

## **Grace Community Fellowship (GCF)**

Grace Groups

Frequently Asked Questions 2007

### **Q: What is a Grace Group?**

Answer: A group of people that commits to meeting together regularly, sharing life's journeys with one another, and learning more about Jesus. They are not social clubs, and they are definitely not perfect. But they do attempt to be real. They are an effort to help the church people become like family.

### **Q. Why are these groups so important to GCF?**

Answer: To put it bluntly, if you just show up for Sunday services, you really aren't a part of the church. A natural outflow of being a follower of Jesus means that you are honest and engage with those around you. Being a part of a church body requires commitment and relationships with fellow believers. Simply put, these relationships help us on our journey of following Jesus, and Grace Groups are merely our main way of helping people build authentic relationships.

### **Q. If I attend GCF, do I have to be in a Grace Group?**

Answer: Hmmmmmm...no. However, we do believe that a valuable part of following Jesus includes the relationships you have with your church community. Grace Groups provide an excellent path for beginning these kinds of relationships.

### **Q. So, am I joining a Bible study?**

Answer: Not really. But you will most likely be studying the Bible. It is more accurate to say you are joining a group of people to share life together based on Biblical principles.

### **Q. What does a Grace Group meeting time "look" like?**

Answer: Hopefully, our goal at least, is that they "look" like a place you can be real with one another, regardless of what happens. The actual activities vary from group to group, but in general the groups spend time discussing life, studying the Bible, and praying for one another. Most meet weekly, and some meet every other week.

### **Q. If I am not a Christian, or am not sure, can I still attend a Grace Group?**

Answer: Of course! In fact, we encourage you to try out a group and see what Christians are like – regular people with struggles, dysfunctions, fears, and, ultimately, hope in Jesus. We'll do our best to answer your questions, too.

### **Q. What about child care?**

Answer: The Young Family-like groups meet on Sunday night with centralized child care for all the kids. Groups with kids that meet on other nights accommodate child care on their own.

**Q. Are there different groups based on age?**

Answer: Yes. Most of the groups gather based on age, but we do have some groups that cover a mixed range of ages.

**Q. How big is each group?**

Answer: The average group has about 12 people in it, but we do have some with fewer and some with more. If a group gets too many people, then the interpersonal dynamics change from what we are hoping to create.

**Q. My schedule is kind of busy. Do I have to attend every meeting?**

Answer: No, you do not. Yet it is important to remember that the more often you are present, the greater chance others will have to get to know you and vice versa. In other words, a come-when-I-like-it attitude will lead you to disappointment with the group and not benefit the group as a whole.

**Q. The group I'm in is not a good fit. What do I do now?**

Answer: Sometimes this situation arises. Because we are all different people, we have different ways of doing things and different ways of interacting. We encourage people to work through awkward or difficult issues as much as possible. However, when this option does not work, we will assist you in trying out another group.

**Q. How long does a group stay together?**

Answer: We encourage a group to stay together for at least two years and most likely no more than four years. Two years because it can take a while to be comfortable with one another. Four years because we want to avoid cliques forming and make sure that new people have an opportunity to join a group.