

# St. Mark's Church Small Group Covenant

**The purpose of our group:** While we encourage all groups to embrace and incorporate the four values of Love, Learn, Serve and Reach, into the life of their group, it's natural and okay for a group to have one of the four values as its primary focus. After a discussion with your group, select the value that best describes your focus.

**Love** (Care)    **Learn** (Study)    **Serve** (Task)    **Reach** (Seeker Oriented)

## Details:

We will meet from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ (time) on \_\_\_\_\_ (day of week).

We will meet at \_\_\_\_\_ (location).

We will embrace and express Love, Learn, Serve & Reach the following ways...

**Love.** We will connect to Christ and care for one another by...

\_\_\_\_\_

**Learn.** We will grow and develop by...

\_\_\_\_\_

**Serve.** We will serve one another, the church and/or our community by...

\_\_\_\_\_

**Reach.** We will reach the disconnected and the unchurched by...

\_\_\_\_\_

## We Agree to Commit to and Honor the Following...

- **Group/Church Unity.** We will ensure all our decisions are consistent with Scripture and model the mission and vision of St. Mark's Church – "To Connect People to Christ and One Another" reaching the disconnected and spiritually lost people and assisting them in becoming fully developing followers of Jesus Christ.
- **Group Ownership.** We will seek to share the following roles and responsibilities based on our gifts, talents, and personal style: facilitator, apprentice, subgroup facilitator, host/hostess, prayer coordinator, event planner, administrator, service project coordinator, etc.
- **Group Multiplication.** Our group will open itself to other disconnected and/or spiritually lost people periodically throughout the year and/or at the beginning of a new study as long as they commit to the group covenant. Once we reach a sufficient size (12-14), we will begin the process of multiplication (birthing) by creating new space for other people to connect and enjoy the benefits of group life.

**Note:** *St. Mark's does not dictate how a group should birth. Rather, we partner with groups to assist them in choosing the best multiplication plan for their group.*

**Additional values for our group will be...** *(Choose 5 to 7 values for your group. Check those agreed upon by your group. Potential values are listed below, but you may create your own.)*

- Affirmation.** It is important to create an atmosphere where group members affirm and encourage one another, build each other up in Christ, and help each other grow.
- Availability.** Group members and their resources of time, attention, insight, as well as material resources, are available to each other in order to meet needs and serve one another.
- Prayer.** Prayer is valued in group life. Prayer encourages group members to be humble, knowing that all comes from God. In prayer, they also feel valued and come to understand their own worth. As the group sees God move to answer prayer concerns of members, the whole group will grow in their understanding of God.
- Openness.** Openness in the relationships within the group promotes honesty and an ease of sharing feelings, struggles, joys and hurts. Reaching the goal of authentic relationships begins with being open with each other.
- Honesty.** The desire to be honest with each other is critical to authentic relationships. In order for trust to be built among group members, they must speak the truth in love, so that “we will in all things grow up into Him who is the Head, that is Christ.” (Ephesians 4:15).
- Safety.** Honest, open relationships must be guarded with an agreement of safety—that what is said in the group will remain confidential, that opinions will be respected and differences will be allowed.
- Confidentiality.** As part of the concept of safety, confidentiality promotes openness by promising that whatever is shared within the confines of the group will not be repeated elsewhere.
- Sensitivity.** A commitment to sensitivity to the needs, feelings, backgrounds and current situations of other group members will help build relationships in the group. This includes taking advantage of professional expertise of a member as a result of group meetings (e.g. asking the member who is a plumber to take a look at the leaky faucet) and agreeing not to gossip or speak derogatorily about people not at the meeting.
- Accountability.** In authentic relationships, accountability is voluntary submission to other group member(s) for support, encouragement, and help in a particular area of your life, giving them some responsibility for assisting you in that area.
- Attendance.** Attendance at group functions will be a priority for all group members.
- Participation.** Everyone is given the right to their own opinion, and “dumb questions” are encouraged and respected. We are committed to participating
- Transparency.** We will be “real” with God and with each other, becoming vulnerable with other group members. This is an imperfect group for imperfect people in an imperfect church.