

Why Grace Groups?

1. To fulfill the vision of Jesus in the Great Commission

We are to go and make disciples of all the nations, mature them in the faith, and mobilize them to touch others' lives with the Good News of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18-20). The only way for this to occur is for believers to become disciples themselves. The small group setting is a practical vehicle to see this disciple-making happen.

2. To reach out to the lost

The real work of evangelism and outreach belongs to every believer. The strongest and most productive method of evangelization is the one-to-one sharing of the gospel by each and every believer. We are called and commanded by the risen Christ to share the good news with our friends, neighbors, and family. Most people come to know Christ personally because of the witness of someone they know. Grace Groups have the capacity to penetrate every part of the region: homes, offices, businesses, and schools. Thus, through our small groups we are not limited to a building, so the whole region can be impacted by the gospel.

3. To nurture new believers

New believers must become grounded in their faith in order that they don't slide back into unbelief, but become true disciples of Jesus Christ. This part of the process we call "connection," and this can only be achieved through the Grace Groups. In Grace Groups new believers receive the level of care and nurture they need. They will be surrounded by people who are committed to pray for them and help them in practical ways. Without Grace Groups, the fruit of evangelism is easily lost.

4. To become a disciple

Every believer is called to become a true disciple of Jesus Christ. Jesus puts it this way: "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me" (Matthew 16:24). The cost is everything, but you don't have to do this alone. You are disciplined in Grace Groups by people who are being disciplined themselves. One should be leery of anyone who is trying to "disciple" you without being an active part of, and accountable to, a local church. Grace Group leaders are accountable to their leaders. They are also subject to the training and discipline of the church, as well as having the resources of advice, wisdom, and guidance of their leaders/pastoral staff.

5. To obey the call to make disciples

The Great Commission is more than a call to evangelize and lead people in a 'decision' for Jesus Christ. New believers must be formed into disciples of Christ. This necessitates close personal contact, which is only possible in Grace Groups.

6. To be the Church

The church is far more than a building and more than church meetings. The Sunday services make up only a small part of church life. We don't merely attend church, we are the Church. Church is our daily relationship with Jesus and other believers. We have to be a church without walls in the world. We are the Body of Christ twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

7. To fulfill one another's command

There are over fifty passages in the New Testament that speak specifically about the responsibility we have for each other. We are called to love, care for, teach, encourage, exhort, admonish, and restore one another. The only practical context for this to happen in a growing church is in the Grace Groups. While attendance at the large Sunday 'celebration' is hopefully inspirational, it can still result in an individual being lost in the crowd. In a Grace Group everyone counts and is important. Grace Groups enable us to break into smaller and realizable units. As a result, we can grow larger and smaller at the same time.

8. To fulfill your ministry

Every believer is called to life in the Spirit, and God has given each of us many special gifts, abilities, and ministries (1 Peter 4:10). Most Christians are never able to discover what these are. We need to learn what they are and to develop them so we can use them to serve Christ in building up and strengthening each other. The Grace Group is an ideal place where this can occur. You can be trained how to exercise the gifts of the Spirit while doing so in an environment of love, acceptance, and forgiveness.

9. To target your efforts

Grace Groups help focus our effort, and we become much more effective in reaching our goals. As we work together we accomplish things we could have never done alone. To be a Christian means to be a part of the Body of Christ. You benefit from the strength, wisdom, encouragement, and support of the group.

10. To become fruitful

We have been called to be fruitful (Genesis 1:28). Every covenant God has made with man comes with a promise of fruitfulness. Grace Groups provide the place of blessing. They are where you begin to enter into the joy of fruitfulness. As you fulfill God's call upon your life, the blessing begins to flow. God says that He will bless you and cause you to prosper in life. That is the thrill of walking in agreement with God.

Wouldn't it be great to belong to a group of folks you could trust and learn from? Just imagine being a part of something where you could learn about

God, develop lasting relationships, and grow spiritually in a practical and fun way.

Your needs can be met in a Grace Group. Dynamic groups meet weekly to encourage, strengthen, and equip people like you. Grace Groups provide that intimate place to grow in God and to fellowship with other members of our growing church family. Life today can throw tests our way almost every week, but you never have to go through them alone.

It is our prayer that every member of our church family will find a meaningful relationship with the Lord and other believers in our Grace Groups.