



GROUP COVENANT

PURPOSE

Everyone comes to group with different expectations and experiences. A written group agreement sets and clarifies realistic expectations and provides a clear purpose and vision for everyone in the group. It can be a way to keep people accountable to agreed upon ends and can identify specific values and boundaries. A group agreement that everyone has input on helps to avoid misunderstandings and unmet expectations. We will include a sample agreement on the next page.

TO SET UP A GROUP COVENANT

To set up a group covenant.

Set aside a good portion or all of one meeting to create a Group Covenant. This should be a collaborative effort of your group to define its own goals.

Steps for the meeting.

1. Prepare: We recommend you and your co-leader setup some specific goals ahead of time. Put them in your own words, we will have this below as part of our suggested agreement. Prepare a handout for everyone with your overall goals and blank spaces for other suggestions.
2. Conversation: Let your group know that you want everyone's input. What they have to say is valuable. Hand everyone a copy of the agreement.
3. Build: Ask everyone what they want the values of the group to be. Be flexible on non-essentials, yet firm on essentials. Examples: Group health, time in scripture, service, valuing every member.
4. Commit: Initial buy-in and agreement to abide by the covenant is crucial. Increased investment by group members in the creation and continued development of the agreement increases their ownership of the group and its purpose.

Review the Covenant Regularly: Revisiting and revising the agreement helps check the health of the group. Ask questions like, "Where are we doing well?", "What needs improvement?", "Where does our agreement need to change?"

Share: Newcomers should be made aware of the group covenant. Distribute the agreement to new participants before or after their first visit.

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING

Logistics

Start and end on time
Frequency of meetings
Length of time
Hosting/Location
Childcare
Absences/Attendance

Values

Healthy group
Confidentiality
Respect for others
Good listening habits

Purposes

Shared participation
Shared ownership
Service
Study Expectations
Multiplying



OUR GROUP COVENANT (SAMPLE)

“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching” Hebrews 10:25

PURPOSES

The purpose of our group is to help each member be with Jesus, become like Jesus and to do what Jesus did.

We will be open to new members and invite those who might be interested.

We will begin multiplying the group when we reach 12-14 regular attenders.

We will meet for 12 months and then evaluate our direction.

We will engage with a Love the 'Ville service project in the community four times a year.

LOGISTICS

We will meet every Wednesday at Jim and Tammy's from 7:00pm to 8:30pm We will strive to start and end on time but better to come late than not at all. If you can't make a group meeting, please let the leader or host know. Feel free to hang-out after the meeting, but please scram by 9:30pm so the hosts can go to bed.

VALUES

Belonging Values

Ownership: Everyone invests in the group

Friendship: Encouraging relationships

Care: A safe environment of mutual support

Accountability: Applied with wisdom and love

Growing Values

Bible: Application-focused study

Prayer: Earnest and impactful

Transformation: A community of life-change

Leadership: NECC trained and supported

Also...

Confidentiality: What's shared in the group stays in the group.

Each of us is invited and expected to participate in the discussion.

Each of us will listen well and will avoid dominating the discussion.

We will avoid “fixing” people, snap judgments, and easy answers.