

Growth Group FAQ

General Questions

1. What is the purpose of CBC's Growth Group ministry?

- **The Vision:** *To encourage the transformative growth of every believer by developing authentic Christ-like relationships.*
- **The Mission:** *Growth groups will rely on (1) God's Spirit to empower us, (2) God's Word to guide us, and (3) God's People to encourage us.*
- **The Nature:** *Growth groups are time to **live out** the truths of Scripture by focusing our hearts UPWARD, INWARD, and OUTWARD.*

2. Why do I need to be part of a Growth Group?

- Scripture is clear, every Christian has a responsibility to love their brothers and sisters in community life. This ministry is a result of the overwhelming passages of scripture that call us to be actively engaged in one-another ministry.

John 13:35

By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

1 John 4:11-12

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

3. Are growth groups the same as a Biblical Counseling session?

- Growth Groups are not the same as a biblical counseling session. They are for the on-going discipleship of every believer while the counseling ministry is intensive care for those who are seeking help with specific struggles.

4. Are Growth Groups open to anyone?

- Growth groups are open to anyone who desires to learn and grow. These groups are NOT closed and should have an element of outreach. Each group should be actively inviting Sunday visitors or anyone they believe would enjoy this ministry.

5. What is the duration of a Growth Group? How do new groups form?

- Lord willing, as a group grows in attendance it will be necessary to birth a new group. The exact duration of a group is based on how the Lord works in us to invite and reach out to those around us.

Organizational Questions

1. How do I join a Growth Group?

- Each GG leader will identify the time and location that works best for them during the week. Each person will be encouraged to selectively sign up for a Growth Group time/location that best works for them.

2. What is the age requirement to participate?

- Adults 18 and older.

3. What about Childcare?

- Child care is not offered as a service of CBC. Each group will need to work out childcare, either as a group or individually. Your GG leader will have ideas to help facilitate possible solutions.

4. How often will Growth Groups meet?

- *For the first year*, we will meet weekly from March-June and take a 2 month break for July and August. We will then resume Growth Groups from September-February.
- *All following years* we will meet weekly year-round but take the summers off (June, July, and August).

5. How long will Growth Group be each week?

- Growth Group will generally last 2 hours each meeting time.

6. When and where will Growth Groups meet?

- Growth Groups will meet weekly on a day/time and location set by the GG leader sacrificing their time. Holidays and scheduling conflicts will be discussed in the group.

7. What will Growth Groups specifically do each week?

- Generally, the following agenda will be a *guide*:
 - *Arrive/Welcome*-----30 minutes
 - *Bible/Book Application*-----45 minutes
 - *Prayer Requests / Prayer*-----30 Minutes
 - *Care / Service Opportunities*-----15 Minutes

8. Will Growth Groups include a meal each week? Are we allowed to bring snacks?

- Growth Groups will not have a dinner meal each week. We DO however want to create an environment of comfortability that may involve coffee/beverages and small snacky items. Each leader will discuss with the group if and how they would like to accomplish this.

9. What material will be used each week at Growth Group?

- God's Word will be our guide each week. Groups may at times apply the previous Sunday sermon, study a bible-based book with Scripture, or study a book of the Bible. Every bible-based book will be evaluated by the pastoral leadership to determine it is doctrinally sound and biblically accurate.

Personal Questions

1. Will I be required to pray and/or read out loud?

- The choice is yours and we will not pressure you. We understand this can be intimidating and we encourage the freedom to decline to pray out loud until you feel comfortable. We know that God hears us whether we pray out loud or "in our hearts" with others, so take as much time as you need.

2. Will I be required to share uncomfortable things about my life?

- Under no circumstances will you be required to share anything you find uncomfortable to talk about. Over time, we encourage degrees of transparency, but each person decides that. Some things are best discussed only with a biblical counselor or another mature believer.

3. Do I have to be a Christian in order to attend a Growth Group?

- You are welcome to join us. In fact, a Growth Group is one of the best places to understand Jesus and Christianity. Please understand that your purpose in coming is to learn about who Jesus is and why He came.

4. How confidential are growth groups?

- Confidentiality regarding information shared and individual struggles is of utmost importance. Anyone who engages in gossip will be lovingly and graciously rebuked so that Christ is honored and relationships protected.
- **Note:** Any information regarding the abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation of a minor or vulnerable adult will be immediately reported to law enforcement.

5. What if, for whatever reason, I would like to be in a different group?

- Please privately discuss your concern with leadership so we can work this out in a way that is loving, biblical, and faithful to Christ.

If you have any other questions not listed on this FAQ please contact leadership.