

Home Group Strategy 2006

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up...”

1 Thessalonians 5:11

FOUNDATIONS
HOME GROUP MINISTRY

Purpose:

The purpose of our Home Group Ministry is to:

- a) facilitate maximum spiritual growth through relationships with growing believers, and
- b) reach people through the multiplication of groups.

Our ultimate goal is to involve every member of Westwood in a small group in which every group member...

- knows every other member more than just by name (life on life)
- grows together in their walk with Christ
- studies the Bible together weekly, and
- feels the freedom to ask questions and share prayer requests
- prays specifically for others in the group
- supports each other in time of need
- finds a place of service in the church
- ministers with the group in the community
- works together to reach and involve people and to multiply groups

Organization & Strategy:

1. Create a network of groups that meet weekly for Bible study, fellowship, and prayer.
Acts 2:42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.
2. Group size will be at least eight, but no more than 12-15 people.
3. Each group will have a leader or coordinator, and each mixed group will have either a married couple or a male and a female leader.
4. Groups will meet for 18 months, then strategically multiply.
5. The lifespan of the group will include four stages:
 - a. Connection Meeting
 - b. Orientation/Test Drive Stage (6 weeks)
 - c. Growth Stage (15 months)
 - d. Multiplication Stage (6 weeks)
6. Common studies will include:
 - a. Six week orientation study
 - b. Six week multiplication study
 - c. Two coordinated studies each year (August & January)
7. Group Leaders will choose one group study in fall and one in spring. Leadership Team is developing a list of approved studies.
8. Connection Events will be held four times a year: (2 Primary and 2 Secondary)
 - a. Beginning of January (P)
 - b. Week following Easter (S)
 - c. End of August (P)
 - d. Middle of October (S)

9. Groups will meet year-round, breaking no more than two weeks at any time.
10. Group members will sign a covenant at the end of the Orientation Stage.
 - Priority of attendance
 - Ownership
 - Availability
 - Honesty
 - Truthfulness
 - Authenticity
 - Confidentiality
 - Acceptance
 - Encouragement
 - Conflict resolution
 - Prayer
 - Accountability
 - Openness
 - Participation
 - Being biblical
11. Directors will support the ministry of 5-6 Home Groups.
12. Groups passing 15 in attendance will enter the multiplication stage early.
13. Small groups (ABS, Home Groups) will be the point of relationship with the church. (ministry, communication, accountability, service, community involvement, etc.)
14. Group Leaders will enter a covenant relationship with the church to diligently shepherd the group.
15. Group Leaders will be trained and accountable to the church through the directors, staff, and Home Group Leadership Team.
16. Group Leaders must complete an enlistment process prior to service as do ABS Leaders.
17. Intentional leadership will be a focus. Group Leaders will have an apprentice by the end of the Orientation Stage. Others will be given opportunities to facilitate the group meetings.
18. Technology will be used to assist Group Leaders and coordinate the ministry. Weekly attendance will be posted on-line.
19. Westwood members are encouraged to be a part of a small group, either a Home Group or an ABS Class. Those who choose ABS are encouraged to be a part of a smaller E-Group of 8-12 people.
20. On-campus discipleship classes will be used as starter groups to spin off into a new Home Group at the end of the discipleship study.
21. Basic Training Groups will help people start or restart their spiritual journey by focusing on the basics of the Christian walk.