

What are Fall Community Groups?

Fall community groups are a nine-week long online experience designed to help you know God better and make new friends around Jesus. Being in a group we hope will take you where you wouldn't go alone. We trust that God will use this short-term group to introduce others to genuine community.

HOST KIT

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Discussion Host. Becoming a Host is easy! We've outlined a few key areas for you to consider before filling out the online registration. Once you've read through the details and you think this is a good fit for you, click the link above and fill out a few details and we will be in touch.

What do I do before our group ever meets?

- Pray that God brings the people He's already chosen to your group.
- Invite friends and acquaintances who may be curious about Jesus or already know him to join you. We'll also list your group online for others to join in from anywhere in the world.
- Attend the online Host Training September 13th at 10:15 AM. A Zoom link will be sent out to the Host Registrants.
- When you know who will be in your group email them and let them know you're happy they're coming.
- Surrender the whole experience to God.
- Pray daily for your group.
- Contact Bill or Laura when you have questions. billg@cornwallchurch.com , lauraw@cornwallchurch.com

What do we do each week?

1) Fall Community Groups are designed to help you get to know Jesus better. To do that, Cornwall Church creates weekly discussion questions that are available online.

<https://www.cornwallchurch.com/messages/>

2) This is a time to meet new friends, chat about the message, or simply connect with community! We want you to have some fun and will suggest ways to do this. When you feel comfortable, say what's working or not working in your life. Those who feel comfortable can pray out loud.

What are the "rules of engagement"? What are we agreeing to do?

We agree to honor God and each other by-

- Getting together for a weekly connection time for nine weeks.
- Letting everyone participate, but not talk too much.
- Starting and ending on time and those times are.... and...
- Not being judgmental, giving quick answers, or offering our simple fixes to complex situations
- Being open and authentic about what's working and not working in our lives.
- Praying for each other
- Keeping confidences in the group
- Finding ways serve and pray not only for each other but others outside our group.

What do we do the first time we get together?

Week 1 is an overview of what the group is about and a get-to-know-each other-time. We suggest that you:

- Welcome everyone
- Explain why we're getting together (see above)
- Walk them through the zoom handout
- Go over the "rules of engagement"
- Get to know each other with this ice breaker-
- Ask each person to find something nearby that in some way represents them. They have 30 seconds to find the object. Then come back and have everyone share why they chose that object.
- Then starting with yourself as the host, take a few minutes to give "public" information about yourself that you don't mind everyone knowing. They can talk about where they grew up, marital status, school, work, etc. Then follow that up with what's one thing about them most people don't know. Each week should have some fun and we'll suggest icebreakers.
- Finally, invite people who feel comfortable to pray briefly

What's my job as a host?

- 1) to pray for your people (you choose how frequently- daily/every other day/ weekly)
- 2) to desire that this be a transformative experience for your group members
- 3) to communicate by text or email or find someone to be the communicator-in-chief
- 4) to facilitate the meetings and lead the discussion, and find someone who might lead your group in the future and give them leadership opportunities
- 5) to make sure the group is more than just a meeting and correct it if that's the case
- 6) to take part in the Host Zoom training September 13th
- 7) to make sure the mission of the group stays on target

Top tips on leading a Zoom meeting

Nuts and bolts

- Don't sit in a dark room. Have the light or the window face you. Bright pixels are sharp pixels. People won't put up with bad audio. Plug into the computer.
- It's fine for two people to share a screen if they choose. Split or share the air buds. Get both people in the light.
- Set your computer so that the camera sees you at eye level.

- Use your mute button and ask everyone to do that.
- Don't walk around your house carrying around your computer. It can make people motion sick.
- Have everyone turn their camera on.

Leading an online conversation

You can learn to read body language online and that will help you to get people to talk. How? When speaking, look into the camera, until you stop talking. Then look away and gauge reaction.

When someone unmutes, it signals they are thinking about talking. Look for that and say, "Hey Mary, were you about to comment on that?"

As the leader use speaker view. Take on more directive approach in leading the group. Call out, "Dave, do you want to answer this first question." You can be directive.

Invite other people into leading the conversation who won't mind helping you draw people out. Remind everyone that our goal isn't to attend but to participate. Here's how:

Dial up the social components even more. Fun things. Notice the dog in the background or wave at someone's kids when they enter the room. On a Zoom look at the camera and don't turn away. Maintain that eye contact. Turn self-view off. It will help with exhaustion.

Have a plan. Start on time. Build in social times. Invite someone else to help lead to draw others in.

Start with a question everyone could answer that's more than a yes or no.

Best practices

Preload the discussion questions in chat.

Invite people to comment in chat if they don't want to speak up.