

## **Get on a deeper path through small groups**

*Where is my path going? What path does God want me to follow?* Jesus Christ proclaimed “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” Jesus also invited anyone to follow in his path. The church exists to lead people to Christ and offer paths that lead to new life. You are invited to walk a path that leads toward Christ here!

### **Why should I be in a small group?**

Small groups offer you a path that will lead you deeper with God and others. Small groups provide you with the space, material, and connection with others to discover where God is guiding you.

### **What types of Small Groups are there?**

*Short-term Groups:* These groups range from 6-10 weeks in length. They typically focus on a particular book, theme, life stage, need, or idea. The group is facilitated by a small group leader and hosted at the church, private home, or restaurant. Groups start throughout the year and are updated regularly on the church website. September and January are great times to get involved in a short-term group.

*Disciple Bible Study Groups:* These groups offer a 32 week in-depth study and discussion of the bible. There are five different courses you can choose from, it is recommended to start with “Disciple 1 (the red book)” which is an overview of the Old and New Testaments. Functioning much like a college class there is weekly reading and preparation required as well as a facilitator. Groups start the week after Labor Day, conclude before Memorial Day, and do include holiday breaks.

*Covenant Discipleship Groups:* These groups meet for one-year focusing on specific ways to grow as a Christ-follower. At the first meeting you will work with the group facilitator to create a group covenant which will outline the specific goals of the group. During the gatherings, individuals share celebrations as well challenges regarding the goals the group created. Groups start after Labor Day

### **What does a small group do?**

Each small group is unique in terms of people and expression but every small group strives to live out these three core values.

1. KNOW more about Christ
2. GROW closer to Christ and others
3. SHOW Christ to others

### **Other Frequently Asked Questions**

*Do I need to be a member of the church to participate?* No you do not need to be a member to participate in a small group. Christ invited everyone to follow and our small group leaders do the same!

*Where do small groups meet?* Small groups can meet in homes, local businesses, restaurants, and the church. Typically small groups dealing with private or sensitive issues meet at the church to create a safe atmosphere.

*How many people are in a small group?* Most small groups are between 6-12 people. This allows for an easy flow of big and small group interactions.

*Is childcare offered?* Childcare can be arranged if advance notice is given to the group leader.

*Is childcare offered?* Childcare can be arranged if advance notice is given to the group leader.

*What do I need for a small group?* The group leader will contact you about what materials are needed for the group. These costs can range from \$5-\$20 but other arrangements can be made with group leaders if cost is a concern.

*Am I "religious enough" to participate?* Jesus invited anyone to follow the path of Christ. Being in a small group is not earned. Small groups are an invitation to go deeper with God and others.

**Contact Information**

Pastor Jon Wilterdink

[jwilterdink@mentorunc.org](mailto:jwilterdink@mentorunc.org)

440-255-3496