows for a summer break, during which time you might choose to meet for a few social gatherings or service projects. Members may also take a break from one series and join again for the next series as needed.

We have been in a Small Group for a while and now feel we are being called to become leaders of a new group.

We are always praying for new small group leaders and are blessed to have new small group leaders. Please contact the Small Group Coordinator to begin this process.