

This covenant is reviewed and signed at the third meeting of your group each cycle.

Session Dates _____ To _____

Leader(s) _____ Phone # _____

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This covenant will help us discuss and clarify group goals, expectations, and commitments. Since healthy groups thrive on trust and participation, a clear covenant is an important starting point toward a successful group experience.

Life Groups: Our Basic Purpose

Growth Groups help us form significant God-centered relationships centered around the study of God's Word (see Hebrews 10:24-25; Romans 8:29).

Sharing

Each week we will take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first this sharing will include some planned "sharing" questions. After the first few weeks, it will become more informal and personal, as our group feels safer and more comfortable.

Study

Each week we'll study a portion of God's Word that relates to the previous weekend's sermon. Our goal is to learn how to apply and live out our Christianity in our day-to-day experiences and relationships.

Support

Each week, we'll learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (see John 15:9-13). This care will take many forms such as praying, listening meeting needs, and encouraging and even challenging one another as needed.

Five Marks of a Healthy Group

For our group to be healthy, we need to

1. Focus on spiritual growth as a top priority (Romans 8:29);
2. Accept one another in love just as Christ has accepted us (Romans 15:7);
3. Take care of one another in love without crossing over the line into parenting or taking in appropriate responsibility for solving the problems of others (John 13:34);
4. Treat one another with respect in both speech and action (Ephesians 4:25-5:2);
5. Keep our commitments to the group--including regular attendance, doing the homework and keeping confidences whenever requested (Psalm 15:1-2, 4b).

Guidelines and Covenant

- 1. Dates** We'll meet on _____ nights for _____ weeks.
- 2. Time** We'll arrive between _____ and _____ and begin the meeting at _____.

We'll spend approximately _____ minutes in singing (optional), _____ minutes in study/discussion and _____ minutes in prayer/sharing.
- 3. Children** Option 1: Group members are responsible to arrange childcare for their children. Nursing newborns are welcome, provided they are not a distraction to the group.

Option 2: Atonement will provide childcare throughout the cycle for our group.
- 4. Study** Each week, we'll study the same topic(s) covered in the previous weekend's sermon.
- 5. Prayer** Our group will be praying each week for one another and specific missions requests.
- 6. Homework and Attendance** Joining a Growth Group requires a commitment to attend each week and to do the homework ahead of time. *Obviously, allowances are made for sickness, vacation work conflicts, and other special events.* This commitment is the key to a healthy group.

Most weeks, the homework will require from twenty to thirty minutes to adequately prepare for the group study and discussion.

If we cannot come to a meeting we will

7. Refreshments

8. Social(s)

9. Mission Project(s)

@1 Group Covenant



We agree together in Christ to honor this covenant.

(To be decided on and signed by each group member on or before the third week.)

1. _____ 9. _____

2. _____ 10. _____

3. _____ 11. _____

4. _____ 12. _____

5. _____ 13. _____

6. _____ 14. _____

7. _____

8. _____