

*Missional Communities at Grace Bible Church:*

# SMALL GROUPS

## DISCIPLESHIP PATH:

- Attend a weekly worship service
- Join a Small Group/Covenant Group
- Serve others for Christ

People grow in Christ as they function in a community that studies and applies the word of God. Discipleship does not happen in one hour once per week, but occurs as our lives are immersed in Biblical community. GBC's Discipleship Path assumes that people on the path are involved in authentic worship and that members are in intimate spiritual friendships.

There is no single "front door" to discipleship at Grace. People don't have to start by attending a worship service. It is very possible that someone might begin their journey with Christ by being invited to a Small Group or as they are first invited to a local community service project. However, we believe serious growth in the faith takes place when disciples are involved in each of these activities.

## SMALL GROUP DEFINED:

1. Small groups of friends growing in faith and bringing hope to their city.
2. The people of God...partnering with Him...in His redemptive mission... in the world.
3. A family of missionary servants making disciples, who can make disciples.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF A GBC SMALL GROUP:

1. Community based
2. Gospel centered
3. Word focused
4. Prayer saturated
5. Mission oriented

## THREE THINGS NEEDED TO FORM A SMALL GROUP:

1. Have an interview with the Small Groups pastor
2. Have a core group of 6 – 8 people
3. Have an expressed Mission/Purpose for your Small Group

## **FOUR WAYS TO BE ON MISSION IN YOUR SMALL GROUP:**

1. Minister to each other
2. Invite your unbelieving neighbors and friends
3. Adopt a local non-profit
4. Minister to a specific neighborhood or group of people
5. Adopt a GBC missionary

## **A SAMPLE SCHEDULE FOR A SMALL GROUP:**

1. Fellowship over a potluck meal
2. Study the word of God together (some groups also sing together)
3. Pray for one another

## **CHILDCARE FOR YOUR SMALL GROUP:**

Each group is responsible for organizing their own childcare. Some groups choose to:

- Use the church's resources to hire a babysitters to watch their children
- Meet on an evening when childcare is provided at the church for other events
- Use rotating volunteers from your group to watch each other's children
- Choose not to provide childcare

If you would like to use the church resources for childcare, please contact the Small Groups Pastor and he will connect you to the Childcare Director.