

Small Groups at North Shore Community Baptist Church

leading people to a growing relationship with Christ by doing life together

Purpose

To lead people to a growing relationship with Christ by doing life together

Three Vital Relationships

Discipleship

Maturing followers are continually pursuing an intimate relationship with God through Christ.

Community

Maturing believers are growing in community with other believers through spending time together, encouraging one another, and supporting one another.

Outreach

Maturing believers are reaching out to embrace people with grace and truth so that they also might have an intimate relationship with God through Christ.

Healthy small groups are consistently pursuing growth in these three vital relationships.



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Covenant for NSCBC Small Group Leaders

This covenant is designed to provide a framework in which small group leaders can effectively guide their groups in pursuing personal spiritual growth, authentic community, and opportunities for outreach.

Leader Values

- **Prioritize Personal Discipleship**
Group leaders are committed to their own growth in the Lord and actively pursue godliness in all areas of their lives. We recognize that, as leaders, our lives are an example for those whom the Lord has entrusted to us.
- **Think Life-Change**
We believe that individual hearts and lives can be changed by the power and grace of God. Therefore we seek to create a predictable environment in which participants have the maximum opportunity for growth in the three vital relationships.
- **Cultivate Relationships**
Group leaders place a central emphasis on the relational aspect of their group and implement various means of deepening those relationships.
- **Promote Participation**
Group leaders encourage all group members to participate often in discussion, facilitation, and leadership of group meetings, recognizing and drawing upon the strengths of each person.
- **Provide Care**
Group leaders recognize that small groups are a unique opportunity to provide tangible care to members of the body, and thus are attentive and responsive to each others' needs.
- **Initiate Outreach**
Group leaders also recognize the importance of facing not only inward, but also outward as a group. Therefore, we seek opportunities to intentionally reach out and embrace others in grace and truth through both word and action.
- **Encourage Multiplication**
Group leaders understand the essential significance of multiplication in the discipleship process. We desire that more and more people will be engaged in this type of authentic community. We thus seek to identify and raise up new leaders from within the group and are willing to birth new groups.

Leader Expectations

- Shepherd the group by facilitating regular gatherings and monitoring group health.
- Guide group decisions based on the three vital relationships.
- Pray for group members throughout the week.
- Meet with a member of the Small Group Leadership Team for one-on-one discussions at least three times a year.
- Attend fall and spring training events.
- Communicate updated group information to the Leadership Team.



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Covenant for NSCBC Small Groups

This covenant is designed to help provide a predictable environment in which small group participants can experience personal spiritual growth, authentic community, and opportunities for outreach.

Group Values

- **Relationships**
While the specific content of our gatherings is a key element, we recognize that the driving force behind the group is the building of relationships.
- **Authenticity**
The atmosphere of our small group will encourage openness and transparency. This is an environment where people should feel free to be themselves.
- **Confidentiality**
For authenticity to occur, group members must be able to trust that personal issues discussed within the group will not be shared outside of the group.
- **Respect**
Group members will be careful never to say anything that would potentially embarrass or dishonor other members of the group.
- **Availability**
In light of the primary emphasis on relationships, group members will display a willingness and readiness to care for the needs of one another.
- **Outreach**
Our group will actively pursue opportunities to reach out to those outside of the group.
- **Multiplication**
Our group recognizes that multiplication is an intrinsic part of healthy small group life and thus will take the initiative to incorporate others into this kind of community and establish new groups.

Group Expectations

- Our group will meet for _____ weeks/months.
- Our group will meet on _____ night.
- Group gatherings will begin at _____ and end at _____.
- Our group time will typically consist of:
 - _____ minutes of fellowship
 - _____ minutes of Bible Study
 - _____ minutes of prayer
- Our group will be open to new members, with the consent of all current group members.
- Group members agree to attend and participate on a regular basis. We also agree to pray for one another on a weekly basis.

