

Small Groups: Structure and Information

What are Small Groups at Trinity?

A Small Group is a small number of people meeting together regularly to discuss how the Scripture passage from Sunday can be applied to our lives during the week.

What purpose do Small Groups serve?

Small Groups at Trinity are an important way of living into two pieces of our vision statement: “Intentionally connecting with Christ and each other...” Broadly defined, the purpose of our Small Groups is to provide a place for people to grow as Christ’s disciples alongside other disciples. More narrowly defined, Small Groups are a place where we apply what we learn and know about God to our lives. In short...

“From head to heart, together.”

How often do these groups meet?

Small Groups at Trinity are encouraged to meet every week, especially for groups just starting up in order to build comfort with one another. If schedules do not allow for gathering weekly, try to meet every other week.

Why once a week?! My schedule is already full!

Meeting weekly is a big ask. Here’s why we believe it’s important to meet this often:

- Applying God’s word and growing as Christ’s disciples is important! We want to make it a priority.
- Increased meeting frequency typically leads to increased loyalty (likelihood to show up). It is easier to make it part of your routine if it is weekly.
- Meeting weekly helps relationships achieve a greater depth of intimacy.
- Meeting weekly avoids the confusion of “Are we meeting this week?”
- Missing one meeting in a group that meets weekly means you’re not seeing your group for only 2 weeks. Missing one meeting in a group that meets every other week means you’re not seeing your group for a whole month!

Do Small Groups take breaks?

Yes. Small Groups at Trinity are term-based. Groups operate around 4 terms: 1) Fall: Sept-Nov, 2) Winter: Jan-Easter, 3) Spring: Post-Easter-June, and 4) Summer: July-August. Individual groups decide if they want to meet over summer for formal study or just fellowship. Some groups may decide to break over the summer. Individuals, couples, and families also take breaks as their schedules dictate, which means you are free to take a term off if needed.

Where do groups meet?

We meet either in homes or at the church. It is our desire that individual groups meet at the same home for the duration of the term in order to build consistency and stability.

Who is in a Small Group?

Small Groups are ideally made up of 8-12 people. These people are at all ages and stages of the faith journey. Depending on the ages and members of the group, some groups may decide to provide meals and childcare.

Do I have to stay in the same group after a term if it is not a good “fit”?

Of course not! People decide for themselves if they want to continue in the group or check out a new group. The hope is that people will find a consistent group where they are encouraged and challenged to grow as Christ’s disciples.

Can I join a Small Group during the middle of a term?

Individual groups decide if they are open to new joiners during the term.

What do Small Groups study?

Small Groups at Trinity discuss questions relating to the application of the Sunday Scripture passage. Questions are prepared by pastors and other church leaders and given to Small Group leaders in advance. If a Small Group would like to study a separate area of interest, the church will help provide resources.

Who leads a Small Group?

Think of Small Group leaders not as Bible scholars, but as facilitators. They are responsible for getting the meeting underway, asking the discussion questions, and guiding the conversation of the group. Leaders are asked to commit to lead for the length of a term. After the term, they make the decision to keep leading or not. Training is available to leaders at least once per term. Training will occur during Shepherding Elders meetings.

What about groups that are already meeting?

The church is here to support existing groups in whatever way we can. If groups are already operating well, we don’t want to interfere. Existing groups are given the option to advertise their group to the church. They are free to receive training and use the discussion questions if desired.

How do I join a Small Group at Trinity?

If you’re interested in joining a Small Group, check out the Small Groups tab on our website or contact the church office, an elder, or pastor.