



Philosophy of Growth Groups

Mission Statement

In Growth Groups, we grow together in Christ-likeness in community, celebrate the gospel, worship together, and are sent out on mission to proclaim hope to those far from God.

What They Are

Growth Groups are where intentional discipleship happens in our local church. It's a place where we do spiritual good to one another when we gather together during the week in homes and neighborhoods. It's a group of (ideally) ten to fifteen members and regular attenders that call Citizens Church home, and they meet during the week on Sunday-Thursday nights.

What They Do

When Growth Groups gather, it's a time for our people to continue living out our core values (Gospel, Community, Worship, and Mission) during the week. A few of the ways they do this are through discussion-based conversations; one way this happens is by talking more about the previous Sunday's sermon passage (using sermon-based questions) or conducting a Bible study together (one that aligns with the mission, doctrine, and theology of Citizens). Another way Growth Groups live out core values is by spending time praying for one another when they gather and sharing prayer requests. Prayer is a vital part of the Christian walk, and we believe it to be beneficial for groups to spend some time in prayer when they gather. Groups are also on mission together; one example of how they live missionally is by setting up times when, instead of gathering, they go to a local park or place of recreation and spend time sharing the gospel with others. This missional time together as a Growth Group will happen once a quarter and will open in prayer together, then be sent out to serve, and then at the end, gather together to debrief. Growth Groups are a smaller expression of what people at Citizens do when we gather together on Sunday mornings, but they meet during the week.

The structure of a group will start with a short time of fellowship (catching up on the week, or maybe even sharing a meal if they meet during dinner time), then, they will spend some time sharing prayer requests and pray together, after that, the leader will lead the group in sermon discussion, and towards the end they spend a little more time in fellowship with one another. Occasionally, the groups may break up into guys and girls groups at the end for a time of confession, accountability, and an extended time of prayer. The structure helps lead to a deeper connection within the group and with the Lord.

Who Leads Them

Growth Groups are led by men and women who are members of Citizens Church and who have been identified by elders and deacons as men and women with great leadership qualities. This does not mean that leaders have to be great teachers, but that they can lead discussions and help the elders care for the people of Citizens Church. Once men and women have been identified, they go through training to be Growth Group leaders. They regularly meet with pastors and elders and are held accountable by one another and the elders to faithfully lead and continue to grow in their walk with the Lord.

Goals

The purpose of Growth Groups is that as they live out the Citizens core values, they grow together in the Word and help one another mature in Christ. Groups are a place of intentional discipleship with each other. They celebrate the *Gospel*, they live in *Community* with one another, they continue to *Worship* the Lord together, and they are on *Mission* side-by-side for the sake of Christ.