

Join a _____ !

A PLACE TO BELONG

KEY QUESTION: *What is a Small Group?*

A group of *roughly* 8-14 people who are at different places in their spiritual journey and who meet weekly in a home to learn, grow spiritually, build lasting friendships, and discover what it means to live the Christian life.

The first Christians met in homes...Acts 5:42

7 GREAT REASONS FOR JOINING A SMALL GROUP

Consider joining a small group because it is...

1. A place where individual _____ are best _____ for.
2. A place where _____ can be given and received.
3. A place where you can _____ with others and develop life long _____.
4. A place where you can comfortably _____ and ask _____.
5. A place where everyone is _____ regardless of their place in the spiritual journey.

6. A place where you can _____ those outside and inside your group.

7. A place where the “_____” commands of the Bible can be experienced.

THE ONE ANOTHER'S OF THE BIBLE

- Treat One Another _____ – Romans 12:16.
- _____ One Another – Galatians 5:13
- _____ One Another – Romans 15:7
- _____ One Another – 1 Thess. 4:18
- _____ with One Another – Mark 9:50
- _____ One Another – John 13:34-35
- _____ One Another – Romans 14:19
- _____ to One Another – Ephesians 4:32
- _____ One Another – Ephesians 4:32
- _____ One Another – Ephesians 4:32
- _____ & _____ One Another - Col. 3:16.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Let's do life together by joining a Small Group @ SMC. Visit our Small Group Sign Up tables in the lobby.

SMALL GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

As you begin tonight, take some time to get to know each other. Share your name, how you heard about SMC, what you do for work and/or your favorite thing to do.

1. Prayer

2. Take some time to review the message from Sunday. What stood out to you? What challenged you? What was new to you?

3. If you can, share about a time in your life that a previous Small Group helped you or met a need in your life?

4. How is God's family *similar* to our earthly family? How is it *different*?

5. What does it mean to "*belong to*" God's family (See Romans 12:9-19)?

6. In order for God's family (the church) to be healthy it needs to learn to love one another. Look up the following passages to discover what the Bible teaches about real 'love.'

Matthew 5:43-48 John 3:16 John 13:33-35
John 15:12 1 John 3:16-18 Ephesians 5:1-2

7. Who did Jesus show love to? (Read as many passages as time permits). What does 1 John 2:6 teach us to do?

Matthew 9:36 Matthew 11:19 Matthew 20:29-34
Mark 1:40-45 Luke 7:11-15 Luke 23:34 John 5:1-9

8. Review the "One Another" Commands in this outline. Which command do you find the hardest to do for others? Which do you find the hardest to receive from others?

9. What do you think about the following quotes about love?

"Love is the willingness to surrender that which has value for your own life to enrich the life of another." C.H Dodd

"Love is intentionally doing something in Jesus name regardless of the cost or consequences to oneself." **Sonlife Ministries**

10. On a scale of 1-10, how are you doing at loving God's family?

"DOING LIFE TOGETHER"

Small Groups @ SMC

Pastor Cory Anderson / 09.20.09 / SMC

Introduction:

Life's adventures are best traveled with others. This is also true when it comes to the spiritual journey. People can try to go it _____, but the "*Lone Ranger*" approach to following Jesus Christ is dangerous and difficult. God is interested in our spiritual success and knows that the degree to which we will succeed is directly tied to how we _____ with others in His family and experience true belonging.

"The neighborhood bar is possibly the best counterfeit there is to the fellowship Christ wants to give his church. It's an imitation, dispensing liquor instead of grace, escape rather than reality. But it is a permissive, accepting, and inclusive fellowship. It is unshockable, it is democratic. You can tell people secrets and they usually don't tell others, or want to. The bar flourishes not because most people are alcoholics, but because God has put into the human heart the desire to know and be known, to love, and be loved, and so many seek a counterfeit at the price of a few beers."

Bruce Larson, "Dare to Live Now!," p.110

Is *Shadow Mountain Church* a place where you feel you belong?

TWO REALITIES

1. When a church is _____ it's _____ for everyone to feel a sense of belonging.
2. When a church is _____ it's more _____ to feel a sense of belonging.

KEY QUESTION: So what's the answer?