

# EXAMPLE #1

Our community groups are our discipleship communities - let people know what to expect from the group, contrast what we hope to accomplish in group that is not typically the experience in other settings in their lives

**Emergence Mission Statement** - loving Jesus, loving people, plowing a counterculture

## **Our Community Group CORE VALUES**

**Acceptance** – Others may have different faith backgrounds and hold some different views

**Humility** – modest view of ourselves, high view of others

**Confidentiality** – keep it private, unless you have permission to repeat to others

**Vulnerability** – safe place to share your spots/blemishes

**Caring/Bearing** – Gal 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

## **Boundaries**

**Purpose** - grow in faith and understanding of God's work in my life

**Time limits** - 9:30am - 11:00am, 11-11:30 after party : )

**Scope** - Meet and greet one another, open in prayer (opening in prayer may quiet everyone down sooner than watching video), watch video, read the topic bible verses and work through the questions (without feeling the need to answer all questions), brief mention of prayer requests/praises, close in prayer

We want to give an opportunity for all to be heard and with the growth of our group we may need to be intentional about how much time each one speaks. We would like to allow a 2 minute space for each comment/response. (We reserve the right to ring the bell if it's time to make space for another response.)

*Boundary setting and holding is always driven by intention (am I serving myself or acting in service of the whole group?) and trust (do others believe you are acting in service of the whole group?). Whatever we say, check our intention.*

## **Rabbit Trails**

*A good rule of thumb? Allow rabbits trails that lead you to a place where we are talking about God's activity in our lives or places where we feel challenged by God to take new steps of faith. If our rabbit trails lead to places other than this, we need to quickly return to the focus of the study (or we may be lost in Wonderland).*

**Community Group Mission Statement** – Be a group that washes one another's feet, Jn 13

# EXAMPLE #2

## Who We Are

We are praying for diversity of all kinds in our group! We love learning from people of different ages, life stages, cultures, and backgrounds.

## Our Three Main Priorities

**1. Grow closer to God:** We will study the Word and dive deeper into the weekly tools provided by Emergence.

**2. Do life together:** We want to build lasting friendships where we truly know and support one another. To that end, our focus extends beyond Bible study—we want to socialize, too! Some weeks, our meeting will simply be a dinner or a casual hangout. We also hope to serve together. We are always open to new community-building ideas and strongly encourage members to help plan group hangouts or service opportunities.

**3. Support each other through prayer and accountability:** One of our richest small group experiences has been separating into men's and women's groups to chat about life and pray for one another. This fosters deep, meaningful relationships and draws us closer to God.

## Group Principles

We want everyone to participate. Hearing all voices and perspectives helps us grow together. To make that happen, we practice a few core values:

- Silence is golden: If you are naturally a talker and have already shared, please leave space for those who need time to process before answering. We will intentionally allow for quiet moments.
- What is shared here stays here: We protect each other's trust and do not gossip. This is a safe space to be open, vulnerable, and free from judgment.
- Keep short accounts: If we are hurt, we communicate it. If we offend, we apologize.
- Grace wins: Always.

## Housekeeping

- Prayer thread: We will use a group text thread for prayer requests so we can support each other throughout the week.
- Weekly reminders: The leader will send a reminder every Monday via text. Please RSVP as soon as possible so we can plan accordingly.

## Typical Group Schedule

- 7:00 PM – 7:20 PM: Social time
- 7:20 PM – 8:30 PM: Video and study guide
- 8:30 PM – 9:00 PM: Praise, prayer, and accountability