

WHY be in Community?

Bedford Community Church
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(A Shameless Plug for a Small Group)

In His final hours with His loved friends and disciples, Jesus told them, "You can't be a Christian without community."

His *actual* words, "Others will know you love Me by the love you have for each other."

Same thing. No argument. If we claim to love God, we must love our neighbor. We cannot do one without the other.



Maybe like...two wings for flying. A bird cannot fly with only one wing. So for us, we need two

wings to fly: love of God (personal) and love of others (community).

Being part of a Small Group provides more fellowship, accountability, and a deeper commitment to one another than is possible in a Sunday morning context.

It gives us the opportunity to grow together as we study, fellowship, work, or pray together.

There is an emphasis on deepening relationships.

"Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, and forgiving each other.

Do it just like Christ did for you."

WHAT HAPPENED TO ME...

Community is powerful! I've participated in a small group for the past year and a half, and it's been a privilege to begin to really know the people in the group. On Friday nights I know I'll have the chance to encourage others in their faith as well as receive encouragement in my own, and I look forward to the time of fellowship, study

and fun we always enjoy together. It often feels like a pit-stop ~ a refreshing boost to my spiritual life. I genuinely love those in my group, and I'm delighted that we're sharing in each other's lives. It's a place to grow, serve and receive, and an invitation to learn to become more like the Jesus we serve.

(written by a small group member)

Why Would YOU be Part of a Small Group?



"The outside world will know you are Christians by the love you have for one another." Jesus

There are so many reasons to be a part of a small group!

You will:

- get to know God better by being in community
- get to be loved and known
- get to love and know others
- get to have your sharp shoulders knocked off
- get to learn about yourself
- get to experience comfort and practical help in times of need, and receive the same
- get the wisdom and encouragement of others, and offer the same
- get to serve in practical ways
- get to practice love
- get to listen to each other
- get to offer grace
- get to pray together
- get to laugh and enjoy the gift of fellowship

SMALL GROUPS Q & A

WHAT TYPES OF GROUPS ARE THERE AT BCC ?

Groups at BCC include a number of types: those who live and meet in a particular geographical area, family groups, Bible study groups, sermon-discussion groups, topical study groups, book "club" groups, recovery and support groups, gender groups, age groups, etc.

WHAT CAN I EXPECT IN A GROUP?

Fellowship
Gather around a study or topic
Sharing
Prayer
Food

WHERE DO THEY MEET?

A few groups meet at the church if it is most convenient for them. Most groups meet in homes.

ARE ALL THE GROUPS OPEN?

Some are full (12 is about the right number), but many are open, and 2 new groups are just starting up.

HOW OFTEN DO GROUPS MEET?

As often as it suits the group: weekly, bi-monthly or monthly. Most groups also include social activities from time to time as

well as participation in some ministry together once or twice a year. During the summers most groups will meet for fellowship or activities--not their regular meetings.

HOW CAN I JOIN A GROUP?

Sign up on the Community Life table at BCC with your name, telephone and email address.

Lois Shellrude will contact you and give you some options for a group which suits your needs.

Or just email Lois and let her know you're interested.

Shellrude@hvc.rr.com