

# ***GROWTH GROUP COVENANT***

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Date \_\_\_\_\_

Leaders: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Hosts: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Growth Groups thrive on trust and participation! The purpose of this covenant is to help us discuss and clarify our group's goals, expectations, and commitments. A clear covenant is an important starting point towards a successful group experience.

## **Growth Groups: Our Purpose**

Growth Groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth through meaningful relationships and studying God's word (Hebrews 10:24-25 & Ephesians 4:14-16). We'll do this by focusing on four primary activities:

### **Share**

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 more safe and comfortable.

### **Study**

Each week we'll study a section from God's Word that relates to the previous weekend's sermon. Our goal is to learn how to apply and live out our faith in our everyday life.

### **Support**

Each week we'll learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (John 15:9-13). This care will 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 serving 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 and world (Ephesians 4:11-16, Acts 1:8). Throughout the year, 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. To help, the church will provide a list of various serving opportunities for our group to consider.

### **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 and Covenant**

1. **Dates** – We'll meet on \_\_\_\_\_ nights for \_\_\_\_\_ weeks. Our final meeting of the session will be on \_\_\_\_\_.
2. **Time** – We'll arrive between \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ and begin the meeting at \_\_\_\_\_. We'll spend approximately \_\_\_\_\_ 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 study and discussion will focus on the same topic covered in the previous Sunday's sermon. Our goal is to learn how to live out our faith in our everyday life.
5. **Prayer** – Each week our group will pray for one another and any specific outreach requests.

**6. Homework and 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 key to building strong relationship and healthy groups.

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 call \_\_\_\_\_.

**7. Refreshments** – We will handle refreshments by:

**8. Socials** – Outside of our regular study and discussion time, we plan to get together to just have some fun on:

**9. Service Project** – We have chosen to participate in the following service opportunity this semester:

**10. Global Workers** – We have chosen to “adopt” the following global workers and commit to praying for, encouraging and caring for them (this could include letters, emails, gifts, etc...):

**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. Keep this covenant for your records of your commitment.)*

Signed \_\_\_\_\_