



### **Vision:**

Simply put, we are created for community. Community groups are designed to build relationships with our friends and neighbors to grow together, to keep each other accountable and to wrestle with the truths of the Bible in ways we cannot do alone. It is a place to sanctify and to challenge one another and give glory to God! In addition, community groups help us truly experience the Gospel and keep us on mission with Jesus to serve the community, disciple each other and truly love one another. It is our prayer and passion to see as many community groups as possible planted throughout our town and its surrounding areas. In time, we believe that our community groups will become the backbone of our church.

### **What Community Groups Practically Look Like:**

1. Groups will gather weekly.
2. Groups are encouraged to meet within their communities at various places and times. We will have groups meet both in homes and popular businesses and hangouts such as coffee bars, Starbucks etc.
3. Groups will regularly pray together.
4. Food, communion and worship is all allowed and encouraged. No two groups will look the same. Individual giftings and where the group meets will dictate what each group looks like. Diversity is encouraged and welcomed.
5. Some groups will study the previous week's message more in depth. On the back of our Sunday service handouts there will be suggested questions and Bible verses to use for community group time. Attendees will be encouraged to read, pray and meditate on these verses before meeting during the week in their groups. Other groups may choose to teach through another book of the Bible. Group facilitators who do this will need to get permission and approval from the elder board before doing so.
6. Facilitators will keep the conversations moving naturally, allowing the saints to minister to the saints, stopping for prayer if need be, allowing people to share how the texts apply to their personal lives, but never letting one person dominate the conversations. This time of conversation is meant to encourage, love, care for and challenge one another. Our guide is the Holy Spirit through the Word of God.
7. Community groups should be a safe place where we can laugh, cry, work and play! This means we will strongly encourage community groups and its members to regularly serve their community and church in practical ways such as Children's Church, hospital visits, cleaning the neighbor's yard etc.