

SERMON-BASED SMALL GROUP FAQs

September 2019

What is the curriculum plan for small groups?

Beginning in September, small groups will be sermon-based. This means that instead of following a printed curriculum, groups will focus their discussion on the sermon topic for that week.

Why is this change being made?

Having all our small groups discuss the sermon topic each week will unify our church around a central focus and build community as a body of Christ. Sermon-based small group discussions will connect the week to the weekend, creating an environment where members can dig deeper with each sermon topic. Group members will also be challenged to authentically apply the truths learned so they can grow as disciples of Jesus.

We also wanted to simplify the process of leading a small group, in order to encourage more new groups to form. In addition, sermon-based groups will also make it easier for new leaders to start a group or new members to join a group mid-cycle, since they won't have to wait for a particular topic to finish.

Where will groups find the sermon and discussion questions?

As they are currently, sermon video and audio content will be posted on our Resources website, which can be found by clicking the Resources tab on our website, lifepointchurch.us. Sermon audio and video content is typically posted by Monday afternoon following the weekend message. Along with the video and audio content, we will post discussion questions written by that week's speaker, which will facilitate deeper discussion of that week's topic as well as application principles.

What about groups that meet on Sundays?

In most cases, sermon discussion questions will be posted on the Resources page prior to the weekend message. The only thing missing for a group that meets on Sundays would be the posted audio and video content from that weekend. If a group needed to re-watch a certain section of a sermon, they could access the weekend service video feed on Facebook. Groups that meet on Sundays would also have the option to be one week behind (i.e., discuss the sermon from the week prior).

Are groups expected to watch the sermon together?

No, not unless groups members missed the sermon and want to watch it together. Most of the time, members will have already watched or listened to the sermon and the group time will focus on taking the sermon topic further.

Does this mean that groups will no longer be semester-based?

Yes, to an extent. Our church ministry calendar loosely follows the school year, so we will always have a push for new groups to form and new members to join in September and January. Many groups will likely continue to break over the summer. However, groups will no longer have set start and end times. Groups that wish to continue meeting are welcome to do so. Groups that no longer wish to meet can end at any time (but please speak to our Pastor of Ministries and Group Life first!).

Does this mean we will no longer have a booklet or any sort of printed small group materials?

Yes, all the discussion questions will now be on the website. If a group leader wishes to print out the questions, they can easily select them and print them directly from their web browser. There may be certain times of year (such as Christmas or Easter) when we provide printed supplemental materials, but sermon questions will be posted on the website.

What if a group wants to do something different (for example, a topical study on marriage or parenting or a book of the Bible)?

In order to promote unity and consistency within our small group ministry, we encourage all small groups to spend at least a portion of their time going through the sermon discussion questions.

However, if a group wants to do a topical study in addition to discussing the sermon content, they are welcome to do so. We encourage groups to first present their topic to our Pastor of Ministries and Group Life in order to make sure it falls within our LifePoint theological beliefs.