

SMALL GROUP

Intro to Small Groups Sessions

Thank you again for joining us in the Discover process. We know that you are giving your time and energy to engage in these eight weeks. We don't take that lightly. We hope this time is enriching and edifying.

What to expect in your small groups:

Your group is on a journey together. In the weeks ahead, it is our prayer that you will grow together as you learn more about Fellowship through our five promise statements. These statements sum up what you can expect to experience at Fellowship Bible Church across our different congregations and ministries.

Learn together.

Worship together.

Gather together.

Serve together.

Make disciples together.

At the heart of the small group experience is sharing stories. As you hear what God has done and continues to do in the lives of your group members, you will see how your own story fits into the tapestry that God is weaving.

During your flex week, your leader will bring something unique to your group, whether it's a special guest, an activity, or something only your group will get to experience together.

At the end of your small group experience you will have the opportunity to join the church by writing out your story and signing our membership covenant. Please know our team is praying for you as embark on this journey. It takes all of our experiences, all of our giftings, and all of our stories to make up the Body of Christ at Fellowship.

Welcome to the next step on your journey! Let's get started.

Session 1

Learn Together

Whether it's a young plant, a puppy, or a newborn baby, we expect living things to grow. Jesus told Nicodemus that to enter into a relationship with Him we must be born again (John 3:1-8). After someone is reborn in Christ, they are a spiritual infant needing to grow. Spiritual growth does not just happen, though. It requires intentionality from us as we cooperate with the Holy Spirit who is at work in our lives. The writer to the Hebrews admonishes his readers that they should be maturing in their faith (Hebrews 5:12-14) and Paul encourages us to train ourselves to be godly (1 Timothy 4:7). Spiritual growth to maturity is a theme of the New Testament letters and an important part of our Christian lives.

Fellowship is committed to helping people grow spiritually.

Pray

Pray for your small group to be comfortable with one another quickly. Ask God to be at the center of the relationships in your group. Pray for grace in your group's relationships.

Pray that the Lord will continue to reveal Himself through your study. Ask Him to help you assess where you need to grow spiritually.

Discuss

Take a moment to let each person introduce themselves. Consider having each person share a small fact, such as favorite dessert, or how they like to spend their free time.

After the introductions, you are ready to begin the session! Where have you grown and changed in the past year? How about the past five years? What spurred your growth on?

Read

Read this passage aloud:

Ephesians 4:11-16 NIV

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers,¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Interact

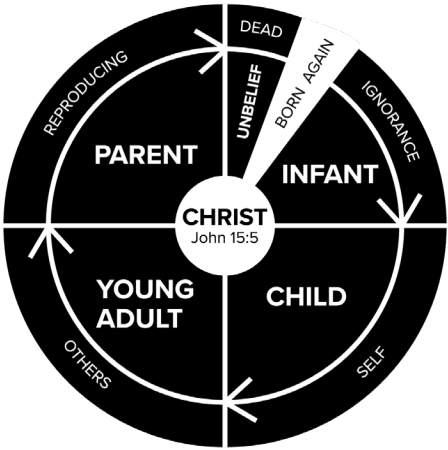
What is Paul referring to in verse 14 when he mentions “the Body of Christ”? How is this body to be built up?

How could “works of service” contribute to our spiritual growth? What would it mean for us to “reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God”? How would prayer, Bible reading, and community help us attain the maturity described in this passage?

According to verse 14, what are some things that will “blow (us) here and there”? What are some things that knock believers off course today? According to verse 15, how can we avoid being tossed around by these forces?

The word love appears twice in the final two verses of this passage. What is the role of love in our spiritual growth? Why is this important for us to remember?

Take a look at the figure below showing the stages of spiritual development. Consider how each stage of physical development is similar to our spiritual growth.



Where are you on this wheel? What are some things you need to do, in commitment to the Lord, to move to the next quadrant on this diagram?

Share

Give some group members the opportunity to share the story of their life before Christ, how they met Christ, and their life since coming to know Christ. Remember to keep the sharing of stories brief so that everyone will have the opportunity to tell about what God has done for them.

Respond

Spiritual growth begins with coming to know Christ. Colossians 2:6-7 is rephrased below as a prayer. Pray these verses back to the Lord and close your time together asking God to help you grow into the mature believer that He wants you to become.

Father, thank You that I have received Christ Jesus as Lord. Help me to continue to live in Him, to be rooted and built up in Him, to be strengthened in the faith as I have been taught. Father, I am overflowing with thankfulness for all You have done for me in Christ.

Notes: