

WHAT IS A SMALL GROUP?

You've got to know one or two people but now you are looking to get to know a few more ... and more deeply. A small group is a group of people who meet together regularly with a desire to grow in relationship with God and with one another.

WHY BE PART OF A GROUP?

Family is all about knowing each other and being known. Small groups are the heart of church life. Here is where you can share the ups and downs of life with people who care about you, here is where you can explore the difference that faith makes to every part of life, here is where you can learn to encounter God in new ways together.

WHEN DO GROUPS MEET?

Small groups meet weekly or fortnightly. They meet daytime and evenings. They also meet on various days of the week. Some meet in the same home every time, others move around. Some have the option of joining online.

WHAT GOES ON IN A GROUP?

Every group will do things in a different way but it might include some simple worship together, looking at the bible and talking about how to put what we've learned into practice in real life. Small groups usually include refreshments, time to catch up and to pray for one another too. However, each will be working around our 6 small group core values.

CHAT TO US...

About anything in this leaflet.



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SMALL GROUPS at Thornhill Baptist Church

Church, the way the Bible describes it, is a community of people who are committed to walking with Jesus together. Small groups were started by Jesus! We encourage everyone to be part of a small group at TBC.

CONTACT US

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THORNHILL
Baptist Church

SIX SMALL GROUP CORE VALUES

1. OPENNESS

We encourage openness in conversation and see small groups as being a safe space where everyone can share testimony about where God is at work in our life.

2. TRANSFORMATION

We study the Bible for transformation and change in small groups. Small groups are a safe space to ask 'so what ...?' questions such as, 'so what might this look like in my life?' or 'so what needs to change?' And accountability questions such as 'so what can we do to support?' as we journey together.

3. SERVING

We all have many God-given gifts and we encourage people to use these within their group. This might be in ways that help the group function and grow, including developing leaders both of small groups and in other areas in church life.

There are also opportunities to serve together as a group and we believe this is an excellent way of developing deeper relationships.

4. WELCOME

A newcomer to a group can be a breath of fresh air! They bring their own gifts, perspective and personality and this keeps a group fresh and guards against a group becoming cliquey.

We also encourage every member of the group to participate fully in discussion, prayer and support of those within the group.

5. PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We encourage small groups not only to be open to listening to the way God speaks to us personally but be open to the prophetic, listening out for others and the church. A small group is a safe space where, when prayer needs are shared, we can exercise prayer ministry by waiting on the Holy Spirit for words of wisdom, pictures of encouragement and healing power.

6. MISSION

Small groups are encouraged to engage with supporting mission activity to further God's Kingdom work.

We encourage members to share their faith by being involved in ministries that are outward facing whether this is becoming part of our community ministries or supporting organisations that are sharing the good news of Jesus locally or globally.

FINDING A GROUP TO SUIT YOU

Thank you for picking up this leaflet, we hope it gets you thinking about joining a small group at TBC. If you want to find out more about any of

TALK TO US

Speak with Astrid, who oversees our small groups ministry. She will be very happy to talk through anything in this leaflet with you.

ASK AROUND

Chat to your friends. Ask about why they enjoy their group. Might you be able to join theirs? Chat to small group leaders too.

TRY IT OUT

Go along to one or two groups and see what you think.

PASTORAL CARE

If want to be part of a group for pastoral care but can't commit to attending a group speak to Astrid to find out how you can still join in.