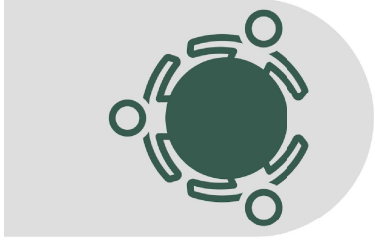




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Small Groups Mission, Vision, and Values

Mission

Our mission is to live out the 3Ds:

Demonstrate God's love
Declare the Good News of His gospel
Make **Disciples** near and far

Vision

Our vision is to see honest, transparent communities who connect and grow in together in faith— and then see those groups multiply! This will take a format where all are welcome, and none are left behind.

Values

Prayer: Nothing is more powerful than praying for your group and being prayed for by your group.

Preparation: There is a prepared intentionality to each meeting and the topics discussed.

Care: The group grows in accountability and genuine Christian affection towards one another.

Reporting: The group values giving quarterly reports on attendance and sharing information, assisting in follow-ups and connectedness with the church.

Why & What?

Why Small Groups?

We were never intended to travel this road alone.

If you are a born-again Believer, you are part of a family, and we each have the Holy Spirit living in us. If we're smart, we want to hear what He has to say – from all those in the family.

In addition, we each have been gifted and given various skills and insights. Only when we come together as a transparent, communicating family are we fully able to reach our potential in God's will. We navigate the journey better when we travel together.

Small Groups are where we live out the 3Ds of our CBC Mission to **Demonstrate** God's love, **Declare** the Good News of His gospel, and make **Disciples** near and far.

What is a Small Group?

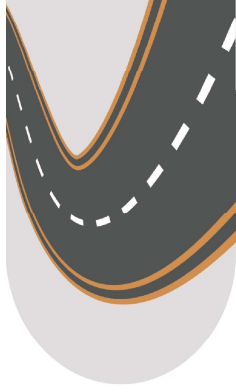
Small Groups take a variety of forms and meet in various locations. For example, they might meet on campus on Sunday mornings or during the week, or they might meet in homes or other places that would be convenient and fit their needs.

They might study specific topics, pulling from the Bible. Or, they may concentrate on moving through specific books of the Bible, gleanings as they go.

Groups typically range in size from 6-16. This is just big enough to have a fruitful conversation, yet small enough that each member can fully participate.

No matter the form, groups always take periodic times for pure social interaction and to truly be a family.

3



Journey Together

What Do We Do on the Journey?

Together, Small Groups:

- Read and study Scripture together.*
- Pray and worship together.*
- Build godly friendships and meet needs.*
- Encourage godly living (application of Scripture).*
- Encourage spiritual maturity.*
- Encourage accountability.*
- Remain confidential - safe places to share.*
- Give members a place to share their "God-stories."*

How Can We Measure Success?

Success is measured by obedience. By this we mean obedience to both God's Word and to the leading of His Holy Spirit.

When Jesus gave His final command in Matthew 28, He told His disciples to teach new Believers everything He has commanded.

We can break this down to three basic commands:

- *Love God with all you heart, soul, and strength.*
- *Love others as you would love yourself.*
- *Go make disciples by proclaiming His Gospel and teaching those who accept to obey these commands.*

This is what we strive to encourage one another to do in our Small Groups. To journey one step closer to God's will and one step closer to bringing heaven to earth (Matthew 6:10).

It's not perfection, but the destination of obedience to God's will that we pursue.

4

Curriculum and Promotions

See more about curriculum options on pages 16-19.

Group Curriculum:

Approval: Small group curriculum must be approved by the Pastor of Discipleship.

Consent: Regardless of source, curriculum must be made known to the Pastor of Discipleship prior to the start of any small group series.

Source material:

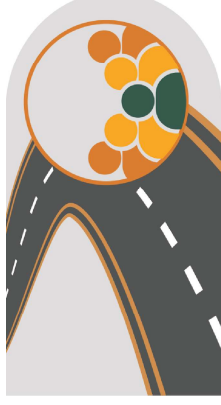
- **CBC Library:** CBC has a library of home-grown 4G Guides and other discipleship series. (These booklets can be printed in-house for each participant.)
- **Non-CBC Library:** Via our membership with the RightNow Media video library, we offer a list of suggested studies.
 - The length of any series should be eight weeks or less.
 - CBC can purchase series video and/or leader guide materials. Participant booklets must be purchased by each participant (directly or as a reimbursement).

The CBC Library can be found at: cbcfamily.net/groups

Group Promotions:

- The number one best way to promote a group or group series is by word-of-mouth invitation.
- For posting the start of a new series on the CBC groups webpage, weekly update, and/or Sunday slides, series information must be received by the Pastor of Discipleship a minimum of two weeks prior to its start.

5



Group Roles:

For groups to maintain their mission and vision, **specific roles need to be filled**. At the beginning, many roles can be shared, and participants may take on multiple roles. But as the group grows, these roles should be designated and often rotated. While some members are gifted in one or more of these areas, it is important that everyone be given an opportunity to discover and appreciate the different roles and those giftings.

Group Driver: The Driver is the CBC member accountable for the group. This person is the prime driver of initiating the group and keeping the group going for at least the first year. They may host the group and lead the curriculum discussion but they do not have to. A separate Group Host and a Group Guide (see below) can also be chosen for the group. This eliminates overburdening the Group Driver and allows others to use their gifts.

Group Host: The group host is responsible for the location and logistics of the group meeting site. This role may be rotated as often as the site is rotated.

Group Guide: The group guide leads the curriculum discussion. While the initial group guide should have some experience in this type of role, others should be rotated in as soon as they are able.

Hospitality Coordinator: Snacks, meals, potlucks are great ways to engage. Having someone coordinate meeting amenities and social events is a must.

Coms Facilitator: The coms facilitator coordinates group communication avenues (email, social media, etc.).

Service Pro: The service pro keeps on top of service opportunities, both at CBC and in the community.



6

Who's the Driver?



What is a Small Group Driver?

We are looking for *Jesus-followers*, not *"leaders."*
Why? Because *Jesus' disciples make disciples.*

A Small Group Driver is the person who "steers" the group as they travel the road of discipleship together.

Qualifications of a Small Group Driver:

- Members of CBC in good standing.
- Humble
- Teachable
- Overtly faithful and consistent
- Able to facilitate discussion

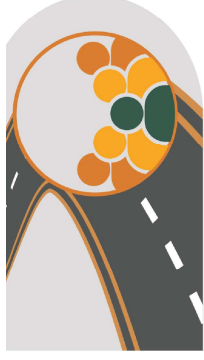


What Group Drivers Do NOT Do:

Group Drivers do NOT:

- Teach - they lead discussion and when teaching is required, they point to leadership to answer difficult questions.
- Act as counselors - they may point others to pastoral care but do not attempt pastoral care. Listening with care and sincerity is the depth of their dealing with problems.
- Provide childcare - they may choose to invite whole families or just adults, but they are not expected to provide anything for childcare.

7



Tips for Group Drivers:

Preparing for Your First Meeting:

1. Contact each group participant the week before your first meeting - make it personal.
2. Enlist a helper if needed. Increased buy-in is important.
3. Be enthusiastic. Excitement is contagious!
4. Ask yourself these questions:
 - Did I contact everyone prior to the first meeting?
 - Does everyone know where to come? Where to park?
 - Is my home (or other location) ready for company? (Seating, lighting, pens, paper, tissues, drinks, and snacks, etc.)

First Meeting Follow-Up

- Touch base with each participant who attended the meeting to encourage them. This extra step helps to continue relationship building. Look for them at church. Any contact in-between meetings will help to cement them into the group.
- Contact those who expressed interest in your group but did not come to the first meeting. This will show that you genuinely care and want them to be part of your community.
- Re-contact all your new group participants two days before your second meeting. Don't assume that they will remember. They need your encouragement.

Steps to Keep in Mind:

1. **Food:** People enjoy eating. Work as a group to provide some type of meal or snack for each of your meetings. It helps to make a schedule of who will bring what.

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Tips, continued:

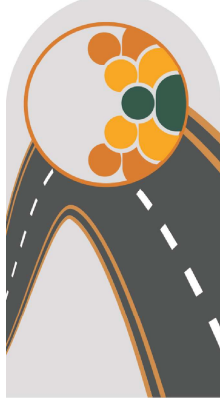
2. **Prayer & Praises:** Allow time for prayer and to celebrate what God is doing in participants' lives. (Alternately, it may be best to finish with this.)
3. **Dive In:** As close to the set starting time as possible, after everyone arrives and has had a brief time of fellowship, dive into the curriculum.
4. **Communication:** A major part of keeping small groups going is maintaining connections with group members throughout the week. Look for opportunities to text, email, call, or visit between meetings.

Giving: Each Small Group will be expected to challenge their participants to give/serve in two ways:

1. **Serve-One-Worship-One:** Serve-One-Worship-One encourages our members to take part in worship and God's Word in one service and give their time and talents by serving during another service. (Ex: Worship team, production, greeters, children, etc.)
2. **Serve Our Community:** Each small group will be challenged to travel beyond the walls of CBC, reaching out to our greater community, continually exploring new options for Demonstrating, Declaring, and making Disciples. This catalyst will help motivate our members to intentionally live a SENT life of service.

You Are Not Alone:

Your CBC leadership wants to make sure that each person fulfilling a Group Role has all the resources and support they need. It is our joy to assist you in every possible way so that your Small Group is a success! We all need someone riding alongside us, encouraging us, praying for us, and loving us during this season of community. So, never hesitate to ask for "roadside" assistance.



Group FAQs:

What's the ideal size for a small group?

In Matthew 18:20, Jesus says, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there among them." But optimally, a group of six can get things started. Groups larger than 16 need to *multiply into new groups*.

What do we do with the kids?

Much depends upon the number, ages, and needs of the kids. It also depends upon the overall tolerance of the group participants. It is not recommended for group participants to rotate watching over children and thereby missing group time. The top two suggestions are:

- The free-range model: Let the kids participate and come and go as they please.
- Hire a babysitter(s) to watch the kids either at the meeting location or a prescribed location off-site.

When is the best day and time to meet?

There is no optimum time, only a time that will work for a prescribed number of participants. Consistency is the key. Therefore, the best time is whenever your group can consistently participate.

Sunday is a good choice. A Sabbath Day means to rest from, or stop, your work and devote the entire day to the LORD. It's not a "me" day, it's a "God" day. Holding your group on Sunday encourages this.

More FAQs:

What about financial giving?

Group giving is not to take the place of tithes to CBC or offerings promoted by CBC, in whole or partially. Beyond this, small groups are free to give to projects affirmed by their small group. (Use of group funds might include offsetting of hospitality expenses, babysitter costs, special outreach projects, and member care needs.)

How much Bible knowledge does a Group Guide need?

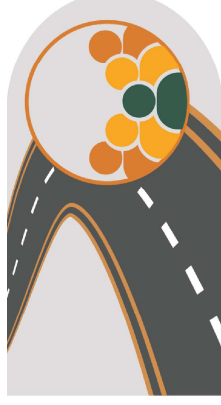
While leading a small group by no means requires any kind of seminary education, it does require preparation. Always, always prep and know where the study is taking the group before the meeting. In addition, communicating with other group leaders and those with more biblical knowledge can be a big help. If you need help, ask for help!

How do I facilitate a great discussion?

The less you talk the better. Make sure everyone is a part of the discussion by encouraging everyone to participate – don't let one or two occupy all the time. It's important to keep the discussion focused on the topic and not indulge in rabbit-chasing. This is where prepping ahead of time helps. Know where you want the discussion to go and be okay with saying "I don't know, but I will find out."



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More FAQs:

How often & long do small groups meet? Do they take breaks?

Most small groups meet weekly; some meet every other week. Meeting length can vary depending on intent. Regarding duration, some groups have met for over five years, and some take summer breaks.

What about having just plain social time?

Pure social time is good, especially for the first meeting so people can get to know one another and the "ground rules" and intents of the group can be presented.

A good time for social events is between study series.



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Session Maps:

What's a Session Look Like?

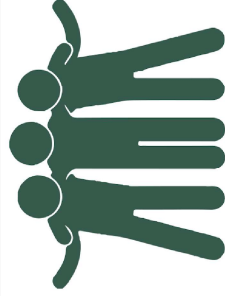
Groups often take a life of their own. As long as they are achieving measurable success (see page 4), then do as the saying says: if it ain't broke, don't fix it.

For those just getting on the road or those wanting to change things up, over the next few pages you'll find three proven session format "roadmaps." Choose the route you'd like to take, or get adventurous and mix elements from each.

Map 1:

A Basic 1.5 Hour Group Time Format

- Fellowship (10 minutes)
- Opening prayer and praises (15 minutes)
- Scripture study and discussion (30 mins)
- Application steps/plans (15 mins)
- Prayer Requests (15 mins)
- Final Prayer



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Map 2:



The "Three-Thirds" Session Format

First Third	Second Third	Second Third
Look Back	Look Up	Look Forward
How did it go?	What does it mean?	What will I do?

Look Back (20-30 Minutes):

1. Praise God for what He has done since the last meeting.
2. Do a weekly disciplines assessment using the 3-Step, 1-on-1 Encouragement Process. (This is available on the CBC Groups webpage: cbcfamily.net/groups.)
3. Review the discussion based on your previous meeting's content and challenge outcomes.

Look Up (30-45 Minutes):

1. Look at just enough biblical content to obey. (2 Timothy 3:16)
2. Guide the discussion so that participants understand the content. What is the content teaching and/or rebuking?
3. Guide the discussion toward personal application. What in our lives needs correction and training?

Look Forward (20-30 Minutes):

1. Challenge each participant to identify something they can apply over the coming week.
2. Pray for the coming week.

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Map 3:

The "Living Truth" Format:



1. How's Life? This portion of the meeting is part of the opening introduction/fellowship. It's a two-minute max update per person.

2. Loving Accountability: Weekly disciplines assessment using the 3-Step, 1-on-1 Encouragement Process. (Available on the CBC Groups webpage: cbcfamily.net/groups.) (10-minutes)

3. A Jesus Story: What did Jesus do in your life this week? RSC from the Encouragement time. (15-Minutes)

4. A Prayer: Invite each person to share one praise and one prayer request. If God could answer one prayer in your life right now, what would it be? (10-minutes.)

5. Bible Reading/Discussion: Utilize the curriculum you've chosen. However, if you find additional insights in your study and research, share what you learned with your group. (30-minutes)

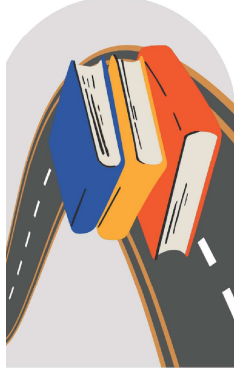
6. Reflection and Application: As you read the passages and answer the questions, reflect on what the Lord wants to teach YOU about who He is and about His call on your life to make disciples.

7. Hear and Obey: What did you learn from this lesson? What action do you need to take?

Each participant makes an Obey Statement. This begins with "I will..." and should be a measurable goal. (A good example: "I will fast during my normal lunchtime on Friday." This is measurable. A bad example, "I will do better at fasting." This is not measurable.) Share your "I will..." statement with the group (10-minutes)

8. Memory Verses: It's important that we hide His Word in our hearts. Encourage members to memorize a weekly Bible verse

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GPS for Navigation:

We've got three CBC Libraries with resources to help you navigate.

What are the CBC Libraries?

Since we don't want you to ever feel "lost" on this journey, we're giving you resources. Remember, we have promised you that you are not alone! So, in addition to the session maps, we want you to know how to get to what you need—kinda like how a GPS system helps drivers.

In order to assist you, we have provided *three libraries* for you, all in one simple location. Find them at cbcfamily.net/library.

In the libraries, you'll find three separate collections of Groups Curriculum. When you find any "in-house" curriculum guide that you are interested in doing with your group, you can either use the digital version online, print it up, or request for the CBC Office to print it for your group. Just give us time to get it ready for you! (RightNow Media resources are different; they may be available for purchase.)

Let's look at the libraries in depth.

4G Guides:

This library contains our CBC, in-house 4G Guides. Each series contains weekly resources for personal, group, and family discipleship, and each guide has weekly intros, personal "God Time" devotions, weekly group lessons, and weekly family lessons. You'll find that these guides cover a variety of genres like church and community life, marriage and family, books of the Bible, Bible passages, and biblical teaching.

Check back periodically as we add more Guides to the library.

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GPS for Navigation:



Right Now Media:

Do you know about RightNow Media? Whether you do or don't, you'll want to check out this resource! CBC members are able to take advantage of our partnership with RightNow Media, which offers resources, studies, and videos!

We've spent time looking for some of the best material, so our RightNow Media library contains Biblical video resources recommended by CBC staff and ministry leaders. Members are able to receive a login and password upon request. At the end of each series description is a link to the series. (Note: Series guides and study books may be available for purchase.)

CBC Discipleship Library:

This library contains our home-grown Small Group curriculum and discipleship training booklets. It is best to first go through these booklets with a trained leader and then utilize them to train others. This library contains titles like *Foundations of the Faith*, *7 Commands of Christ*, and *1st Century Discipleship Today*. Like with the 4G Guides, printed booklets are available upon request from the CBC Office.

Check back periodically as we add more to the library.

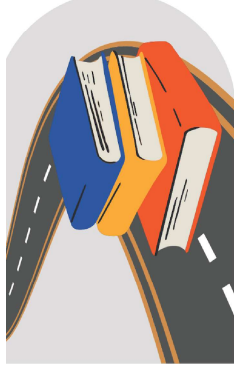
Unsure of Where to Go?

If you have any questions about choosing something from the library, reach out and ask! We are here to help.



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Recommended GPS:



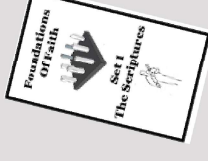
We aren't called to sit in church; we are called to fill the world with disciples.

1st Century Discipleship Today is a 16-session study that builds in CBC participants the Biblical foundations for a disciple-making process and lifestyle that can influence others for generations.



What do we believe and why do we believe it?

Foundations of Faith is a 20-set series that looks in-depth at the scriptures and how they form the basics and foundations of our beliefs. God's Word is our guide, but what does it say?



Small changes made in a disciplined fashion, with consistency and regularity, can lead to big things.

Disciples lead disciplined lives with consistency and regularity, focused on the things of God. It starts with 5-Questions.



There is so much power in a story. *7 Stories of Hope* presents seven accounts of how Jesus gave people hope, especially those who were perceived as unworthy.

This study is useful for everyone, from the curious to the faithful.



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Recommended GPS:



Notes for the Road:



Every Believer, whether new to the faith or a lifelong adherent, should practice and disciple others in basic commands.

7 *Commands of Christ* walks through these basic practices of a Christian lifestyle.

In this series, we look at a few of the parables Jesus used to illustrate His teaching and to make a point.

Jesus teaches a variety of lessons about the Kingdom of God and emphasizes that our response to those lessons matter!



Scroll through any social media feed and you will see perfect pictures. But no one has a perfect life, so we must stop comparing and pretending.

Instead of aiming for "Picture Perfect," let's look to Jesus for His best in our relationships.



Join Dr. Tony Evans as he looks at the people in the Bible's Hall of Faith: Old Testament heroes, such as Abraham, Noah, and Moses, who let God lead their lives.

Learn how their journeys can help you understand what it means to walk in faith. (From RightNow Media)

