



## Life Groups

### **Your challenge: step out in faith to COMMIT to small group participation**

1. *Is your spiritual growth worth it?*
2. *Is your Christian community worth it?*
3. *Is your church's mission worth it?*

### **As a courtesy to your hosts, and for timeliness of the group:**

- Please arrive before start time, no more than 15 minutes early
- Please plan to leave within 30 minutes after conclusion of study
- Please work hard to commit to regular attendance to the group!
- Please notify your group leader if you will not be able to attend

### **Why Small Groups?**

1. Increase fellowship – reduce loneliness within church (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
2. Deepen relationships – connect on a new level (Romans 12:15, Galatians 6:2)
3. Assimilate visitors – quick way for them to become a part of us (regardless of salvation or belief) (John 1:39, 46, 13:35)
4. Hands-on discipleship – more learning Christ in a closer community (Ephesians 4:11-16)
5. Personal accountability – share together in keeping one another engaged in what's important! (Proverbs 27:17)
6. Leadership training fostered – enable more and new teachers (2 Timothy 2:2)

### **What is the goal of small groups?**

The goal of the groups is to nurture greater commitment, closer connections, and deeper growth as we spend time meditating together on the truths of the passage and sermon, and to seek to apply those truths together.

*This is a learning process for our church, our leaders, and for each group.*

Please be patient, understanding, flexible, and willing to adapt as much as possible. We will evaluate regularly through the year to learn what changes might be necessary. Thanks for praying with and for us and giving yourself to the growth and impact of Grace Baptist Church!

## **Content: further interaction with sermon**

1. The sermon:
  - a. Lays a foundational understanding for the passage
  - b. Builds generic applications of the passage
  - c. Reduces extra preparation that divides our focus
  - d. Is available online by Monday morning
2. The small group:
  - a. Enhances retention of the sermon (Proverbs 3:1, James 1:24)
  - b. Cultivates deeper understanding of particular truths (2 Timothy 2:15, 2 Peter 3:18)
  - c. Expands personal application of the passage (Romans 15:4, Colossians 1:9)
  - d. Fosters community-empowered obedience (James 1:22, Hebrews 10:24)

## **What must we do to prepare?**

The sermon from the previous Sunday will be the starting point of a discussion focused on the related passage. If you missed the sermon, please find it on our homepage at [www.GraceIsUs.com](http://www.GraceIsUs.com). The groups are meant to involve low preparation, but you can gain from thinking through the discussion questions in advance and bringing your own related, practical questions to ask the group.

## **Your group is a safe place!**

- Respect confidentiality
- Keep a good attitude toward one another
- Don't be rude, ridicule, or interrupt

## **Who do we invite to our groups, and what is the process?**

Invitations are strongly encouraged, with the exception of people committed to other churches. Please notify the group host if someone new will be attending. Church visitors may be invited, but you might suggest another group if their availability differs from your group meeting time.