

NEW HOPE ADULT SMALL GROUPS

It is our belief at New Hope that small groups play an intricate part in the growth and development of our Christian character. Our small groups are committed to meeting together regularly and providing opportunities for spiritual growth and for experiencing the Christian walk. In other words, we do life together.

Design of a Small Group.

- A group of 10-12 people with an identified leader and co-leader/leader-in-training
- Regularly scheduled meeting time (weekly is suggested).
- Meeting place designated by group (I.E. rotate homes, utilize church facilities)

Purpose of Small Group.

- Prayer: There will be a time at each meeting set aside to take our concerns and praises to the Lord in prayer. Jesus' death on the cross gave us a direct path to the Father through prayer. Spiritual growth occurs when we utilize that gift.
- Bible Study: We need to know and study the Bible because the scriptures give us the foundation for our faith. Our Christian lives are shaped around it. Paul explained the purpose of the Bible in 2 Timothy 3:16: "All Scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." Each small group will be committed to the STUDY of God's word, collectively, and to maturing together. (Suggestions for topics and studies will be posted on our website. Occasionally we may have a church wide study that would be recommended to all groups as a collective initiative.)
- Sharing Life: By committing to share life together, small groups can be utilized to help each person remain accountable in their decisions and priorities. By sharing our joys and concerns, failures and successes, we can begin the process of opening up, not only to each other, but to God in prayer.
- Serving: Serving our Lord is a critical ingredient in our spiritual growth. There will be opportunities for small groups to serve both inside the church and in the community. Just as serving each other was a priority in the early church, serving each other will also be a priority in each small group.
- Each group should begin with the intention of "birthing" a new group. Each group should be attentive to the Lord's timing and direction in this matter. Caution: Most folks will not want to leave their "old friends" and that is natural to feel that way. People tend to resist change, but it will be great to help further God's kingdom. Group dynamics from many studies tell us that a group that gets above 12 makes it easier for individuals to become "invisible" and not interject and be a part of the conversations. If we focus on internal growth then external growth will be a part of the results.
- The Co-Leader/Leader-In-Training leads the newly birthed group. The leader of the first group prays about and recruits a new Co-Leader/Leader-In-Training usually within that unit. The Co-Leader now Leader of the second group does likewise. By doing this we will grow new leaders in the Body of Christ.

How Do I Join A Small Group?

- Visit the kiosk (you will be contacted within 7-10days).
- Visit the New Hope web page. www.newhopegreenwood.org
- Contact Dwayne Doles (317-431-8326), or Bob McCaslin (317-889-5772)