



FBCW Community Group Q & A

***What is the purpose of CG's?**

-The purpose of CG's is to provide both Gospel Centered and Gospel Driven Community. It's within this community that we provide a layer of discipleship and connect people into the life of the church by growing in and living out our faith together.

***Why does FBCW do Community Groups?**

-We at FBCW believe that God has wired and geared us well for CG's and that this small group model best fits our vision of being a regional reaching church body.

***How do CG's accomplish their mission?**

-Moving towards our mission of reaching our region with the gospel of Christ first involves investing and equipping leaders and hosts to serve in CG's. We also utilize the UPward, INward, OUTward model of small group ministry which helps guide groups in a spiritually healthy direction.

***What does the UPward, INward, OUTward model mean?**

-UPward, "Loving God" , Focuses on the transforming power of God's word in the life of the believer.

-INward, "Loving One-Another", Focuses on praying, caring, and serving one another.

-OUTward, "Loving Others", Focuses on serving and reaching out to the lost, unchurched, de-churched, and everyone in between.

***When and Where do CG's gather?**

-CG's meet throughout the Jefferson County region and sometimes beyond. We will typically have CG's meeting most nights of the week which gives people multiple options to find the CG that best fits their schedule.

***How many people are in each CG?**

-Sizes of each group will vary depending on the space available, but an average size for a CG is 6-12 people.

***How does the leadership in CG's work?**

-Without our leaders the CG ministry doesn't exist! Each CG is led by a CG leader who is responsible for leading and shepherding the group towards spiritual health. Based on what the bible teaches, we believe that this position of leadership is to be held by a male who is exhibiting a godly lifestyle and is committed to the vision of the CG ministry. A CG leader must be an active member of FBCW, who is in good standing, and is committed to the leadership and vision of FBCW. In the event that an all-female CG is formed, a female can and should lead that CG as long as they are exhibiting the same godly lifestyle and commitment to the CG and FBCW vision. Along with CG leaders, groups may also have a secondary leader, or "number 2 guy", that is being equipped by the CG leader to lead a group in the future.

***How do I become a CG Leader or Host?**

-Anyone who is interested in hosting or leading a CG must complete a leader or host questionnaire and return it to the church office or to the Connections Pastor. The purpose of these questionnaires is to collect useful information and to provide support and oversight to those interested in hosting or leading. Questionnaires can be picked up at the church or can be downloaded from our website. www.fbcwoodlawn.org

***What does a CG gathering look like?**

-A typical weekly gathering will consist of food and fellowship, bible study/discussion designed for all, and intentional time of prayer for one another. This can take place from a recliner or sitting around a fire, either way the focus is not on formality but instead authenticity.

***What about child care?**

-The availability of childcare will vary from group to group. Some groups will simply not have space for children, others will have space and childcare will be fairly unstructured, while others might bring in someone who is trusted to watch the children for a reasonable donation. We will do our best to make the information regarding each group's childcare availability visible.

***What happens if a group gets too big?**

-First, we believe a growing group is often a healthy group. With that said, when a group gets to the place where it's difficult to maintain relationships and have meaningful discussions, and/or when the group has reached a capacity that hinders their ability to reach out to others and potentially bring them in, then we believe in intentionally multiplying the group or planting a new group. We believe that this is in no way a problem, but a sign of health and an opportunity to advance the Kingdom.

***What do the Bible Discussions look like?**

-The CG bible discussions are primarily sermon based and are aimed at taking the truths of the text and laying them over our lives in community. This sermon based model makes CG a direct extension of Sunday morning corporate worship, which provides alignment and is terrific for those who could not be in worship. Discussions are geared towards encouraging the group to interact with the text through questions, supportive text, and responding.

***How long do CG Semesters run?**

-The CG year will be made up of two semesters. The first semester will typically run from August to November and the second semester from February to May.

***Why do we take breaks?**

-CG breaks are important for a few reasons. One, it gives leaders and hosts a chance to rest, refresh, and catch their breath. Two, it gives people the opportunity to join a different group as we organize and promote the next semester. Third, it provides the leadership an opportunity to evaluate the groups and make any adjustments necessary.

***Are CG's Biblical?**

-While the word "community group" is not found in scripture, we believe the practice of "community groups" is absolutely biblical. The core scriptural evidence that we hold anchor to is in Acts 2. If you look in Acts 2:42-47 you will see believers gathering in homes to practice deep fellowship, the study of the word, and prayer. The results of this practice was the gospel going out and many being saved. Along with Acts chapter 2, is the multiple times the NT uses the term "one-another". It is within our CG's that we seek to live out the "one-another's".

***Who leads and oversees the Community Group Ministry as a whole?**

1) The Connections Pastor is responsible for the overall support, oversight, and leadership of the CG ministry. Duties include such things as developing and equipping leaders, developing and delivering material, acquiring attendance data, coordination and development of new or multiplying groups, coordinate quarterly corporate mission days / worship events, serve as main point of contact for Community Groups.

***Do you have to be a member of FBCW to be in a CG?**

-Absolutely Not! We have hosted and ministered many people who are unaffiliated with any church and even some who were members of other churches. We make it no secret that it's our hope that you would be plugged into the life of FBCW but being a member is not a pre-requisite and we love all the people God has given us to minister to. If you're a healthy member of a healthy church we might even encourage you to take the CG model back and implement it in your church and would do anything we could to help facilitate that!

***How do I get involved in a CG?**

-We do our best to get the best information available asap! Information is available at the church (bulletin board & handouts), through our Face Book page (FBC Woodlawn), or through our website www.fbcwoodlawn.org. We want to provide information that not only shows the times and locations but also gives you a sense of which group might fit you best. It is also very possible, and we hope probable, that a leader or host will personally invite you to their group.