

GOSPEL COMMUNITY

FAMILY MEETING GUIDE



THE FAMILY MEETING

Gospel Communities should hold a family meeting at the start of each semester. Ideally in August and January. The purposes of the meeting are to help get the group aligned and connected. In this meeting you will:

1. Re-center the GC around the purpose of Gospel Communities
2. Establish expectations and rhythms for the semester ahead
3. Share responsibilities in the life of the GC

Be sure you have something to write on and record responses. Use this guide as you go.

The PURPOSE of a Gospel Community at Redeemer

It's good to re-visit the purpose of a GC often. At Redeemer, we believe spiritual formation happens in community. Gospel Communities are our primary environment for life-on-life discipleship, and they center around three practices:

WORD - We are learning and living God's Truth. God speaks to us through His Word. In it, He reveals who He is, who we are, and how we're called to live. In our groups, we open the Scriptures to know Jesus more deeply and to understand our place in His story. Then, we walk in that truth together, helping one another follow Jesus in the everyday realities of life, right where God has placed us.

FAMILY - We are loving one another. Jesus forms us as His people through committed, sacrificial love. In our groups, we care for one another in practical ways - sharing our time, resources, joys, burdens, and struggles. We build relationships marked by honesty, service, and grace as we grow together as the family of God.

MISSION - We are living with purpose and invitation. Jesus sends us into the everyday places of life to be His hands and feet. In our groups, we seek to live out our faith with intentionality in our neighborhoods, workplaces, schools, and homes. We pursue the good of our city and our world, open our lives to others, and invite friends and neighbors into our community so they might see and experience the love of Christ.

We want these practices to be present as we meet. Depending on the form in which we meet (discussion, meals, Huddles, etc.), the presence of each practice may be bigger or smaller. As GC's grow and mature, we they should produce new and healthy GC's through **multiplication** - sending out two or more families to start another GC where new people can connect and grow in their walk with Christ.

The EXPECTATIONS of our Gospel Community

Every GC should establish shared expectations at the start of the semester. This fosters clarity accountability, and shared ownership. Walk through the questions below as a group. Feel free to add more of your own, and be sure to share the results with any new members who join.

- What expectations does the group have for the leader?
- What expectations does the group have for each other? (*i.e.: commitment, intentionality, presence, prayerful, confidentiality, full of grace, etc*)
- How will we communicate with each other? (*i.e.: GroupMe, Facebook, Text Group, Email, etc.*)
- How will we take care of children?
 - *Each GC member should be mindful of their children and teach their children to respect other people and property on GC nights. Guide your kids towards calmness and care for others.*
 - *Will we have sitters? How much can parents contribute? Who will babysit?*
- What is a good schedule for this group?
 - *Forms of meeting: Group Discussion, Family Meals, Guy/Girl, Huddles, serving, etc...*
 - *Days, times, locations of meeting*
 - *Consider making and sharing the schedule monthly or for the entire semester*
- How will we serve?
 - *Does someone have something they are already doing?*
 - *Is there a Serving Partnership at Redeemer we want to be involved in?*
- What does a 'win' look like for our GC this semester?
- How will we follow up when someone is absent?
- How will we pray for each other throughout the week?
- How will we include or invite people on the margins?
- How will we work towards multiplication?

SHARED RESPONSIBILITY in our Gospel Community

Gospel Communities are healthy when responsibility is shared. God has gifted every person in your group, and those gifts are meant to be used for His glory and one another's good. Use the questions below to share the load together and avoid burnout.

- Who are the group leaders? Who are the co-leaders?
- Who will handle overall updates, communication, and administration?
- Who will host and how will we host?
 - *Will we rotate host homes weekly? Monthly? Etc...*
 - *Do the host homes have house rules? (off-limit areas, food restrictions, etc..) Share these and remind the GC each time you go to that home.*
 - *Remind hosts to consider their own children:*
 - *Love your kids, hide their favorite toys*
 - *Ask everyone to help clean up. Don't make your children clean other children's messes.*
 - *Is anything expected of the host? (snacks? drinks?)*
 - *Remind GC to help clean up host home upon leaving.*
- How will we handle Family Meals?
 - *Who will cook? Will we share the cooking? How will we organize and choose the meal?*
 - *Who will help clean up after?*
- Are there roles we can share?
 - Prayer Leader
 - Meal Organizer
 - Child Care Organizer
 - Social Event Person
 - Etc...

REVIEW and PRAY Together

Review: Take a moment to recap what you've decided: expectations, rhythms, roles, and hopes for the semester.

Pray: Close by praying together over your group. Ask God to use this semester to help you grow in love for Him, for each other, and for your neighbors.