

CBC Youth Small Groups | Starting Fall 2013

Expectations:

- Weekly attendance
- Devotion to the group – committing to love, serve, and grow with your group
- Be prepared every week

Structure

- Split into groups geographically (North/Northwest/Southwest/South/Central)
- Meetings will run for about 1.5-2 hours
- Day & Time will be determined by each group

Schedule by Week:

- 1. Sharing & Supplication:** Accountability and prayer: Each member will go around and share what has been going on in their life. Tip #1: The more honest the more growth. When a person has finished sharing, they ask the other members in their group “Do yall have any questions for me?” - which allows for open, honest accountability. Questions like, “Have you been struggling with _____? What’s something you’ve learned? Can you expand more on what you said last time?” When they’re done, it is encouraged that someone in the group pray for that person. Note #1: You might not be able to get through everyone at once...save it for the next time.
- 2. Study:** Digging into the Word (Bible). Spend this week studying a book together. Recommendations: study a book that is applicable for your group; study the book exegetically (line-by-line). This might take research, tools, and insight from each person. Tip #1: commentaries and dictionaries are great for this week. Also Systematic Theology is great too for referencing terms and ideas.
- 3. Sharing & Supplication:** Continue what you started from week #1
- 4. Service:** Growing together through reaching the community. Ideas:
 - a. Use this week as a chance to either pray for an organization, church, ministry.
 - b. Find a community project to serve at (i.e. Star of Hope; Food Bank) You might want to contact churches to see if there’s something they need help with.
 - c. Attend CBC’s prayer meeting together
 - d. Attend another church’s service/youth group
- 5. Sabbath:** Relaxation & Fun: Go with your small group and do something creative and exciting (i.e. bowling, movies, dinner, etc.)

Overview of Small Groups:

1. **Gospel foundations:** Small group is a gathering of believers who have been saved and redeemed by God through Jesus and their purpose to pursue Jesus together. Each member of this small group has seen, experienced, and committed to this call. Because of this, there isn't any room for arrogance when the Cross is present...because we were all sinners but the good thing is that we are saved by grace. The Gospel is the foundation on which the small group firmly stands on. The Gospel is the glue that holds everything, everyone, and every moment together.
2. **Adopted into the Local Body:** Once we commit our lives to Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we are instantly adopted into the "body of Christ". We are all being transformed daily by the Holy Spirit into people who reflect Christ...but now we do this together as the church. Under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, each congregation ("church") has certain guiding principles that has been laid out in Scripture to nurture and protect its people such as: headship & leadership (pastors & elders); the sacraments (Lord's Supper & Baptism); discipline; and membership. Each Christian, whether they like it or not, is adopted into the bigger family...their role is find a local church where they can submit, join, and serve.
3. **Smaller representation:** Small groups come out of local church members that decide to do life on a deeper level with one another. Understand that small group isn't a club or a just buddies hanging out. If this comes from the top, these small groups reflect the local body's mission which ought to be grounded in the Gospel. In other words, the small group is an intentional, committed, group of people that is doing life together. If this is what small group is, here are some heads up:
 - a. There will be people in your group at different stages of spiritual growth. There will those who have been walking with the Lord for awhile. There will be those who are brand new. Either way...patience should be exercised to all.
 - b. Because small group is made up of sinners saved by grace...there WILL be conflict, drama, and tension. Why? Because when you're doing life together, you start digging deeper into each other and sometimes there's friction. Conflict isn't a "bad" thing per se, however, what matters most is how you RESPOND. Respond with Romans 12:9-18 in your hearts – love each other, outdo each other in honor, do not repay evil for evil.
 - c. Small group bonding will take time to develop. Deep rich relationships don't happen overnight. They are fought for, prayed for, and worked together. Don't bail at the first, second, or fiftieth conflict.