

FIRST SMALL GROUP MEETING PACKET

FOR THE SMALL GROUP LEADER

Take a moment to go over the small group best practices. (Attached in the packet)

Read the announcements: gccob.com/guide or gccob.com/announcements

Cover any other details that need to be talked about. (such as communication aka GroupMe / group meeting places / Childcare / group roster)

Explain and pass the “share the meeting” sheet as you ask some icebreakers. (Attached to this document)

Pick one or two Ice Breakers: (More can be found in this packet)

- What's something that's brought you joy recently?
- Who's someone that's made a difference in your faith journey?
- You Have To Wear A T-Shirt With One Word On It For One Year. Which Word Do You Choose?

Q1. Why do we meet in small groups like this? Answers will vary

Read: *Acts 2:42–46* — “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship... They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.”

Big Idea: The early church didn’t just gather in crowds—they met in homes, shared meals, prayed together, and grew in faith through close relationships.

1. Why do you think they met in homes instead of only in large gatherings?
2. How might this kind of community feel different than just attending a church service?
3. Why do you think those believers felt Loved, challenged, needed, and known?

Q2: Can you think of any commands that likely won't or can't be obeyed if we only meet on Sunday? Pick a couple to share

- **Confess your sins to one another** (James 5:16) Vulnerability like this rarely happens in a large crowd—it needs trust and safety.
- **Carry each other's burdens** (Galatians 6:2) Requires knowing someone's story deeply enough to walk with them.
- **Encourage one another daily** (Hebrews 3:13) Daily encouragement is relational and consistent—perfect for small group rhythms.
- **Spur one another on toward love and good deeds** (Hebrews 10:24) This kind of challenge and inspiration happens best in close-knit community.
- **Teach and admonish one another** (Colossians 3:16) Mutual discipleship flourishes in dialogue, not monologue.
- **Be devoted to one another in love** (Romans 12:10) Devotion implies ongoing relationship—not just shared space.
- **Serve one another humbly** (Galatians 5:13) Service in small groups is personal, practical, and often unseen.
- **Practice hospitality** (1 Peter 4:9) Welcoming others into your life and home is a small-group superpower.

Someone read Hebrews 3:12-14

Hebrews 3:12–13 (NKJV) *12 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; 13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.*

What does the word exhort mean? Does anyone have a different translation? How does it translate verse 13? To Exhort is to encourage.

How often should we encourage each other? Daily

How would this command be accomplished in Biblical times? Face to face

Ask if we can't pray for anyone at the table for something this week.

Before everyone leaves remind them of the place you will be meeting next week and pass out the book.

Small Group Calendar 2025

Term 5: Fall 2025

- **Meetings:**
 - August 6, 2025 (First Wednesday)
 - August 13, 2025
 - August 20, 2025
 - August 27, 2025
 - September 3, 2025 (First Wednesday)
 - September 10, 2025
 - September 17, 2025
 - September 24, 2025 (Members Meeting)

Term 6: Late Fall 2025

- **Meetings:**
 - October 15, 2025
 - October 22, 2025
 - October 29, 2025
 - November 5, 2025 (First Wednesday)
 - November 12, 2025
 - November 19, 2025

This is a good document to keep handy if your group is not talking much.

Getting to Know You—Questions

- If You Could Live In Any Sitcom, Which One Would It Be?
- What Was In Your High School Locker #?
- If You Had Your Own Talk Show, Who Would Your First Three Guests Be?
- If A Movie Was Being Made Of Your Life And You Could Choose The Actor/Actress To Play You, Who Would You Choose And Why?
- What Is The Scariest Thing You Have Ever Done For Fun?
- If You Can Instantly Become An Expert In Something, What Would It Be?
- If You Could Eliminate One Thing From Daily Routine, What Would It Be And Why?
- What Is In The Trunk Of Your Car Right Now?
- You Have To Wear A T-Shirt With One Word On It For One Year. Which Word Do You Choose?
- What's The Funniest Thing You Did As A Kid That Your Parents Still Talk About To This Day?
- If You Were The Eighth Dwarf, What Would Your Name Be?

PARENTS AND SIBLINGS

- Where were you born?
- Where were you raised?
- How many brothers and sisters do you have?
- Tell a story from your childhood or adolescence that gives insight into your family.

PERSONAL

- What day of your life would you most like to re-live and why?
- In what area of your life would you like greater peace and why?
- What do you find yourself praying about recently?
- What is the most important decision facing you in the near future?

SPOUSE AND CHILDREN

- How did you meet your spouse?
- How does your spouse “complete” you?
- How many children, if any, do you have and what are their names and ages?
- When your children are grown, what would make you think you were successful in raising them?
- If your spouse and children could write your epitaph, what would you want it to say?
- What creative things have you done to cultivate romance in your marriage?
- What creative ways have you created memories with your children?
- What dreams do you have for your future as a couple or as a family?

VOCATION AND EDUCATION

- Where did you go to school?
- What did you study or what do you now wish you had studied?
- Where do you work, and how do you spend your waking hours?
- If you could do anything but what you do now, what would it be?

HOBBIES AND INTERESTS

- What do you enjoy doing with your spare time?
- If rich Uncle George died and left you \$50,000 that you had to spend and you had one month off, what would you do with the money and time?
- What have you never done that you wish you could do?

GOD AND CHURCH

- In what church/denomination, if any, were you raised?
- What were you taught about God as a child?
- What has been your most significant encounter with God?
- Describe the state of your relationship with God now.
- Tell us how you experienced conversion?
- What has helped you grow in your walk with God?
- Who has been the most significant influence in your relationship with God, and why?
- What would you like your relationship with God to be five years from now?
- When you die and stand before God, what would you like for his first words to you to be?
- How are you serving in the church? Is there another ministry in which you would like to be involved?
- What has God been teaching you?
- What are you reading?

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

- What area of growth in your (or your spouse's) character (in the last 3-6 months) have you been most encouraged about?
- How have you seen the Lord at work through you in the past several weeks?
- What things are you most thankful for in your church, spouse, friends, workplace, family?
- What have you been giving thanks for as you have walked with God this week?

Fun food theme ideas

- **Taste of a Region:** Focus on a specific country or region (e.g., Italian, Mexican, Thai) with everyone bringing a dish from that cuisine.
- **Street Food Fest:** Enjoy international street food favorites like tacos, bao buns, or falafel.
- **Around the World in Small Bites:** Guests bring appetizers or small plates representing different countries.
- **Spice Route:** Explore dishes that highlight specific spices or spice blends, such as cumin or herbs.
- **Color-Coordinated Cuisine:** Dishes are predominantly a specific color (e.g., an all-green meal).
- **Alphabet All-Stars:** Everyone brings a dish starting with an assigned letter
- **Childhood Favorites:** Bring your favorite dish from your childhood.
- **Retro Rewind:** Dive into a specific decade's food trends
- **Farm to Table:** Encourage dishes made with locally sourced ingredients.
- **Mystery Ingredient:** Pick an ingredient and the dish should have it. (Bacon, noodles, sour cream)
- **Avocado Everything:** A menu dedicated entirely to avocado, from savory to sweet.
- **Chocolate Extravaganza:** A celebration of chocolate, including savory applications.
- **Cheese Lover's Paradise:** All things cheese, from charcuterie to cheesy desserts.
- **Pizza Party:** For those weeks that you just need to grab a pizza
- **Soup & Salad Bar Bonanza:** Everyone brings a different soup or a component for a build-your-own-salad bar.
- **Potato Bar :** Host home cooks the spuds and everyone brings toppings
- **Food Truck Rally:** Recreate a food truck park with each person making one signature dish, like tacos or gourmet fries.
- **Global Grilling:** Go beyond burgers with grilled dishes from around the world, like Jamaican jerk chicken or Korean BBQ skewers.
- **Deconstructed Dishes:** Guests bring all the components for a "build-your-own" meal, such as a taco bowl or spring rolls.
- **Brinner:** Breakfast for dinner.
- **Pasta-bilities:** Celebrate pasta with each guest bringing a different dish, from classic spaghetti to a unique lemon and ricotta pasta.
- **Comfort Food Cook-Off:** Challenge guests to bring their best version of a classic, like mac and cheese or meatloaf.
- **The Ultimate Sandwich Bar:** Each person is responsible for a different sandwich component, from bread to fillings.
- **Regional USA Cuisine:** Take a culinary road trip across America with dishes famous in different states, like New England clam chowder or Chicago deep-dish pizza.

GREAT COMMISSION CHURCH

SMALL GROUP BEST PRACTICES

1. Do unto others.
 - a. *Avoid confessing other's sins or faults.*
2. What happens in small group stays in small group.
 - a. *Treat personal information shared by others as confidential.*
3. Don't take disagreements personally.
 - a. *Avoid discussing sports and politics.*
4. Respect each other's time.
 - a. *Start on time and end on time.*
5. Emphasis on those in the group.
 - a. *Focus on prayer and needs of people in the group.*
6. Everyone gets a turn.
 - a. *Avoid dominating the conversation.*
7. Respect the space
 - a. *Avoid personal areas in the home. (Such as Master Bedroom or Landry room)*
8. You are probably not a counselor
 - a. *Avoid trying to fix everyone's problems.*

Tips for Leading a Great Discussion

Use these simple practices to create engaging and meaningful group conversations:

1. **Sit in a Circle** – Helps everyone connect visually. Invite anyone sitting apart to join in.
2. **Be Real** – You don't need all the answers. It's okay to say, "I don't know—let's find out together."
3. **Encourage Questions** – Let the group know they can interrupt anytime. No question is too small.
4. **Invite Feedback** – Ask, "What do you think?" to draw others in.
5. **Redirect to the Group** – Turn questions back to the group instead of answering everything yourself.
6. **Include Everyone** – Gently invite quiet people to share, but give them freedom to pass.
7. **Ask Open-Ended Questions** – Aim for "What stood out to you?" instead of yes/no questions.
8. **Dig Deeper** – Ask follow-up questions like "Why is that hard?" or "How would that look in real life?"
9. **Allow (Some) Tangents** – Let the Spirit lead, but bring the group back when needed.
10. **Affirm Participation** – Nod, make eye contact, and thank people for sharing.
11. **Make Connections** – Refer back to earlier comments to build on what's been shared.
12. **Summarize Often** – Clarify by restating what you've heard.
13. **Be Conversational** – Don't just read questions—make them your own.

NAME	NUMBER	HOST HOME	ANNOUNCEMENT READER	Worship Music	EVENT PLANNER	PRAYER REQUEST GATHER	FOOD ORGANIZER

