



HILLCREST
CHURCH

HILLCREST GROUPS...

are disciple-making groups where someone cares about and supports your spiritual growth.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF HILLCREST DISCIPLE-MAKING GROUPS

1. We use the bible to inform our discussion.
2. We share our lives, and care for each other.
3. We support each other in our next steps on Hillcrest's discipleship pathway.
4. We pray together and for one another.
5. We pursue maturity in Christ by making disciples who make disciples.
6. We identify upcoming leaders from within the group and give them opportunities to lead, so that we can multiply groups.
7. Group leaders are empowered by and accountable to Hillcrest.

DISCOVER | SHARE | OBEY

GROUP GUIDELINES

Read these five guidelines to the group as you begin the first three or four sessions.

1. Everyone shares in sentences, not paragraphs.
2. Focus only on what this passage is saying, not on other passages.
3. Focus only on what this group is seeing.
4. Give people time to respond. Silence is OK.
5. The facilitator should facilitate discussion, not teach.

FACILITATOR GUIDELINES

1. Keep the session on schedule and complete all sections, though not necessarily all questions.
2. Prepare before by studying passage, looking for main idea, and think of some examples, stories or applications from your own life.
3. Respond to questions by asking group, "What in the passage helps us answer that question?"
4. Respond to distracting comments by asking, "Where is that found in this passage?"
5. Respond to "strange" answers by asking, "Help us understand what you are thinking."

STUDY GUIDE

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TALK

- What are you thankful for?
- What is causing you stress?
- Now pray for one another .

LOOK BACK (SESSION 2+)

- Retell the story from the previous meeting.
- What did you do differently because of this story?
- Who did you tell and what was the reaction?

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READ & RE-TELL

- One person reads the Bible passage out loud, and the rest follow along.
- Someone else retells the passage by memory, if possible. Others can fill in what is missing.

LOOK

- Read the passage again. (In a different translation if possible.)
- Discuss what this passage says about God, Jesus or his plan.

LOOK AGAIN

- Read the passage once more. (In a different translation if possible.)
- Discuss what this passage says about people or myself.

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INSIDE ME

- According to this study, what am I doing well?
- What do I need to change?
- How can I obey/apply something from what I read?

WHO ELSE?

- Who needs to hear this story or truth?
- How can I tell them?
- Who can I invite to study the Bible with me?

PRAYER EVANGELISM

Talking to God about your neighbours
before talking to your neighbours about God.

START WITH BLESSING

- Pray for specific people in your sphere of influence to be blessed - that God would be working in their life, for peace in their home, etc.
- Adopt them in prayer. Take spiritual ownership of the people you pray for, knowing that praying for peace and blessing, results in peace and blessing. It's like changing the "Spiritual Climate" around them through prayer.

SPEND TIME

- Be present, don't be absent. Find ways to intentionally connect with the people in your sphere of influence.
- Jesus was a friend to sinners - so should we be. This provides an opportunity to show unconditional acceptance by welcoming our neighbors the way they are, instead of the way we want them to be. Find common ground.

MEET NEEDS

- Bless and be on call. When they share a felt need, offer prayer! And help!
- Use your resources AND expect MIRACLES. Listen and obey. Obedience is success.

SHARING JESUS

- When we meet people's needs through God's provision, God creates an avenue to show them that Jesus is indeed a friend of sinners, who does not condemn them but loves them unconditionally.
- Tell them it is God who has met their need and introduce them to Jesus. Share the Good News of the Gospel.