

Community Groups at Grace Downtown

What is a Community Group?

Our Community Groups are intentional gatherings of 8-15 people designed to foster authentic, intimate community. Each group aims to nurture three sets of community relationships: our relationship with God, our relationship with one another in the church, and our relationship with our city and those who live in it.

- **A Mini-Community:** A Community Group is more than a “group” or “bible study.” It’s a mini-community of people who are learning to share “real life” together. Each of these mini-communities centers upon a weekly meeting held in homes throughout the District.
- **A Community For Others:** Community Groups serve as the basic units of the “inwardly growing and outwardly serving” church we long to be. Each mini-community gathers not only for spiritual nurture, accountability, and Christian discipleship (“inwardly growing”), but also for evangelism, outreach, and serving our local neighbors and neighborhoods (“outwardly serving”).

What group should I attend?

Individuals are urged to attend a group in their home neighborhood or near where they work. Those who are not residents of DC may “adopt” a neighborhood —choosing a group that meets in an area where they long to invest their time and energy.

What do we do in our groups?

- **Study.** Our groups seek to be transformed by the gospel of grace as it is revealed in scripture. Each week we discuss the passage for the upcoming Sunday’s sermon or a relevant topic.
- **Prayer.** Each group sets aside time to pray for our individual needs and circumstances as well as for the needs of its neighbors, our city and world.
- **Relationships.** Group members develop authentic relationships with one another, sharing their lives and engaging in mutual care, accountability, and leisure. Our groups also strive to build relationships with those outside the Christian community, by inviting friends, colleagues, and local neighbors to join in on meetings.
- **Service.** Group members serve the physical, material, and emotional needs of their “neighbors” both inside and outside the group. We extend deeds of compassion to our group members (e.g., babysitting, help with moving, etc.), and serve the city through monthly neighborhood service activities.

What kinds of community are we trying to foster? Communities marked by:

Radically changed lives: The grace of God frees us to admit who we really are: broken sinners who are desperately in need of grace yet deeply loved by God through Christ.

Authenticity and intimacy in our relationships: The gospel frees us from hiding our faults and weakness; we are finally free to be weak, needy, mediocre, and dumb. We are slowly tearing down our professional masks and personal facades. We long to grow in our ability to repent (and free others to repent), forgive, and speak the truth to one another.

Every member actively and joyfully engaged in community life: We desire to foster communities in which every member eagerly takes on the responsibility of caring for others. (Eph. 4:12; 1 Pet. 4:10). Our groups are member-driven, not leader-driven.

Vibrant, dynamic relationships that “overflow” with witness in word and deed: We desire to foster communities that are attractive and accessible to new Christians and non-Christians alike (Col. 4:5-6).

We hope you are enriched, exhorted, and empowered by your community group experience!