



CHURCH OF THE SAVIOUR

FAQ About Community Groups @ COS

Community Groups during COVID-19

Community Groups have been the lifeline for many in our congregation during this time of COVID-19 to maintain and provide connection in the church. Groups quickly pivoted to the circumstances and determined the style of meeting according to their own comfort level. We have three different methods of group life during this season:

- **Online Only:** These groups meet exclusively online.
- **In-Person:** These groups meet in person, following the current CDC guidelines.
- **Hybrid:** These groups will meet in a combination of both in-person and online. This could look like alternating between online and in-person, or it could be some people meeting in person and others joining them via video.

What is a community group?

Community groups exist as a way for people to engage in biblical community that helps them become more like Jesus in every way of their lives. When intentional, these small groups create an environment that fosters spiritual growth and character through the application of scripture, prayer, worship, accountability, and simply doing life together.

How do I choose a group?

When selecting a group, you may choose by location, or common stage in life. For a good fit, we recommend shared interests with the leader and group members so you can naturally bond in relationship. If you're new to COS (have been here less than a year) we have a group just for you! Let us know your interest and we'll be happy to get you connected.

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact us. We will gladly assist you. Keep in mind that it might take two or three groups before you find the perfect fit, but don't worry, you'll find it!

How important are community groups?

At COS, Community Groups are essential to our discipleship process. Groups are centered around the study and application of God's Word; and provide a safe place to build healthy relationships with others. We believe that meeting together on a regular basis is time well spent.

When and where do they meet?

Community Groups meet on various nights of the week in homes throughout the surrounding areas. Meeting times vary from group to group, but generally meet for 90 minutes to 2 hours. During COVID-19, groups determine the method of their meeting.

How long do groups meet?

We have three terms when community groups meet, and each term is between 9 and 10 weeks. New terms begin in September, January and March. At the end of each session, you have the choice to continue with your current group, choose a new group, or take a break. Most groups stay together for the entire year. Community groups do not meet June through August.

What is the required commitment?

Joining a community group requires a commitment to attend each week with any preparation, ie: listening to the sermon or completing assignments. Obviously, allowances are made for sickness, vacation, work conflicts, and other special events – but not much more!

What will we study?

Many of our groups discuss the sermon from the previous weekend. This provides personal application to the message. Sermon notes for these groups are accessible on the website.

What will it cost?

Few things in life are free and Community Groups are no exception! The cost of group life is the cost of commitment throughout the 9-10 week term – this is what makes them work!

During the first meeting, each group will review an agreement form together. This simple form helps each group discuss their priorities and commitment to regularly attend with a readiness to participate in the discussion, and eagerness to serve and make a difference in God's Kingdom. At the end of each quarter you have the choice of recommitting for another quarter, trying a new group or taking a break from groups altogether.

What about childcare?

Most community groups are for adults only. If you choose one of these groups, you'll need to provide your own childcare. However, there are a few groups where children are welcomed. In these groups, the leaders and members are responsible to provide

safe childcare during their meeting time. If children are permitted, it will be listed in the group description.

How do I sign up for a community group?

We have community group registration three times per year: August/September; January; and March. Registrations are available through our website or you can contact us by email. Staff members are also available in the lobby after the services to help you choose a group and answer any questions. Those new to COS (less than a year) are encouraged to join a group designed just for them and can join at any time.

Are there groups for teens?

Yes, our High School and Jr. High ministries both offer small groups for students. Although these groups are not included in this publication, they are very important to our church. Please contact our student minister leaders, [Fran](#) or [Deborah](#), for more information.