

Continued . . .

- **Going** – Building bridges into each other's lives and the life of the church. A home group grows towards, and encourages each other to be involved, together, in the church's service or outreach activities.
- James 2:14-18 -
- Typically, **one meeting a month** will involve a social activity, or an involvement in the church's service or outreach activities. Initially, a new home group will be free to explore or try a variety of activities, in order to move towards building relationships with each other, and people outside the group.
- Each group supports **the "open chair" concept**, where new members are invited to join your group, anytime. Each new member should be given this pamphlet. If the group consistently has over 12 members attending, it should consider splitting into two smaller groups.

People in a home group are committed to:

- **Becoming involved** -- Each person in a home group "aim to encourage a genuine environment of service and equal partnership, where every member is valued and involved (Potter, p. 53)." The "running" of the group does not fall on one person. The "growing" part of each meeting is much less a "sermon" from one person, and much more like in a "book discussion" group, with each member prepared ahead of the meeting, with something they might share.
- Romans 12: 4-8 -

- **Discovering a growing sense of community** – Members of a home group are encouraged to grow in involvement with each other, even beyond the regular home group meetings.
- **Encountering God** – Because people are unique, each home group will be different, but the group will be open to sharing their struggles, victories, questions, and/or answers in their walks with God, at whatever stage each person is "at."
- **Reaching out** – Members of a home group are open to exploring ways of being involved in the programs and services of the church, and encouraging each other in this process.

- John 13:34-35 -

How do I get involved in a home group?

Contact James, Chris, or Cathy at 327-3970, or through the church website, to find out what home groups are active in the church right now, or when the next group may start up.

If home groups are not for you right now, they can discuss other activities that might meet your needs.



St. Augustine's

Home Groups



What is a Home group?

A home group is a regular meeting of 6-12 people who meet to explore their Christian faith in the informal setting of someone's home.

It is "a place where nobody stands alone."

A Home Group is a low key, informal option for exploring your Christian faith!

If you . . .

- **have finished an Alpha course**, so you are “post-Alpha”, but still **would like to explore what Christian community means** in an informal, non-threatening setting. . .
- **want to get to know people in the church better** . . .
- **have never attended the Alpha program**, but **want to be involved with a small home group of people** committed to exploring the Christian faith...

If you . . .

- are happily involved in the church and its programs, and **would like to support and encourage others** to do the same . . .
- don't regularly attend the church, but are curious and **wouldn't mind growing in your Christian faith in a fun, informal setting** . . .
- would like to start to **explore ways of getting more involved** in the church's activities . . .

. . . Then a home group is an alternative for you!



Some of the ideas in this brochure are taken from:

Donahue, Bill. *Bulding a Church of Small Groups: A Place Where Nobody Stands Alone.* 2001.

Donahue, Bill. *The Willow Creek Guide to Leading Life Changing Small Groups.* 1996.

Potter, Phil. *The Challenge of Cell Church.* 2001.

What happens in a “typical” home group meeting?

Depending on the group, meetings may occur 1-3 times per month, for about 1.5 hours. The regular meetings have these components:

- **Gathering** – Coffee, informal visiting, and perhaps an icebreaker question to start the meeting.
- **Glorifying** – Learning to celebrate our Heavenly Father's invitation to know Him, through an informal, low-key, worship time.
 - Revelation 3:20 and Mathew 11:28-30 -
- **Growing** – Learning to share in God's truths, together. Taking established truths and applying them with the question, “What is God saying to me, or to us as a home group?”
 - Hebrews 4:12-16 -

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