

## **Community Groups at Grace: Christ-centered Communities who are Creating Room for More**

Our church's mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ who live out the gospel across racial and economic lines. Because growing as a disciple is very hard to do without people being in relationship together around God's Word, having men and women gathering in Community Groups is essential to our vision. We believe that the community (where you live) is an essential part of Community (growing with others towards Christ). Therefore, instead of groups being based on demographics (life-stage, gender, hobbies, etc.), our groups are geographic. This means your Community Group will be found in the neighborhood/area of town where you live and will include men and women, married and single, young and old. As we gather together, Community Groups can become “an instrument of worship, a weapon against sin, and a tool for evangelism, all for the exaltation of Jesus.” (***Community*** by Brad House, p. 19)

In addition to the geographic structure, our groups also have a common study component. Community Groups at Grace participate in **Sermon Text Studies**, which means studying the text that is preached on the previous Sunday. The studies are based on the text, not on what the preacher said, so even if you missed the sermon, you can still participate fully in the study. We are doing this to help our church intentionally apply the Sunday text to our everyday lives, moving together as a church towards God's call.

And not only do we hope our groups will be growing in community with one another and growing in the Word of God, we also want to be people who are eager to see that gift of community extended to others. Rather than settling for having a group of 8-10 that stays together for years and years, we want to have a prayerful goal of multiplying our groups so that others in our Body can easily get involved.

In short, Grace Community Church Small Groups are to be ***Christ-centered Communities, Creating Room for More.***

We currently have more than 14 Community Groups, covering 12 different areas of town, with more starting each fall and spring. If there is not a group in your area, pray that God would raise up leaders for your part of town.

In order to lead, a person must be a committed follower of Christ, a member of Grace Community Church, and you must fill out a Community Group leader application. We also have new leader training to equip our leaders for ministry.

If you have questions, please contact Marshall Benbow, Community Groups and Discipleship Pastor, at 336-455-9332 or [mbenbow@gracegso.org](mailto:mbenbow@gracegso.org)

To explore the vision behind Community Groups further, check out [Community by Brad House](#), which describes the vision and process in more detail.