



**TWO CITIES**  
CHURCH

---

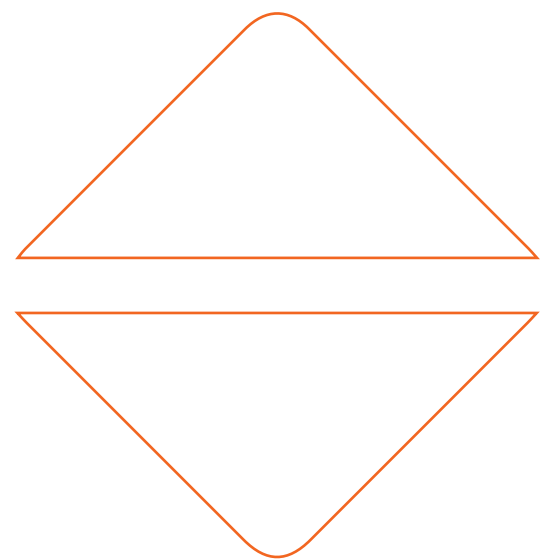
## Community Groups Overview

April 2016



**TWO CITIES**  
CHURCH

---



## Community Groups FAQ

### How often do Community Groups meet?

At least every other week.

### Why don't they meet every week?

We want to create space in our member's schedules to be in discipling relationships (DNA Groups) and to serve the local church.

### Who will lead these groups?

There is a role for men and women in leader roles at TCC. Men will lead groups of other men, families and mixed gender groups. While women will lead other women and single women's groups. We will have a high standard for those who will be leading groups. In addition to the leader there can be an organizer for communication, logistics, sitters, and social activities. Another pillar of each group will be the host family. They will be responsible for creating a clean, safe and warm environment for groups.

### How long will groups be?

Groups will be around 2 hours depending on the activity or the needs of the group.

### How big will each group be?

Each group will be different. An ideal group is 10-12 adults plus kids.

### What will group demographics look like?

Groups will have a large range of demographics. Some groups will be arranged by geography and some will be arranged by age and stage. Our hope is that some groups will also be multi-generational, multi-racial, as well as socio-economically diverse.

### What content will groups use for discussion?

Community groups will follow a sermon-guided discussion model. The idea of groups is to expound on the previous weeks message and give personal application.

### How will groups change and multiply?

We will ask all groups to always be willing to let new people into their groups. We believe that a true sending culture always refocuses back on the mission. We also realize that deep community is necessary, so this process will be case by case and will not be forced. Church leaders will constantly be assessing the needs and desires of the group.



## Two Cities Community Groups Plumbines:

1. Discipleship happens in relationships.
2. The week is as important as the weekend.
3. We are not a church that does Community Groups. We are a church of Community Groups.
4. Stay where you are, serve where you live, let's be the church in your community.

Two Cities exists to Love God,  
Love Each Other and Love the World.

*Two Cities believes that being a part of a church consists of more than weekly attendance at corporate worship. The week is as important as the weekend. The church consists of a covenant body that lives life together by caring for one another, bears one another's burdens, and seeks to help each grow in conformity to Christ. This means, like the early church, we must spend more than a couple hours a week together if we are going to know each other well enough to carry out these responsibilities. One of the ways we will foster this kind of interaction is through smaller groups that meet weekly to carry out biblical community. It is also our desire that intentional mission will take place through our Community Groups.*



## What is a Community Group?

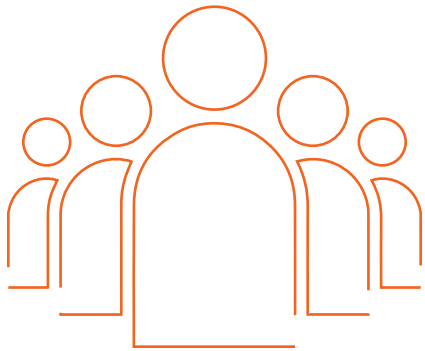
A Community Group is a smaller expression and extension of our church, and is primarily the environment where the implications of the gospel are put into action with an emphasis on people living in community and on mission.

Our Community Groups are to be seen by the leaders as “little churches” that they oversee as “mini-pastors.” Practically speaking, these are smaller groups of people from our church who gather consistently throughout the week.

We want Community Groups that are always reaching out. We hope that our people are constantly inviting others to their group. It’s very important that people are always welcomed and feel like there is a space for them. (i.e. if someone comes on a Sunday morning and isn’t invited by a few people to a CG, we are doing something wrong). We want people to know that community and the Gospel are deeply related.

### Objectives of a Community Group:

- To know the Gospel
- To know how to read the Bible
- To apply the gospel/Bible to everyday life
- To carry out the “one another” commands in Scripture
- To disciple one another
- To challenge one another toward generosity, mission and evangelism



### Confidentiality

As you grow together, confidentiality will be a key component of the relationship. You are encouraged to take whatever you learn about yourself through this process and share it with as many people as possible. What you learn about others, however, is private information. While anyone can give permission for their info to be shared at any time, the general rule of thumb is to honor the confidentiality of the group as you learn more about each other. The exception to this is if an issue arises that requires a more trained perspective (serious sin, addiction issues, abuse, etc.). In that case, please consult an elder for more assistance.

### Multiplication

When a DNA has reached 18 to 24 months together, they should consider a move to multiply the group in order to reach others who need discipleship. We ask that each group member would consider creating their own group of 3-5 men or women and repeat the process. This cycle will help not only Two Cities to continue the mission of discipleship in our church, but it will help to foster discipleship in our city.



## DNA Groups

(Discipleship, Nurture & Accountability)

These groups exist to do what Sunday mornings and community groups cannot fully do. They offer a more personal and intentional form of discipleship, care (nurture) and accountability as well as one-on-one bible reading.

### Why DNA Groups

The term DNA group refers to a group that consists of three to five people—men with men, women with women— who meet together regularly. These groups will be a great opportunity to study the Gospel and allow the time spent together to radically change everyone involved. Community partnered with accountability produces lasting change. We need regular reminders from one another of the truth of the Gospel. We need each other for growth and transformation.

### A DNA group has three elements:

**DISCIPLESHIP** - A disciple of Jesus is someone learning to apply the Gospel to absolutely every part of life. Essentially, everything we do together in community is a part of discipleship. However, discipling one another will involve:

- Reminding one another of our identity in Jesus Christ.
- Admonishing and teaching one another to obey Jesus' commands. (Matthew 28:18-20)
- Training one another to serve in tangible ways.
- Read the Scriptures together.

**NURTURE** - Care sincerely for one another. This will include:

- Getting to know one another's stories, listening closely to each other and to the Holy Spirit so we can carefully and empathetically direct each other to truth.
- Checking one another's heart and passions by asking questions like: How are you doing? Who are you loving well? Not so well? Where are you living in fear? What can we celebrate with you? What are you struggling through?
- Praying with and for each other.

**ACCOUNTABILITY** - Holding one another accountable is more than just asking hard questions. It involves:

- Encouraging each other to live out what we believe through making goals and helping each other fulfill them.
- Review the past week and how faithful we have been in keeping our word.
- Speak the truth in love as we see areas of sin, correcting and rebuking with God's Word when necessary.

## How do we measure success for a Community Group?

### A Community Group is successful if:

- People are provided an environment where they can experience genuine gospel community, granted that they are willing to put in the "hard work" that comes with living in community.
- People are provided an environment where they can be encouraged, discipled and equipped to make disciples, who in turn make other disciples of Jesus.
- The group has a vision for multiplication (mission) and ultimately "plants" new groups out of itself. The group's vision for multiplication will include training up the apprentice to be ready to form a new group when the groups get too large.

## What does a Community Group need in order to form properly?

### This is an ultimate desire for each, but not necessarily all components must be in place to launch new groups...

- **A Leader** - the leader is responsible for running the Community Group gatherings and for the overall spiritual health of their group and its participants.
- **Host Home** - the host home is where the Community Group gathers for their regular meeting. The host home family is not responsible for providing meals, but instead are to demonstrate a spirit of hospitality to the group.
- **Coordinator**- This person will aid the leader and host with the social aspect of the group. They will send reminder texts, instructions, and help to keep everyone on the same page as things come up.
- **Scheduled Meeting Time** - the group must have a scheduled meeting time for when the group will consistently meet.

## What does a Community Group do?

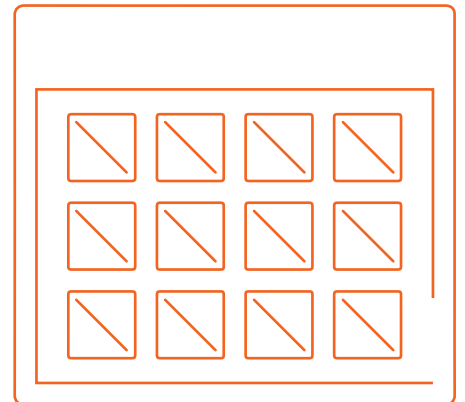
### A Community Group has formal and informal spaces:

**Formal** – Community Groups will gather at the same time every other week. This formal gathering will be a time to intentionally live out Acts 2:42-47. This time will last about an hour and a half to two hours, and be structured around:

- **“Devotion to the Apostles teaching”**  
Sermon Discussion/Sharing – Our Community Groups will be sermon guided small groups who will discuss the previous week’s sermon (occasionally we may focus on special topics as needs arise among the body). The goal is to apply the Gospel/Word into our lives so that we can grow as disciples in Christ. It’s the Leader’s responsibility to make sure that no one person dominates the discussion.
- **“Devotion to the Fellowship, to the breaking of bread”**  
Eating Together – It is our desire that our Community Groups will meet weekly and potentially share a meal together (Acts 2:46) like the first church. It is our desire that Community Group members will share their lives with one another. We believe that one of the most effective ways to create community is by sharing meals together. “The Son of Man came eating and drinking” (Luke 7:34). It’s the group coordinator or host’s job to make sure that this is done in such a way that it’s not a burden on any one individual or family.
- **“Devotion to the Prayers”**  
Prayer Time – In addition, Community Groups will pray for one another, Two Cities Church, Winston-Salem, and the World when they meet. We believe that this time should be used intentionally to go deeper with one another about what God is doing in our respective lives.
- **“As any had need”**  
Carrying out the “one another” commands together – Community Groups will be a place where we care for one another. We desire to teach our people to serve one another – such as cleaning up host home, caring for a young couple with a new baby, providing financially if needed, and more.

### Weekly Rhythms

Find times that work for your whole group. This won’t necessarily come naturally, because we all have such busy schedules... Please be flexible! Work with others to make your community group available for everyone.



## Rhythms

We believe that Groups are most effective when they happen in rhythms. What do we mean by this? We all have a rhythm to our life. A cycle of daily activities, tasks and events that we give our days to. Rhythms for groups are the same. We want your group to fit into your regular routine of life, NOT just an added activity. TCC is a church of Community Groups, not a church that does community groups.

So... With that said. What are our Community Group rhythms? Lets define them in three ways; yearly, monthly, and daily.

### Yearly Rhythms

We want to be very intentional with our yearly calendar. We believe that the months that we don't do Community Groups are as important as the months that we do. So, in light of summer scheduling and vacations, please take a sabbath of sorts with your group. This is a time to be with family and friends. Feel free to hang out with your group but in a non-formal atmosphere. (cookout, park, weekend trips, etc...) Other than that, we want to keep the Community Group calendar pretty simple.

January 1st - May 31st

June - July will be OFF months

August 1st- Leaders and host prepare and enter into training

September 1st- December 31st

### Monthly Rhythms

Our months are so busy! They fill up quickly with things that are really important. But as a Community Group member, we ask that you make time and create margin for your group. It may be one of the most important things you do all week!

We don't want to overtask everyone and interrupt your weekly routine. We ask that you integrate a group into your natural life rhythms.

Meet at least once a week every other week.

On off weeks meet with your DNA group.

Feel free to meet more than once every two weeks if the group feels like it would be beneficial.

- **“Added to their Number”**

Mission – We believe that living on mission happens best in community. Therefore, Community Group is an environment where members can encourage, strategize, and pray for one another to live on mission in the various spheres of influence that God has entrusted them with (namely 3 Places: neighborhoods, jobs, and places of activity – coffee shops, restaurants, etc).

**Informal** – Two Cities desires that Community Groups will gather informally throughout the week as well. Again, Community Groups are not a once every other week meeting, but a group where our members carry out biblical community and mission. We want to encourage all group members to constantly be looking for an opportunity to initiate conversation with their community for the sake of the Gospel.

---

### The Fellowship of the Believers

*<sup>42</sup> And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup> And awe[a] came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> And all who believed were together and had all things in common.*

*<sup>45</sup> And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.*

**Acts 2:42-47**

## **Leadership Structure** - each group will consist of:

### **Community Group Leader** -

- They will lead the group (as a shepherd they will monitor the covenant members commitment to the church and its body).
- They will make sure that the direction of a Community Group is in line with the vision of the Elders. Leaders should lead out in showing respect for the Elders and monitoring against bickering towards leadership.
- They will oversee the opening of the word, mission, and care for the group.
- They will be responsible for training the apprentice so that the group can multiply at the proper time.
- They will be responsible for initial counseling as needs arise in the group.
- They will seek at least one discipleship relationship of a one-on-one manner with another in the group they believe is a future apprentice, as well.
- **Selection:** Leaders will be qualified men(men's, mixed gender, family groups) and women (women's groups) that are chosen by the Elders.
- **Qualifications:** Leaders that exhibit the qualities mentioned in 1 Timothy 3, Titus 1, and 1 Peter 5.
- **Leader Objectives:**
  - To teach members the Gospel and how to apply it to everyday life.
  - To teach and model for members how to read and study apply the scriptures.
  - To shepherd, disciple, and counsel the group as needed.
  - To train up the apprentice in order to multiply.
  - To lead out with integrity and transparency.
  - To teach our people to serve one another - such as cleaning up host home, caring for a young couple with a new baby, etc.

### **Apprentice** -

- They will assist the Community Group leader and will lead in their absence.
- In addition, they will seek at least one discipleship relationship in order to raise up a future leader.
- **Selection:** Apprentices will be chosen by the Elders with the aid of the Leaders (Elders will ask others about a potential candidates, including spouses and family of potential candidates)

## **Community Groups Vs. DNA Groups**

Community Groups will meet every other week. DNA Groups will be encouraged to meet during the "off weeks."

Ideally, DNA groups will flow naturally from the community groups. DNA groups are smaller extensions of the community groups. They are groups of 3 to 5 men or 3 to 5 women that meet for more intentional discipleship, care (nurture) & accountability, and one on one Bible reading.