

Groups are our primary strategy for connection, disciple-making and ministry – aligning with Jesus' approach, the example of the early church and the mission God gave us.

Two Rivers Mission:

"Welcoming people into a caring community that honors the Word and Spirit of Christ, so that a lifestyle of prayer, worship, discipleship and service is multiplied locally and globally."

Our Groups model is based on 4 characteristics:

Easy ON & OFF Ramps

Getting connected at a large church can feel a lot like trying to find space to merge during intense rush hour traffic. That's why we have created easy ON RAMPS to make it easier for new guests and partners to connect into a group at the start of each quarter. Our groups meet for about 10 weeks, and then *everyone has the opportunity to continue on with their group, switch groups or take a break*. Groups typically close (for continuity & depth) and re-open to welcome new guests, as appropriate, at the start of each new Fall, Winter and Spring quarter.

Curriculum

Coed groups (typically) rally around applying the weekend message to ordinary life. This approach is similar to the lecture / lab strategy of a biology class, where there is instruction (weekend services) and lab time (group time) where we get into the 'hands on – nitty gritty' of applying the Bible to our everyday lives. *Each week in the bulletin is a 'Live It Out' section that is intended to be completed before arriving at group*. This short homework jump starts personal reflection, and prepares for group discussion. Also available on line at <https://2rc.tv/bulletin/>.

Men's, Women's, Care & Recovery and Young Adult groups may focus on specific topics as prompted by the Spirit & approved by Groups Team.

Realistic Calendar

Our quarterly approach builds in **natural breaks** over December, Spring Break & Summer. *While community never stops, group meetings do*. The last formal (Coed) group meeting for the fall quarter will be during the first week of December. *Then the group will break until mid-January, with everyone having opportunity to stay with the same group, switch groups or take a break*.

Healthy Size & Subgrouping

Our coed groups typically have about 14–16 folks (some less, some a little more), while Men's, Women's, Care, Recovery, and Young Adult groups range in size. **All groups are encouraged to break into smaller groups (3's, or men and women etc.) for greater sharing, prayer, support and accountability.**

Practical Logistics & Commitment:

Meetings

This fall we'll meet on _____ (day of week). Our final (coed) group meeting will be during the _____ Mid March then we will have opportunity to stay on with this group, switch groups or take a break. We'll arrive between _____ and _____ and end at _____. *We will honor each other by keeping anything shared confidential unless given permission to share.*

Commitment

Joining a growth Group requires a commitment to attend each week and do the homework ahead of time. Allowances are made for sickness, vacation, work conflicts, & other special events, but not much more. **If I am unable to attend, I will notify my group leader or host**. By week 3 we will formally sign a group agreement form. Honoring my commitment contributes to healthy relationships & group momentum. See next page...

Together we COMMIT to developing a community where we grow in 5 biblical priorities:

Sharing life in caring COMMUNITY

John 15:9-13 & 13:34
Romans 15:7
Ephesians 4:11-16
Colossians 3:12-17

Each week we'll create space to share what is happening in our lives & respond to God's presence in our midst. We'll learn how to *love, accept, take care of, and respect* one another, knowing that we all have a unique history and journey with God. **We will help develop safe relationships by keeping what is shared confidential, and choosing first to listen and pray rather than to immediately offer advice.** Our role is to support, not fix, each other. We will *keep our commitments* to the group.

Lifestyle of DISCIPLE-MAKING

Ephesians 4:11-16
2 Timothy 3:16-17
Romans 8
John 15:1-12

Together we are growing towards maturity as we become Word dependent – Spirit empowered disciples of Jesus. We will make spiritual growth a top priority as we study & apply God's word to our everyday lives and intentionally seek to be filled, empowered and led by the Holy Spirit. We will seek to engage spiritual practices that help us abide (stay intimately connected to, remain) in Jesus & His love through our obedience. We will grow to be more aware of and responsive to the Holy Spirit's voice, and leading so that we can 'live by and keep in step with the Spirit' (Galatians 5:25).

Lifestyle of PRAYER

Ephesians 6:18-19
Philippians 4:4-7
James 5:16
1 Thessalonians 5:14-21

We are all on a journey and may have different experiences and comfort levels with prayer. We will grow in praying for ourselves, each other, and God's kingdom priorities – trusting that the Holy Spirit will lead us in what and how to pray as we take time to listen, interact together, and make group decisions. When we pray for each other, we will first invite God to guide us, then **listen** & pray as He leads. Our goal is to develop a lifestyle of enjoying an ongoing conversational relationship with God marked by listening to Him, and then living and praying as he leads.

Lifestyle of WORSHIP

Psalms 34:1-8
Romans 12:1-2
Hebrews 12:28-29 & 13:15-16

Together we will worship God through our lives, our obedience, our thanksgiving, and our words or song. As we focus our minds attention and hearts affection on the greatness of God, we spread hope and faith throughout the community. We will celebrate what God is doing in and through our lives and group to bring Him glory.

Lifestyle of SERVICE

Matt. 5:13-14 & 28:18-20
John 5:17,19
Ephesians 2:8-10
1 Peter 2:9-12
1 Cor. 12:4-11, 3:10-16
Romans 12:4-18

PRAY – INVEST – INVITE. We will pray, listen, & watch so that we can *join God where He is already working* in people's lives by investing in their best interests. We will invite them to opportunities to hear and respond to the Gospel (Eph. 2:10). Every believer is personally called to a life of ministry, blessed with spiritual gifts, & equipped through life experiences. Together we will prayerfully select one Service project or Gospel opportunity to engage in the Fall and Spring as a group and celebrate together what God does in us and through us.

MY ROLE as a group member is simple but powerful in helping our group develop as a *caring community*.

1. **SHOW UP** – for group meetings | gatherings. (It's very challenging to cultivate a safe place where people can share authentically - without building the trust that comes through consistent attendance & time together).
2. **JOIN IN** – actively engage in listening, sharing your perspective and participating in relationships, discussions, and group activities.
3. **BE REAL** – sharing your story, struggles, and victories allows the group to build trusting, supportive, and accountable relationships. While sharing can seem risky at first, it is the gateway to meaningful support, encouragement, and mutual growth.
4. **ADD VALUE** – God has intentionally given you gifts, talents, abilities, & experiences to bless others. Offer those to your group, and invite your leader(s) to help you find ways to serve and contribute!



Leaders _____ () _____
 Hosts _____ () _____

GROUP AGREEMENT

In order that our group can fulfill our intended purpose of developing a caring community where Word and Spirit meet life. I commit for this Group Quarter to faithfully participate as outlined in this Group Agreement.

Name

Date

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