



grow groups

doing life together

Grow groups overview

Grow groups are divided into two sub categories: community groups and discipleship groups. A community group is a small group of 10-12 people that meet in any relational environment and are generally based on relationships and stage of life. Groups generally meet for about 90 minutes which includes a time for fellowship/hanging out time, Bible discussion, and prayer. A discipleship group is an even smaller group usually around 4-5 people that meet for accountability and have a more specific, long-term focus (such as IMPACT material).

Purpose

Crossroads is what we call a church **of** grow groups, not a church **with** grow groups. The difference between the two is found in our approach and purpose. We believe everybody should be in a grow group. When you are not in a grow group you are likely to be out on the fringe and feel disconnected. You also will not likely develop meaningful relationships because there is only limited time in the large group environment to get past the surface. You also will not have anyone to “do life with” nor would others have you to “do life with.” Grow groups are vital to developing a sense of belonging and a sense of community.

“Connecting” to a grow group gives people a sense of belonging and an opportunity to serve others. Therefore we invite people to come “do life with us” like Jesus did. Out of this context of community relationships develop and life transformation happens. Community groups are great places to establish and build solid friendships and lasting, supporting, and encouraging relationships.

Philosophy

Grow groups are based on the example of Jesus and the early church. When Jesus told his disciples to “follow me,” He was telling them to increase their level of commitment and come “do life with Him.” The early church also met in a large group and a smaller group.

*Every day they continued to meet together in the **temple** courts. They broke bread in their **homes** and ate together with glad and sincere hearts. Acts 2:46*

The first church that ever existed was a church of small groups and large groups.

Acts 2:42 provides the basic grid from which small groups operate.

They devoted themselves to the apostle’s teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Acts 2:42

These four elements (teaching, fellowship, worship, and prayer) should be a part of grow group context.

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Grow group values

Love: Choosing to unconditionally accept each other through selfless acts of giving.

Support: Blessing one another from our time, treasure, and talents by serving, caring, and helping each other.

Confidentiality: What is shared in group, stays in group.

Accountability: Going deeper with each other in order to go higher with God.

Welcoming: Always having an open chair to remind us to search for people with intensity because people matter to God.

Honesty: Trusting each other enough to take off our masks and share from our hearts.

Committed: Making connecting to each other a priority because we want to, not have to.

Prayer: Praying with and for each other continuously, not just at group.

Membership responsibilities

One of our membership requirements is that we identify with a grow group. What does this mean? Identifying with a grow group is synonymous with belonging to a grow group. When you belong you are missed and it is not the same when you are not there. Visiting a group once or twice would most likely not achieve a sense of identification or a sense of belonging. So then, we desire for you to identify with a group enough that you and the group would say the same thing, "you belong to each other."

We also ask that over the duration of your membership that you maintain your membership by continually belonging/identifying to a grow group, or you would place your membership in jeopardy.

How do I join a grow group?

It's easy! You can stop by our resource table at the weekend service and get a grow group card of your choice and visit that group. You can send an email to office@crossroadswalton.org requesting information and it will be sent to you. You can also check the back of a Sunday morning welcome card requesting additional information.

See you at group!

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