



Adult Grow Ministry Group Life Community Guidelines

We know that God is with us as we lead our groups and that he is our ultimate guide. However, we also know that God requires something of us as leaders and participants in our groups. This document helps outline a few key ideas for successful gatherings. Whether you are involved in a home-based small group, a table discussion group, large community gathering, Rooted, or any number of other gatherings here at Christ Church, we hope the following helps guide you in your time together:

We agree to work toward the following:

1. **A Community with Clear Purpose** – We know that groups are always changing and growing together but we come together around a clear purpose, and we work to focus on that purpose each time we gather whether making our way through a Bible study, Rooted book, Women of Hope study, etc., we are together for the purpose of honoring God and learning together. The group leader will also do their best to clearly outline the purpose for the group as well as the times and locations for gathering. Group members should feel the freedom to exit the community should the purpose for its gatherings end up different than what was expected.
2. **A Community that is Present** – Life is messy, and schedules change but to the best of our ability we will be present so that we can support one another and help create a space where people are welcome, well-known, and loved. If we cannot make it, we will let our leader know well in advance of the meeting (if possible) so that the group is not left wondering or waiting on us.
3. **A Safe Environment** -- We will work to create a safe place where people can be heard and feel safe so we will be careful with being judgmental, giving quick answers, and offering our simple fixes to complex situations. What defines us as Christians is *how* we disagree, not *if* we disagree. Honor one another when opinions and ideas differ and remember our job in a group is not to fix or solve one another's problems but to help bring the presence and person of Jesus to one another.
4. **A Space that Holds Confidences** -- Anything that is shared strictly confidential and should remain in the group unless a group member states that they intend to harm

themselves or another person in which case, alert the group leader or the appropriate outside resource immediately.

5. **A Space for Prayer** – We are invited to be people of prayer. Everyone prays in different ways, and some are comfortable with prayer while for others, prayer is new. In fact, some groups might be focused on learning how to pray. Whether private prayers inside our head and heart or vocally out loud, we commit to pray for our group. Pray that God would be known to us through our group experiences. When group members ask you to pray for them, make a note and keep a confidential list so that we can be faithful in prayer for one another.
6. **A Space Where Conflict is Resolved** – We work to avoid gossip and to immediately resolve any concerns by following the principles of Matthew 18:15-17, which begins with going directly to the person with whom we have an issue. Differences and tension will likely occur in groups, this is not a bad thing! When we gather to talk about the most important things in our lives, we bring our stories, experiences, and emotions to that work. When tension arises, we will work to resolve it in a healthy way. If you are in a group where resolving conflict seems more difficult than anticipated or, the conflict is with your group leader, please let a member of our Adult Ministry team know about your situation and we will help resolve it. You can find a full list of our staff and email addresses on the Christ Church website. christchurch.us
7. **A Space of Welcome** – Most groups will add new members along the way, and we are excited to welcome them. We do our best to include them in discussion, catch them up on what they missed from the past, and to fold them fully into the communal space God is inviting us to create. We look for opportunities to serve together and to have fun outside of our regular group meetings.
8. **A Space that Shares Responsibility** – We offer to lend a hand to help keep the group going whether that is facilitating the study when the leader is unable to make it, managing a group text or chat, bringing snacks, hosting the group in our home, etc. We will also do our best to complete any pre-reads, videos, or materials that are helpful for our group experience. Some groups meet to discuss Bible studies, reading through certain books, videos, various assessments, etc. Life happens and time can feel short but whenever possible, participants should come prepared.