



Community Groups:

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What if our group is too big to meet in a home?

A: If your group is too big to meet in a home, we suggest you secure a Community Group venue here on our FBCL campus. We have several rooms and meeting areas where your group can meet. Simply go online, fill out a calendar request, wait for approval and begin meeting!

Q: What do we do about childcare?

A: If your group has small children and preschoolers, childcare is an issue as your group meets. We suggest you talk this over as a group – see what your options are. Maybe these small children and preschoolers can stay at a relative's house while you meet. Maybe there is a responsible teenager amongst the siblings that could watch the younger children while you meet. Maybe you know of a responsible teenager or young adult that would watch your children while you meet. For additional options and further explanations, please go to, "Childcare Options" located on our website under the "Next Steps/Community" tab.

Q: What if we have more small children and preschooler than one person can handle?

A: If this is the case, we suggest your group meet on campus on Sunday morning to take advantage of our children & preschool programs. We will schedule you an appropriately sized room to meet, either at 9:30 am or 11 am, based on your group needs. If this is still not an option, please contact our Community Group's Ministry at www.fbclloganville.org/Community and one of our staff will get in touch with you in a timely manner.

Q: What if I don't know 3-6 couples or individuals to start my group?

A: If you are new to FBCL or new to the community, you probably don't know a whole lot of people. We suggest you attend our Community Group class where you can meet other folks just like you! While you attend the Community Groups class, you will get to know other people, form connections, and hopefully join together to start a group. We also suggest you attend various FBCL events to help you get further connected – like a men's or women's gathering or a church-wide fellowship. You may also want to consider serving in a ministry area and find community with those you serve with.

Q: What is the Community Groups Class and Who is it for?

A: Our Community Group's Class is designed to help people understand our Community Group model and to help them start a Community Group of their own. This class is very interactive – we laugh together, share from the heart, and pray together. Our prayer is that as you connect with other believers, you will form your own Community Group. This class is not designed to be your ending point, but a launching point for you to start your own Community Group.

Q: What is the Bible Reading Plan and what is a H.E.A.R. Journal?

A: The Bible Reading Plan is an intentional 52-week plan that we follow church-wide. It helps our members stay on the same page and journey through the Scriptures together – no matter the age or ministry. Families benefit from reading the same passages of Scripture. A H.E.A.R. Journal is a simple way to help you read the Bible with the intention of applying it. “H” stands for “highlight” – what was a verse(s) that stood out to you in your reading? “E” stands for “explain” – what is the author's intended meaning in the context of the passage? “A” stands for “apply” – How does this verse apply to me and my life today? And “R” stands for “response” – How will I respond to the application in my relationships and/or situations this week. Both the Bible Reading Plan and H.E.A.R. Journal are further explained in the Foundations book, pages 8-11 and 275-283.

Q: What is a Foundations Book and where do I get one?

A: The Foundations book is a 260-day Bible reading plan for busy believers. This book follows the Bible Reading Plan – one day at a time – allowing you space to do a H.E.A.R. Journal entry five days a week for each week of the year. It also suggests Scripture verses to memorize as well. Group members can purchase Foundation books on Amazon. All Group Leaders will receive a free Foundation book as part of the Community Group Starter Box.

Q: What is this Community Group Starter Box?

A: This is a box of Community Group goodness! It has everything in it for a new Community Group to get started – Foundation books for leaders, Group Starter Question Cards, Bible Reading & H.E.A.R. Journaling guides, and much more! This box is given to all Community Group Leaders.

Q: How does one become a Community Group Leader?

A: Once an individual has attended our Community Groups Class or has gone online and read our Community Group Leader's material, and if they have an inclination to be the point person for their group, we ask them to go online and fill out a “Community Group Leader's Application” at fbcloganville.org/community. Once this application is received, a meeting will be scheduled with between the applicant and our Community Groups staff to go over any questions or concerns on

either side. Once approved as a Community Group Leader, you will receive the Starter Box and have “green light” to move forward and launch your group.

Q: So how long does a typical Community Group gathering last?

A: Most groups meet from 1 ½ to 2 hours during each gathering. We highly recommend groups stay within this time frame. Groups that consistently meet longer than 2 hours run into childcare issues and group member frustration. Having a set “start” time and “end” time works well for groups.

Q: Do groups meet every week?

A: That depends on the group. Most groups meet twice a month. Anything less than twice a month and the group loses momentum and community. Typically, groups take off for holidays (Christmas, Easter, Memorial & Labor Day, etc.) and have a modified schedule during December and the summer months.

Q: How do I Start My Group?

A: First, make a list of people you know that are looking for community – friends, church members, neighbors, people you work with, etc. Contact them and let them know you are starting a new Community Group and that you would like for them to be a part of it. Give them the “Community Group Member’s Guide” that will help them to understand the key components of group life and answer questions they might have concerning groups. If you have at least 3 couples or individuals, select a launch date and start your group!

Q: What do we do at our first group gathering?

A: At your first gathering, have everyone bring something fun to munch and snack on! Make sure everyone knows each other – have everyone introduce themselves, where they work and something unique about them. After everyone has shared, ask a question or two from the “Group Starter Question Cards” – paying attention to everyone’s response. When finished, thank everyone for coming and pray – dedicating your time to the Lord. Explain the typical group schedule, introduce them to the Foundation book, and explain the Bible Reading Plan and H.E.A.R. Journal method. For your first gathering, keep everyone together and have them briefly share (30 seconds or less) their “highs & lows” for the week. Afterwards, have each person share the best way the group can pray for them this upcoming week. Have a time of prayer for the group and the needs mentioned. When finished, you will want to make sure everyone has each other’s contact info and the schedule for the next three group gatherings.

Q: What does a typical group gathering look like?

A: Typically, a group begins each gathering with small talk – catching up with each other and discussing anything from sports to politics to dinner recipes! After about 10 minutes of catching up, the leader will introduce a fun, get-them-talking question from the “Group Starter Question Deck”. After everyone has shared, a group member dedicates their time to the Lord through prayer. At this point, groups get smaller. In Coed groups, men branch off and meet with men while women meet with women. If your group is made up of the same gender and has more than six people in it, you will want to branch off into two smaller groups of 3-4 each. In these smaller groups, you will ask each other to briefly share their “highs & lows” from the week – this gives the group an understanding of where that person is emotionally, physically, and spiritually. After everyone has shared, have individuals share an entry from their H.E.A.R. Journal – pay close attention to how they applied & responded the Scripture. When finished, share prayer needs and pray for one another. Encourage each other as you leave and pray for the groups needs until you gather again.

Q: Do we have to memorize Scripture according to the Bible Reading Plan?

A: No one has to memorize Scripture, but know that memorizing Scripture is a really good thing for one’s faith! You can memorize the verses that are set apart in the Bible Reading Plan – or you can memorize a verse that stands out to you as you read. Either way, you are memorizing Scripture. Memorize verses at your own pace – but do your best to push yourself in this spiritual discipline. The best way to memorize Scripture is to write them down and put them in a place where you will see them often – like a bathroom mirror or kitchen refrigerator.

Q: Can we celebrate the Lord’s Supper in our Community Group?

A: Absolutely! In fact, if you give us heads up, we can order you those cool, little wafer/juice cups to use. If you would rather use a loaf of bread and grape juice (remember, we are Baptist, so let’s steer away from the real stuff!), feel free to do so.

Q: What if I have a more questions or one that is not addressed here, who do I talk to?

A: Email our Community Group’s Ministry at www.fbcloganville.org/Community and one of our staff will get in touch with you in a timely manner.