



# COMMUNITY GROUPS

EXPLORE • BELONG • GROW • SERVE

## *Community Group Covenant*

As we begin our community group experience, we do so with the desire to not only grow in our understanding of Scripture but to deepen our life with God and one another.

### VALUES

We hold the following values as essential to our life together:

#### CURIOSITY | TRY IT ON

We agree to be open to engaging others' perspectives. We will practice considering ideas from a posture of curiosity, focusing on asking probing questions rather than critiquing or defending. Our goal is not to walk away with one "right" answer but to learn with and from each other.

#### PARTICIPATION | STEP UP, STEP BACK

We agree to be mutual stewards of the life of our group, prioritizing our weekly gatherings and inviting every group members' participation, as they feel comfortable. We will be aware of group participation dynamics. If I am someone who tends to be a listener in group settings, I will consider stepping up to share my perspectives or questions. If I am someone who tends to talk a lot, I will consider stepping back to create space for others. (Think "three, then me.")

#### RESPECT | HOLD GOOD BOUNDARIES

We agree to practice respectful listening by not interrupting or talking over others. We agree to practice respectful sharing by speaking from our own experience ("I" statements) and refrain from giving advice, unless it is requested.

#### CARE | "OOPS" AND "OUCH"

We agree to assume positive intent in others while also acknowledging potentially negative impact. Anyone can say "ouch" if hurt or offended to stop the process from continuing and explore what's happening and why. Anyone can say "oops" to acknowledge their assumptions and/or to respond to another's "ouch."

#### CONFIDENTIALITY | SHARE ABOUT IDEAS, NOT PEOPLE

We want to process and discuss our learnings with others. However, we agree all sharing should be about concepts and experiences in the group, not specifics about what others have shared. We commit to hold in confidence the personal stories and comments shared in our community. Our bond of trust is essential to creating space for God's good work in each of us to take place.

### NORMS

We agree to meet on \_\_\_\_\_ (day of week) from \_\_\_\_\_ (am/pm) to \_\_\_\_\_ (am/pm) from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

We agree to revisit our group covenant mid-way through our \_\_\_\_\_ weeks together to assess how we are doing.

We agree to revisit our group covenant toward the end of our \_\_\_\_\_ weeks together to determine if we would like to conclude our covenant or continue on in intentional community together