

SERMON-BASED HOME FELLOWSHIP GROUP COVENANT

Session Dates _____ to _____.
Leader(s) _____ Phone # _____.
Host(s) _____ Phone # _____.

This covenant will help us discuss and clarify our goals, expectations, and commitments as a group. Since healthy groups thrive on trust and participation, a clear covenant is an important starting point towards a successful group experience.

GROWTH GROUPS: OUR BASIC PURPOSE

Growth Groups exist to promote spiritual growth and maturity through the development of significant Christian relationships centered around the study of God's word. (See Hebrews 10:24-25 & Romans 8:29)

SHARING

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

STUDY

Each week we'll study a portion of God's word that relates to the previous weekend's sermon. Our goal is to learn how to apply and live out our Christianity in our day-to-day experiences and relationships.

SUPPORT

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

FIVE MARKS OF A HEALTHY GROUP

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

- 1) Focus on spiritual growth as a top priority. (Romans 8:29)
- 2) Accept one another in love just as Christ has accepted us. (Romans 15:7)
- 3) Take care of one another in love without crossing over the line into parenting or taking inappropriate responsibility for solving the problems of others. (John 13:34)
- 4) Treat each other with respect in both speech and action. (Ephesians 4:25-5:2)
- 5) Keep our commitments to the group – including attendance, homework and keeping confidences whenever requested. (Psalm 15:1-2, 4b).

GUIDELINES & COVENANT

1. **Dates** We'll meet on _____ nights for _____ weeks.
Our final meeting of 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** Each week we'll study the same topic(s) covered in the previous weekend's sermon.
5. **Prayer** Our group will be praying each week for one another and specific missions requests.
6. **Homework & 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, the home work will require from 20 to 30 minutes to adequately prepare for the group study and discussion.

If we cannot come to a meeting, we will _____

7. **Refreshments** We will handle refreshments and dessert by _____

8. **Social(s)**

9. **Service Project(s)**

We agree together in Christ to honor this covenant.

(To be decided upon and signed by each group member on or before the third week.)

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