

Growth Group Commitment

Hillside Church

Leaders: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Hosts: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Small groups thrive on participation! The purpose of this Commitment is to help you to discuss and clarify your group's goals, expectations and agreements.

Growth Groups: Their Purpose

Growth Groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth through meaningful Christian relationships and study of God's Word. (Romans 8:29 & Hebrews 10:24, 25) We'll do this by focusing on four primary activities:

Sharing - Each week we'll take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first this sharing will include planned sharing questions. But after the first few weeks, it will become more informal and personal as we feel more comfortable.

Study - Each week we'll study a section from God's Word that relates to the previous Sunday's sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life.

Support - Each week we'll learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (John 15:9-13). This care can take many forms such as *prayer, encouragement, listening, challenging one another, and meeting real needs*.

Serve - Spiritual growth is fostered not only by what we gain through the support and input of others, but also through service to others. The role each of us fills is important to the health of the church and for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to our community (Ephesians 4:11-16). Throughout the quarter it is our hope that you can find and or be affirmed in the ways God has designed you to serve and make a difference in God's Kingdom.

Five Marks of a Healthy Group

For our group to be healthy, we need to . . .

1. Make spiritual growth our number one priority (Romans 8:29).
2. Accept one another (Romans 15:7).
3. Take care of one another (John 13:34).
4. Treat each other with respect (Ephesians 4:25-5:2).
5. Keep our commitments to the group (Psalm 15:1-2, 4b).

Guidelines & Commitment

- 1. Dates** • We'll meet on _____ nights for _____ weeks. Our final meeting for the quarter will be on _____.
- 2. Time** • We'll arrive between _____ & _____ and begin the meeting at _____. We'll spend approximately _____ minutes in singing (optional), _____ minutes in study/discussion, and _____ minutes in prayer/sharing.
- 3. Children** • Group members are responsible to arrange childcare for their children. Nursing newborns are welcome, provided they are not a distraction to the group.
- 4. Study** • Our studies will focus on the same topic covered in the previous weekend's sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life.
- 5. Personal preparation & Attendance** • Joining a Growth Group requires a commitment to attend each week and to do the homework ahead of time. Obviously, allowances are made for sickness, vacation, work conflicts and other special events, but not much more. This commitment is the key to a healthy group.

Most weeks require 20 - 30 minutes of preparation for the group discussion.

If we cannot come to a meeting, we will call or email: _____.

6. Dessert

7. Socials

8. Other

We agree in Christ to honor this agreement.

(To be decided by each person on or before the third week.)

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 10. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 12. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 13. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 14. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 15. _____ |
| 8. _____ | 16. _____ |