**Small Group Restart**

July 2025

**Goals for a Revamped Small Groups Ministry**

1. Spiritual Growth – Deepen knowledge and obedience to God’s Word.
2. Relational Connection – Strengthen bonds across all ages and stages.
3. Mutual Care – Share burdens, pray, and serve one another (Gal. 6:2).
4. Evangelism & Outreach – Invite seekers into a loving, truth-centered environment.
5. Leadership Development – Equip new teachers and shepherds (2 Tim. 2:2).

**1.  Current State**

* List of current groups and when meeting?
* Are they more focused on study, fellowship, or both?
* Who is attending?
* What is their structure, purpose and goals?
* What are the barriers (e.g., time, childcare, unclear purpose)?

**2. Vision & Structure**

“*Our small groups exist to help every member grow in Christ, build a Christ-centered community, connect in love, and serve with purpose*.”

Different groups:

1. Connect groups
2. Huddle Groups
3. Discipleship Groups
4. Fellowship Groups

**3. Recruit, Encourage, Train, Empower Group Leaders**

Get a ministry leader who has passion for the small groups ministry to oversee the groups. Equip him with training materials, get him to help write up a “job description” and have an elder work with him.

Have a time to meet with all of the leaders for time to encourage, train and give ideas and expectations. Key Training Topics:

* How to facilitate discussion, not lecture
* Handling Scripture-centered conversations
* Dealing with difficult personalities
* Creating a welcoming, safe environment
* How to encourage prayer and service
* Getting group members invested and engaged

Scriptures to Share with Leaders:

* 2 Timothy 2:2 – Train others who can train others
* Acts 2:42–47 – Devoted to fellowship and teaching
* Hebrews 10:24–25 – Spur one another on in love

**4. Relaunch the Ministry in September (after Labor Day)**

Kickoff Ideas:

* Host a “Group Link” Sunday where people can meet group leaders and sign up.
* Create testimonies or short videos of members sharing how small groups impacted them.
* Print group directories with bios, times, and contact info.

Communication Tools: (start this marketing in August)

* Sign-ups via church website or email link
* Regular reminders from the pulpit
* Posters in the foyer and bulletin boards
* Group text/email systems

**5. Offer Meaningful Study Materials**

* Sermon Discussion Guides (made weekly)
* Book of the Bible (e.g., James, Acts, Philippians)
* The Chosen TV series
* Other materials
* Idea: Start with first month of everyone doing same study?

**6. Build In Prayer, Service, and Fellowship**

Emphasize that great small groups do more than meet:

* Serve together (visits, meal trains, community projects)
* Pray for each other weekly
* Share meals or game nights
* Celebrate birthdays and life events

**7. Monitor**

After 6 Months:

* Check in with leaders regularly
* Survey group members for feedback
* Adjust frequency, location, or format as needed

**Biblical Foundation**

* Acts 2:42–47 – The early church model: teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayer.
* Romans 12:4–8 – Many parts, one body—each member plays a role.
* Colossians 3:16 – Teach and admonish one another with wisdom.
* 1 Corinthians 14:26 – “Each one has” something to contribute when gathered.