

## WESTSIDE COMMUNITY GROUPS

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### **Join a Westside Community Group!**

Purpose: 1) First line of spiritual care and 2) provide a clear path to community

Focus: Regularly gather people and connect them through fellowship, care and prayer

Place: Community groups meet every other week in homes on the Westside

Community Group Leadership: Each group has 2 co-leaders, 1 male and 1 female

Co-leader Role: Facilitate the sermon discussion and prayer time, schedule gatherings, and manage group dynamics

Elder Role: Provide shepherding care for groups, both directly and through supporting co-leaders

Staff Role: Recruit community group participants, support group leadership, general communication

### FAQ

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#### **Do the groups consist of mixed ages and stages of life?**

Yes, groups include families, singles, married couples, and children.

#### **How are the groups organized?**

Groups aspire to be formed around participant availability and proximity.

#### **What do the community groups use for the discussion materials?**

The pastoral staff provides co-leaders with a sermon discussion guide for each meeting.

#### **Can I bring my kids to the community groups? Will there be childcare for part of the time?**

Yes, children are welcome at community groups. The church has budgeted to provide childcare.

**If I don't live on the Westside, can I still attend?** Yes, absolutely!

**If I don't live on the Westside, am I still eligible to lead a community group?** Yes, absolutely!

#### **I already feel well-connected. Why should I attend a group and how can I benefit from one?**

We believe anyone who loves our church should give community groups a shot, even if you are already well-connected. Community groups are two-fold: for connection with one another and for care of the body by the leadership of our church. We believe members and newcomers alike benefit from community group participation.

#### **What if I am a part of an existing group that would like to transition it into a community group?**

If your group is interested, we'd be happy to help shape your group into a community group.

#### **Should I invite others (inside or outside of our church) to attend my community groups?**

Of course! We simply ask that co-leaders keep the staff informed on group participation.

**What is the commitment for community groups?** While minimal preparation is expected, we believe the substance of the meeting time will be engaging and meaningful for the group purpose.

#### **I have a demanding schedule. Are there any groups to accommodate my schedule?**

Yes, we have groups that meet on different days and at different times and we try our best to accommodate an array of schedules.

#### **Is it possible for me to attend both a small group Bible study and a community group?**

Yes! Since community groups are primarily designed to provide connection and care, we encourage you to also take part in Bible studies, book studies and/or small groups, as your schedule allows.

**How do I sign-up for a community group?** The Sign-up link is included in each Weekly Westsider and can be found on our website. You can also email the staff at [community@atlantawestside.org](mailto:community@atlantawestside.org).