

SMALL GROUPS

THE BASICS

THE 3 GOALS OF A SMALL GROUP

MAKE FRIENDS

We are created for connection and relationship. Whether it is a bible study, book club, or running group, small groups always meet regularly and make friends.

MAKE DISCIPLES

Regardless of the type of group, the purpose of a small group is to encourage us on our journey of holiness. Small groups create a place where we can grow in our faith and become more like Jesus.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Jesus came with a mission to reconcile the world to God, to restore creation to its intended state, and He charged his followers with continuing that mission. Small groups are not insular communities but help us discover how God is calling us to live out that mission in our daily lives.



SMALL GROUPS: THE BASICS CONTINUED

SMALL GROUP FAQs

WHO?

You (Small Group Leader): People will choose a group based upon their interest (affinity) or availability. You can choose the kind of group you want to host and the day you want to host it: men's/women's group, young adult small group, married couple's group, open to all ages, etc.

Others (Participants): Small group hosts personally invite friends and others they know to join their group.

ADW: As a leader, you can connect with the Archdiocese to get ideas for groups, book and resource suggestions, ongoing support, and to promote your group on the ADW website for other interested young adults.

WHAT?

Small groups come in all shapes but in small sizes of around 5-10 people. Your group can be a bible study, book club, running group, etc. Every small group includes hospitality, prayer, and discussion to help participants make friends, make disciples, and make a difference.

Sample Small Group Session (90 min)

- Welcome/Hospitality (15 min)
- Opening Prayer (5 min)
- Content Study (20 min)
- Group Discussion (30 min)
- Vocal Closing Prayer (10 min)
- Fellowship (10 min)

WHEN?

As a small group leader, you can choose the day and time that works best for you. Groups typically meet weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly if necessary for 60-90 minutes each session. Your small group can meet anywhere from 5-10 sessions over the course of a season- think about planning for your small group's duration according to how long it will take to form a small community of friends.

Small groups can be open for newcomers for the duration of the group, or you can decide to close the group after a certain number of sessions (e.g. after a third of the sessions). At the end of the sessions the group can decide to continue meeting if they would like, but this is not expected. Remember, the goal is to form a community on mission, not an insular group.

WHERE?

Small groups can meet wherever is comfortable and convenient: your home, church, café, etc. Be creative, but consider spaces or environments that help foster community, confidentiality, conversation, and connection.

*(language adapted from National Community Church DC)