



BALMORAL COMMUNITY GATHERINGS

FALL 2025 LAUNCH

This fall, we are relaunching our small group ministry with a geographic and missional model. The pamphlet and website provide more information about the vision for these groups, while this document addresses potential questions regarding the launch of this ministry.



FAQS



Existing Small Groups? As much as we would love everyone to be part of a CG, existing groups will not be asked to stop gathering. However, CGs will be the primary small groups advertised and grown at the chapel.



Where Will I Be Placed? After the initial sign-up, we arrange groups by address and availability.



What Is the Commitment? CG leaders are asked to commit for the year, but there is no formal commitment for group members. CGs are also designed to be accessible and life-giving for all involved. Part of this includes little to no prep required for all.



Other Studies? There will be other discipleship opportunities throughout the year (e.g., Women's Bible Study), but they will run for a defined period of time (e.g., 6-8 weeks).



Can I Invite Friends? Active invitation is core to the CG DNA. We envision these as missionary outposts, the natural entry point and first contact with our church family. We will multiply and plant more groups as the ministry grows.



SIGN-UP TODAY

Go to balmoralchapel.ca to sign up for a CG as a member, host, or even a facilitator. Reach out to Thomas if you have any questions.



How Are Kids Included? See the back side of this document for a vision of how these groups could look.

ONE POSSIBLE EXAMPLE OF A Balmoral Community Gathering

6:30 Gathering Begins

The gathering officially starts at 6:30, but tonight's hosts, Glenn and Valerie, invited whoever wanted to come early for dinner to join their family for a big pot of chilli. There is a puzzle on the coffee table that Beth (recently widowed) and the teens, Angelica and Mei, have been working on (they are sure they will finish tonight). There are some games, colouring pages, and fidget activities that some people are using.

Fiona is here, which has created a buzz of energy for everyone in the group. Fiona and Jane work together, and Jane has been looking for opportunities to build a friendship and discuss matters of faith with Fiona. The group had been praying for Fiona for months, long before they ever met her. She came to the group's bowling night two weeks ago, and now she is here.

6:30 Reflection

Frank (the leader) invites everyone, including the children, to gather in the living room now that everyone's arrived. Little Bruno is already passing out Bibles to everyone who did not bring their own. Introductions are made for Fiona, and Frank invites people to share how they are doing. The group begins sharing what God has been doing in their lives and how they have seen Him at work. Jane shares that she has been stressed about the leaking plumbing in her house, but she is trusting God in this situation. Dave offers to come over to her place tomorrow to see if he can help; his YA son, Jared, will come along. George shares something that stuck with him from the sermon on Sunday. During all this, the puzzle is still being worked on, but it won't be completed.

7:00 Prayer Time

The adults pray for the kids (by name), the kids pray for what is on their hearts, and others in the group ask God to be with them through their time together. Beth begins reciting the Lord's Prayer, and the group joins in.

7:15 Bible Study

The kids are then excused to play in the toy room in the basement if they would like, but they are also welcome to stay for the study. Valerie comes out of the nursery. Ollie did not go down easily tonight, but it looks like they are in the clear.

Those who stay in the living room open their Bibles to John 8:1-11. They have been looking at some of the famous interactions Jesus had with people in the Gospels. Our conversation about Nicodemus two weeks ago was particularly lively. The group reads the passage and then works through the Swedish Method Questions. Fred and George step out briefly to address the crying child situation in the basement (something about a rogue lightsaber?).

After about 10 minutes, the group starts discussing the passage. During the question section, Bruno asks what Jesus was writing in the dirt, and Fiona asks why some of the text is in red while other parts are black. When they get to the Application section, Simon shares that he is overwhelmed by the tenderness Jesus showed the woman. He confesses that he has been hanging on to shame for years for the lust in his heart. Valerie looks at Simon and reminds him that he is forgiven, that Jesus does not condemn Him just as he did not condemn the woman, and that if he asks for forgiveness, he is indeed forgiven. She calls him to stand in that confidence and sin no more.

7:45 Closing Prayer

Frank (back now from the basement) transitions the group to a closing prayer, asking people to pray for Simon. He also invites the rest of the members to share their prayer requests in prayer, encouraging at least one person to pray for any requests they hear brought forward. Ollie starts crying, and Beth asks Valerie if it would be helpful for her to help out. Valerie gladly accepts as the group begins to pray.

8:00 Official Wrap-Up

The night is officially done, but the host reminds everyone that they are welcome to stay. He has the game recorded and will put it on in the basement. The three girls are already back working on the puzzle at this point. Frank reminds everyone that they are having a fire in two weeks, and George will be sharing his testimony. Beth reminds the ladies that she is canning on Saturday, and all are welcome to join (just bring the fruit/veggies and some jars). Two families say goodbye as they have to get the kids to bed. As they are walking out, George flags Simon down and asks if he can take Simon out for coffee. He mentions that he has a similar struggle, but he thinks they can gain victory together.