

APPENDIX C

OUR SMALL GROUP COVENANT

Our VALUES

The four directional values help us determine what we do as a group.

UPWARD: We agree to be devoted to and developing a supernatural relationship with God by ...

INWARD: We agree to be devoted to and developing a deep love for one another by ...

OUTWARD: We agree to be devoted to bringing Christ into everyday relationships by ...

FORWARD: We agree to be devoted to embracing our leadership potential by ...

Our VISION:

God's greatest desire for our group is to become ...

Our MISSION:

Our group exists to ...

Our GOALS:

(Be specific, and us a separate sheet of paper if needed!)

Our COMMITMENTS:

- I commit to growing in my relationship with Christ, including my commitment to a regular quiet time that includes Bible reading, prayer, and other disciplines
- I commit to the group, including being in attendance whenever the group meets (unless I am out of town or sick – no lame excuses!) and to being an active participant in the group
- I commit to mutual discipleship, meaning that we will each help one another grow in our faith together (see Eph. 4:16).

Our VALUES:

I agree to the group values of ...

- *Priority:* I will make attending this group a priority in my life. While I am in the group, I will give the group meeting priority, and if I am running late, I will call ahead.
- *Participation:* Everyone's opinion and questions are respected. (God's Word will be our guide and standard for what is "right" or "wrong," but we will not use Scripture to attack or bully.)

- *Confidentiality*: Anything of a personal nature that is shared in the group stays in the group.
- *Accessibility*: I will make myself accessible to others, especially when there is a need. I give permission to call me at any hour when there is a real and significant need.
- *Accountability*: I will give permission to at least one other person in the group to hold me accountable for the goals I set. (Accountability flows from the person seeking it and will never be forced on a person or used to manipulate.)
- *Boundaries*: I will respect the personal and family boundaries of others.
- *Observability*: I will seek to be open and honest with others. Our small group is a place where we can take off our masks and be truly ourselves, and be accepted for who we are.
- *Ownership*: This is God’s group, not mine or the leader’s. As parts of the body of Christ, we will all share responsibility for the group’s mission, values, and goals.
- *Inclusiveness*: Our group is open to new people. I will pray for and invite people to become part of our community. We will not allow ourselves to become a clique or “holy huddle.”
- *Reproduction*: Our group is not only open to new people coming in, it is also open to members being sent out. I will pray for new leaders to emerge and will encourage them to start new small groups.

Our GUIDELINES:

We will meet weekly, every other week, every week per month except the _____ week.

We will meet on _____ (day of the week) from _____ to _____ (time of meeting)

Our meetings will: be held at _____ (location)

rotate from house to house

Children will:

- be part of the group
- be involved in some group activities such as the icebreaker, worship, or prayer, but they will be separated for other parts of the meeting
- be in their own small group meeting in another room or location (_____ will lead the children's group)
- be cared for by a volunteer / paid childcare provider (discuss who this will be, how much they will be paid, and how this will be paid for)
- be cared for by a member of the group (one person or rotate?)

Food and refreshments will be provided:

- by hosts
- on rotating basis
- by: _____

I covenant together with the other members of this group to honor this agreement.

Group Member Signature