

Create a Small Group Covenant

The Process of Creating a Covenant

This should be a fantastic time of discovery and group sharing. Before you launch into drawing up your Covenant, I encourage you to share a little background to the Covenant concept: *God, who is the pursuer of our hearts has covenanted with us. He has made a pact to love His children faithfully and tenaciously. He has given us instructions (His Son, His Word and the Church) so that we might best experience life in relationship with Him, in His love.*

The purpose of your Small Group Covenant is to layout how your group will best experience relationship with each other and with God during your journey.

- 1) What are the Values of Your Group?
Talk about Communication Values, Conflict Values, Relational Values and Spiritual Values.
- 2) What does your group desire to grow in and/or change in their relationship with God? (This topic is relevant for those who are believers in Christ and those who are yet to believe.)
- 3) Talk about where you plan to begin on your journey. You may want to rotate between Scripture Study/Book Study, Service and Social Times.
- 4) Discuss logistics. What time does your group want to begin and end? Will your group meet at the same home or do you want to share locations?

Warehouse 242 Mission: Connecting People to Real Relationships with God, Each Other, and the Rest of the World.

COMMUNITY CORE VALUE: We experience God in community through relationships, spiritual growth, and accountability.

Examples of Small Group Covenants

Small Group Ideals

The Covenant serves as our guide and our road rules. Based upon last's weeks interaction, we heard that these values are most important to you:

<u>Value</u>	<u>Practically Speaking</u>
<i>Consideration & Courage</i>	Be here for each other. Don't force interactions but be intentional about "getting beyond the surface"
<i>Commitment</i>	Be committed to the relationships. Be committed to the tasks. Effective groups engage inside and outside the group setting; effective groups engage in multiple activities.
<i>Confidentiality</i>	At no point are you asked or expected to share specifics about yourself. We honor each other by not sharing confidences outside of the group

Small Group Road Rules

<i>Practice Investing in Yourself and Others</i>	You reap what you sow. You harvest more if you do the pre-work. Try to find the gift in others and invest encouragement in them.
<i>Practice Sharing</i>	Communicate Tennis-style: give and receive. Balance "you don't have to share" with "you don't do all the sharing"
<i>Practice Grace</i>	As much as we strive for our ideals, practice Grace with ourselves and each other. Things take time.
<i>Practice Ownership</i>	This is our roadtrip. We'll all take turns to drive. Have fun.

Small Group Covenant Example #2

September 30, 2003

We **covenant** to:

Create a safe place where we can just be ourselves.

Encourage and challenge each other to grow spiritually.

Deal with conflict respectfully and lovingly.

Seek to reflect biblical relationships inside and outside our group.

Be authentic and vulnerable with each other.

Be intentional and committed about our prayer for each other.

Keep confidential all information that is shared in the group.

Respect each other's opinions, questions, and experiences.

Dive deeply into the study of Scripture on a regular basis.

Surround the children in our group as a loving extended family and help them grow spiritually

Set aside time where we would boldly engage the greater community of Charlotte.

Open our doors to anyone who is willing to explore Christianity.

Assess our group regularly and openly and make any changes we feel necessary.

Signed By:

SMALL GROUP COVENANT: EXAMPLE #3

Our Small Group Vision:

"To connect with each other & God by sharing life, eating, serving, and growing together."

The Six Core Values of Our Small Group:

We, as a Small Group, commit to these Six Core Values:

Worship/Prayer: I promise to pray for the men, women, and children in my group on a regular basis, to lift up their needs to the Lord.

The Bible: I promise to apply God's word to my personal life and to encourage others to share how they see God working.

Fellowship/Service: I will make every effort to have our group as a priority in my schedule (including sitting together during church services & sharing communion at times) in order to serve each other and to participate in service projects in the community.

Sharing: I will engage the world around me to influence people for Christ.

Confidentiality/Trust: I will practice strict confidentiality "*What is said here, stays here*".

Unconditional Love/Acceptance: I will love & affirm others in this group no matter what they have said or done in the past, understanding that every person is at a different point in their spiritual journey.

We agree to gather together:

How often: Weekly

Day(s) of the week: Wednesdays

Time of day: 6:30pm-8:30pm

Length of each Session: 2 hours

Leader's Names: Carmen & Amy

Beginning Date: February 22, 2006

Birthing/Evaluating time/date: I agree to continuing a closed group through the end of our "Throne nights" at which time we will evaluate where our group is before the New Year begins, as well as reserving the right to re-visit this covenant at any time should our group deem necessary to make changes

Where we meet: Teague's home at 1217 Belgrave Place, Charlotte 28203

When we must be absent or late, we will: Call Carmen or Amy as soon as possible. We require this for weekly dinner prep in order to attain a correct headcount and out of respect for the cook preparing the meal.

Hospitality arrangements: Leaders commit that dinner will be served around 6:30pm each week. Monetary donations or meal donations are optional, but not made to make anyone feel obligated

"With God's help, I agree to abide by these promises to God and to each other."

Signed _____

Dated _____