



Small Group Guidelines

Fulfill Our Mission – Our mission at Shoreline Church is to help as many people as possible become totally committed to Jesus Christ. We want to continue to support this overall mission with our Small Group ministry through:

- **Community and Friendship** – Small Groups provide a forum to connect at a deeper level and grow in relationship with people in an intimate community.
- **Learning and Growth Through Curriculum** – Small Groups offer a chance to study material that will help us grow spiritually in a safe environment.
- **Accountability and Challenge** – Small Group participants develop a relational closeness that allows for loving correction in areas of our lives that need growth.
- **Service in Community** – Small Groups offer the ability to leverage common time and energy together to serve our community in ways we could never do alone.
- **Home Based** - Small groups meet in homes or other locations off of the church campus.

Study God's Word - To grow healthy and God-honoring lives by studying and discussing the Bible and biblical concepts together (see Shoreline's mission and core beliefs on our website <http://shorelinechurch.org/about-shoreline/>). The resources we use must have their foundation in Scripture, match up with our core beliefs, and be edifying to the members of the small group.

Be Diligent in Prayer – We ask every small group to make prayer a central part of their time together by beginning and ending their meetings in prayer. This allows for groups to start their meetings by focusing on God and to end with a time of reflection, thanksgiving, and support.

Be Dedicated to Consistent Participation – The only way small groups can be consistently beneficial is for the participants to be committed to regular attendance and participation. By building a healthy and mutually supportive small group community, we can promote this happening naturally and enable people to join in as they feel led.

Keep Information Confidential – For small groups to be a safe place to grow and learn together, the information that is shared must be kept strictly confidential and within the group. When people share their lives with others and are looking for mutual support, we must honor this and not violate their trust by sharing this information with others outside of the group.

Stay Focused on Relevant Topics – We ask our participants to center the discussion on the material prepared and decided on by the group. Though some deviation is to be expected, we ask participants to avoid potentially divisive sharing such as sharing one's strong views about partisan politics and other "hot button" issues that are not within the curriculum. There are a wide breadth of people that call Shoreline their church home and we do not want to alienate others by taking rigid stances on things that are outside the scope of our material or core beliefs.

Be Courteous to Members and Leaders – We ask our participants to make small group meetings a priority, to RSVP promptly to group event invitations, and to notify hosts if you discover your participation will be changing. This also includes arriving on time and creating an environment where people can feel supported and loved by listening without passing judgment and refraining from simply answering with quick answers or simple fixes.