Growth Groups

From the beginning we see God’s concern that the individual not be overlooked within a larger community Lady with issue of blood

* Tribes *Genesis 49:28*
* *Exodus 18: 17-23(Governing)*
* Jesus’ Ministry
* 70 *Luke 10:1*
* 12 Disciples *Mark 3:14*

*“Jesus invested 90% of his time in 12 Jewish men so that he could reach all Americans.”*

* 3 Inner Circle *Matthew 17*
* New Testament Church
* Type of house meeting
* Prayer meetings (Acts 12:12)
* Evening of Christian fellowship (Acts 21:7)
* Common meals, possibly Communion services (Acts 2:46)
* A night of prayer, worship, and instruction (Acts 20:7)
* Impromptu evangelistic gatherings (Acts 16:32)
* Planned meetings to present the gospel (Acts 10:22)
* Following up confirmation training meets (Acts 18:26)
* Evangelistic meetings (Acts 20:20)

**Cultures Lack of Community**

 “Americans are among the loneliest people in the world.” Gallup Organization

Most architects currently design homes intentionally to promote privacy and seclusion, not connection. Front porches used to be capitalized upon.

Researchers have found that isolated people are 3 times more likely to die than those who have strong relationships. People with bad health habits (smoking, poor eating, obesity, alcohol, or drug use) but strong social ties lived significantly longer than people who had great health habits but were isolated.

Starbucks sees itself in the business of doing more than selling coffee. Starbucks believes part of its corporate appeal is to create environments that connect people and enhances their quality of life.

Clinical Psychologist Dr. Henry Cloud states, “The soul cannot prosper without being connected to others.”

**DEFINITION OF A SMALL GROUP**

A group of people who come together on a regular basis for a common purpose and are led by an identified leader who is assisting them in their progress toward full devotion to Christ by intentionally providing an environment for connection, community, and spiritual formation.

**Why People Need Groups (Community)**

1. We get **STRENGTH** for life’s struggles

*“Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. 10 If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble.” Ecclesiastes 4:9-10*

1. We receive **WISDOM** for making important decisions

*“Plans go wrong for lack of advice; many advisers bring success.” Proverbs 15:22*

1. We experience **ACCOUNTABILITY**, which is vital to personal growth

*“As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.” Proverbs 27:17*

1. We find **ACCEPTANCE** that helps us heal our brokenness

*“This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. 13 There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” John 15:12-13*

**Semester Based**

Semesters offer people the maximum flexibility to find “relevant” options for where they are in life for that season. (I.e.: for a family with a child in football season they can choose options that fit their schedule; for another family with certain work schedules that prohibit them from mid-week discipleship they can choose a Sunday morning group).

Semester based structuring also allows for relaunches twice a year which will emphasize groups in a larger and consistent way that the past structure did not allow.

* Spring semester will launch on January (After the 21 Day Fast) and end the first week of June
* Fall semesters will launch August 24th and end December 7th, 2011

**Adapt 3 Fold Leadership Structure**

By structuring every group by gift based positions we will step closer to a fully streamlined church. The gift based positions also provide solid team leadership, therefore enhancing accountability, longevity, and ongoing development.

# Three-fold Growth Group Leadership

1. Teacher (Teaching or Prophecy)
2. Care Coordinator (Encouragement or Mercy)
3. Team Leader (Administration or Teaching)

**Embody Kiononia**

Every Growth Group must intentionally embody the concept of Kiononia (Outreach, Worship, and Groups). These concepts would be practiced in the following ways:

OUTREACH (Ministry to others) -pulled into a special event outreaches like Compassion in Action or the Nest (homeless minisitry). Also every group has an “Open Chair” principle.

WORSHIP (Connect with God)-each group will grow through devotions, teaching, bible studies, video curriculum, etc.

RELATIONSHIPS (Connect with others)-each group will be trained and structured to have a form of community time each meeting in addition to their monthly fellowship as a group or with other like groups.

**Life Stage Structure**

Metro is structured with Life Stages in mind. By broadening our classifications we can have larger and stronger groups to promote community within. It is the goal that we have offerings in all three categories of Growth Groups (Sunday On-Campus, Wed. On-Campus, and Weekly On/Off-Campus) for each Life Stage, thus maximizing options and simplicity for our congregation.

Development and management of the offerings for each Life Stage will be discussed by the Life Stage Development Team. This team will consist of a representative from each Life Stage that can share what offerings and calendar events are projected for each semester. By using this team’s communication we can protect our simple structure from busyness and overlapping.

* Metro’s Life Stages
* Young Adult
* Married
* Adult
* Senior
* Men
* Women
* Singles