



Cluster Groups

Small Communities Within the Larger Body of Christ

Our Guide

This guide exists to help every believer better understand the importance of small group environments that help foster discipleship and fellowship.

Our Why

We believe that everyone should be in active pursuit of Jesus no matter the age or stage of life. Jesus led various small groups to equip and train disciples into Christlikeness.

Our Goal

Our goal is to guide and nurture every person as they begin to engage with Groups. Our prayer is that you join a Cluster Group so transformation and connection can take place.

Your Next Steps

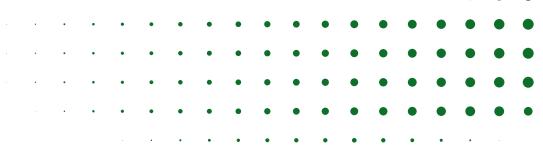
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01 Why Groups?

Our Why

The best environment for lives to change is one of both truth and love. We want every member to be deeply engaged in relationships with brothers and sisters in Christ.

In order to do that, we believe our church needs to grow larger and smaller at the same time. We grow larger to reach as many lost people as possible with the life-giving message of Jesus. We grow smaller by gathering in small groups to build community and care for one another as we grow closer to Christ.

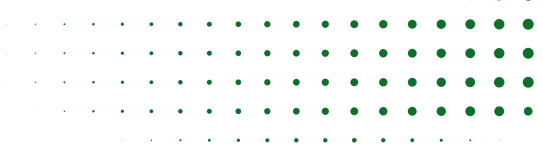
Our Example

In the Book of Acts, you can read about the tremendous growth of the first church in Jerusalem, where small group meetings in homes helped lay the foundation.

God has a part for all of us to play in the church, and Cluster Leaders come alongside the Leadership at Harvest Ministries to help care for people.

Our desire is to create groups that are always inviting, with the goal of having real, authentic, life-giving discussions, while fostering personal discipleship and spiritual growth.

“And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.” - Acts 5:42



02 What Are Groups?

Clusters

Clusters are what other churches may call Small Groups, Life Groups, or Discipleship Groups. They are small, gender-based, and dynamic groups that focus on spiritual growth, fellowship, and service. By joining a Cluster, you will deepen your faith, build meaningful relationships, and serve others.

We desire that everyone in a Cluster grow in the understanding of God's Word, build genuine community within church, and live out the Christian life together. Clusters are encouraged to serve together and be involved in each others lives beyond a Sunday morning gathering. If Sunday is where you hear the way of Jesus, Clusters are how you practice the way of Jesus.

Clusters are our primary group offering with hopes that they help a growing church feel small and personal. Other “group” environments we offer are Bible Studies and Serve Teams.

Bible Studies

These are weekly or bi-weekly class style environments where the Word of God is taught in-depth and life topics can be addressed from a biblical worldview. Clusters are encouraged to attend Bible Studies together so they can discuss what they learned when they meet and the encourage each other to live it out.

Serve Teams

We offer a variety ministry serving opportunities from Next Gen and Worship to Production and Connections. This too has a smaller, personal feel where people can be connected. Our Missions ministry has many great opportunities for Clusters to serve together.

03 What Do Groups Do?

FELLOWSHIP

Going deep relationally in a transparent and authentic environment where members are loved, served, supported, and cared for. Our hope is that each member learns to connect and care for one another. No cliques are allowed, keep arms open to welcome and embrace new people.

FORMATION

Experiencing God's transformative power through His Word by engaging and studying God's Word together. Every Cluster must keep the Word of God central to all discussions. You should encourage, comfort, correct, and pray with the Word.

SERVE

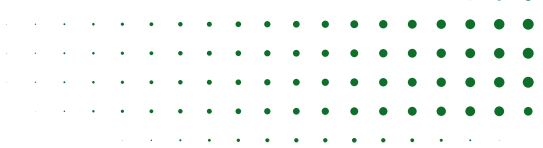
Actively engaged in the life of the church corporately and in a Cluster with efforts to be a contributor and not simply a consumer.

MULTIPLY

Living missionally is how we represent Jesus to everyone, everywhere. Every Cluster needs to consider ways to mobilize its members to serve our community on a consistent basis. Harvest Ministries can connect you with community partners or you can come up with your own approved opportunities.

It's highly encouraged to appoint a point a person(s) for each of the areas above.

"They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." - Acts 2:42



04 What Groups Are Not

The following situations do not foster healthy groups:

SURFACE LEVEL CONNECTIONS

Groups are intended to be a safe space to honest, open, and transparent. Each member should be intentional to develop meaningful relationship where you can truly be known.

OPPORTUNITIES TO DEBATE (i.e. doctrine, theology, politics).

Groups are designed for fellowship, growth, and care. Not to win arguments and cause division.

A PERSONAL PLATFORM

Groups are not the environment for self-promotion (i.e. business, ministry, causes, etc.). Everyone should grow in sanctification, not feel like someone trying to “sell” them something.

A PLACE TO COMPLAIN OR GOSSIP

Groups should maintain a positive and uplifting environment. Encourage members to address concerns directly with the involved parties or seek guidance from church leadership, if needed. Cluster Group Leaders help to guard the unity of the church.

SOMETHING YOU DO WHEN IT'S CONVENIENT

Consistency creates connection and that's where real growth happens.

05 What's Next?

How do I join a Cluster Group at Harvest Ministries?

Step 1: Attend Next Steps Class

Step 2: Complete Cluster Application

Step 3: Attend Cluster Training (during enrollment period)

Step 4: Be Matched With a Cluster (during enrollment period)

Step 5: Start a New Cluster (if applicable, during enrollment period)

Ready to Join a Group?

Take your Next Step through one of the following:

- Let church leadership know or scan QR code
- Visit harvestministries.org/clusters





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