

Small Groups FAQ

- 1. What is a small group?** A small group is a circle of 10-15 people who meet regularly to pray, to build friendships, while primarily discussing *things that matter*, like Scripture, an important book, or a compelling question.
- 2. What does discipleship mean?** There are many ways to talk about discipleship, but think of it as a word to capture following Jesus.
- 3. How do small groups start at New Community?** Our church has three small group seasons – spring, summer, and fall – that run for 3 months each. There will be time before the start of each season for you to learn which small groups will be available to join during the next season.
- 4. What does it mean to participate in a small group?** It minimally means that a group member will prepare for and attend group meetings faithfully. But it also means that each person will share and listen as well as possible, that persons will stretch in communication, that persons will be able to cultivate friendship outside of the stated meeting time since relationships hardly develop only when you attend to them on a, say, Tuesday from 7:30 to 9:30pm.
- 5. Who leads the groups?** A few groups are led by staff members, but most groups are led by trained lay leaders who receive continued oversight and support from our small group coaches.
- 6. How *small* are small groups, and what happens when they get big?** We hope to keep groups between 10-15 people, so that those folks can invite friends or co-workers and share their faith experience. There are smaller and larger groups ranging from 8 to 20. When groups get much bigger we will seek to expand the small groups ministry by launching another group with some of the original group's members.
- 7. When will a group be closed?** Groups will start and close in connection with the small group seasons. Some groups may last more than one season but then will end at the end of a different season. Groups will stay open, if they have not reached their capacity up to one week into the start of a specific season and then will close for that season. At the end of a specific season, the group can re-open itself to allow people to leave and join.
- 8. What does it take to lead a group?** It takes a commitment to personal growth in faith, which is what we expect from everyone. But it also calls for faithful attendance at gatherings for development and for interaction with other leaders. If you are interested or have any questions about serving, email Pastor Zachs Gaiya (zachs@thenewcom.com).