

Community Groups FAQ

Who can host a community group?

You can! Anyone can host a Sojourn Community Group. A “community group” at Sojourn is any group that meets regularly to grow in relationship with God and each other.

What do we do during our group meetings?

There are many ways that a CG can function. Most groups try to create an atmosphere to hang out and have good conversation. This environment can include anything from Bible study, sermon discussion, talking about life, praying for each other, etc. Many groups start with some type of pot-luck or finger food meal or snack. Many groups with a lot of kids get a babysitter and split the cost. Those are some basic ideas to get you started but it's truly a blank canvas to be creative. Remember, the ultimate goal is to grow spiritually and to grow in friendship.

What's the ideal rhythm/schedule for my community group?

Some groups are ongoing and some are seasonal. Both options are great. Each year, in February and August, we promote a Community Group Kickoff. This creates a natural rhythm for new groups to start. This rhythm also gives opportunity for group hosts to take a break. Signing up to host a CG doesn't mean that you're signing up to host for the rest of your life!

Most groups typically meet twice a month, but the rhythm is totally up to the group. Meeting weekly or once a month is also an option.

How do I find people to be in a group I'm hosting?

Who do you know in the church? Who do you know outside the church? CG's are a great way to introduce new people to the church. Invite friends, co-workers, neighbors, family members, and anyone else you want. A good number for community groups is 5-10 people, but if you have a few less or a few more that is perfectly fine.

If I am not hosting, how do I find a group? Is there a list of groups somewhere?

We do not provide a list of our groups. Our strategy is to invite anyone to host and to gather their friends, neighbors, and co-workers to do a group. If you are not involved with a group, ask a friend or two if they are involved with one. If they are, maybe you can join in with theirs. If you need help finding a group, you can fill out the [Community Group Form](#). We will happily do our best to connect you to a group.

What makes a great community group leader?

First, let's talk about what a great leader is not. You do not have to be a Bible teacher to be a great leader. You are not expected to be a therapist either. You are creating space for people to gather, do life together, and grow together. You are not expected to be the expert.

A good leader is hospitable. They seek to do whatever they can to help people feel welcomed, connected, and valued.

A good leader communicates well. Make sure to communicate...

- the start date
- how many weeks or months the group will meet.
- the time and day of the week the group will meet and whether it meets every week or every other week.
- what kind of food will be provided (a full meal, dessert, finger food).
- whether people are asked to bring food.
- where people should park if parking is tricky.
- any plans for childcare

It is hard to over-communicate. It is a good idea to create a way for the group to communicate to each other and for announcements to be shared. We recommend starting a group text or finding a communication platform that works for everyone in the group.

What do we do with children at community group?

Each community group is free to make a plan for children. Several groups reserve space in the church facility so that they can use the kids ministry wing for childcare. Some groups split the cost to hire a babysitter. Some groups have a rotation where a different couple watches the kids each meeting. It all depends on what works best for the group.

Other questions?

If you have a more specific question that we didn't cover, please email Josh Maloy (Community Groups Director) at joshmaloy@sojournchurch.net.