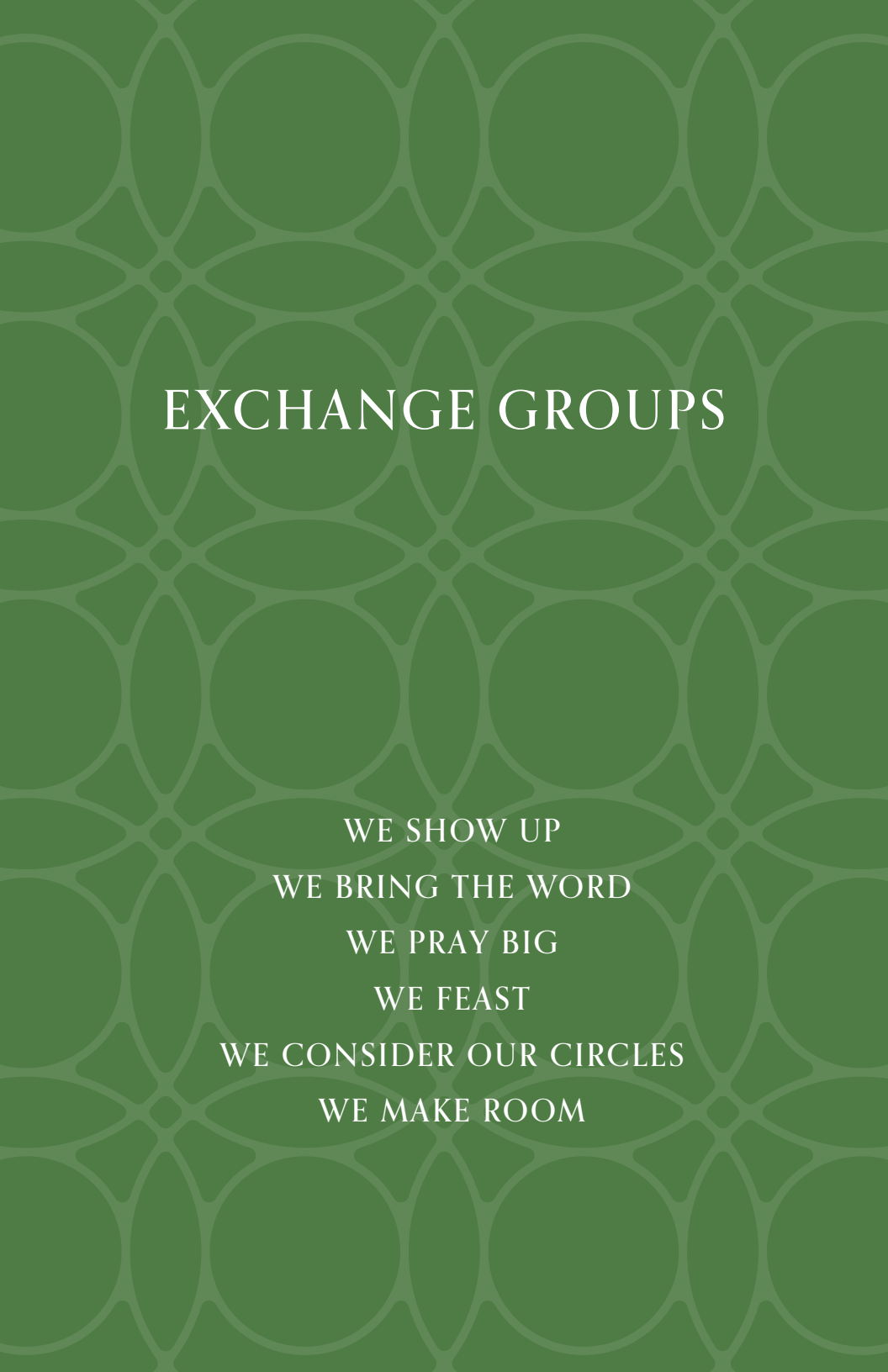




EXCHANGE GROUPS

WE SHOW UP

WE BRING THE WORD

WE PRAY BIG

WE FEAST

WE CONSIDER OUR CIRCLES

WE MAKE ROOM

We Show Up

We make embodied presence the normal practice.

- We decide to be present and committed before we are tempted to not be.
- Commitment is a decision. Many times, there are a hundred reasons why to miss small group, but the pre-made decision decides for us.
- In an ever-increasing artificial cultural where we don't have to physically show up, small group gives us the chance to show up as a person in the same room as another person. Proximity mattered to Jesus.

Weariness is often what qualifies us to show up.

- We show up to receive ministry from others. This allows and empowers others to use their gifts.
- God uses our weakness.

We show up for the sake of others.

- Small group is not "Project Self".
- We go because there are people there who need the very thing we have to offer in that very moment. If we are not present, they don't receive it. Much of our formation is for the sake of others.

We carry the load.

- Galatians 6:1-5- we carry the burdens that are far too heavy for others to carry on their own.
- In small group, we carry the spiritual load by ministering to one another as the Spirit leads. This means we do not expect the leader to carry the full weight of the group.
- We carry the practical load of the group by helping the leaders with scheduling, food, hosting, etc.

We Bring the Word

The word of Christ refers to the message of the gospel and the actual words of Christ.

- Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.
- We need to give counsel and guidance by applying the Gospel to the everyday stuff of life.
- Keep the Word central. We are a Word-driven people.

Our time in the word in the private place has given us something for the public space.

- We practice bringing what fresh words God has given us throughout the last week.
- Someone needs what God gave us that week.

We ask the questions that allow us to share gospel truths:

- Does Jesus (or the way he lived) have anything to say about what we're talking about right now?
- Where does Scripture inform us in this?
- How is God using this very thing to grow your dependence on Him?

We Pray Big

We pray big prayers to a big God who can do big things.

- Because of who God is, we can pray big, seemingly impossible prayers.
- We will pray with persistence (Luke 18:1-8)
- We will pray with impudence (Luke 11:5-12)

Our prayers actually have power to be effective.

- They actually move the needle and have causative effect in the world. (Acts 12:5)

Prayer needs to be our first and regular move as a group.

- This means that we refuse to give cheap and lazy answers or half-baked counsel. We need to quickly turn to prayer first and foremost.

We are committed to watch and pray.

- We need to be attentive to the schemes of the enemy in each others' lives (1 Peter 5:8). We then need to fight the war for and with each other...in prayer. This is a major reason why we show up.

We must never presume that God will grant us apart from prayer what he has ordained to grant us only by means of prayer.

- Isaiah 30:18-19, 2 Cor 1:8-11, Philemon v.22, Phil 1:19, Rom 15:30-32, Matthew 7:7, James 4:2

We Feast

We gather around common food with a common heart.

- This gives us a chance to look each other in the eyes while we do something with our hands.
- Taste and see that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8). We get to enjoy good things together.

We will linger at the table and recount his goodness.

- Psalm 107:43- we want to help each other attend to the goodness of God in our lives.
- Very rarely anymore do people linger at a table. We need to turn the cultural tide on this.

Christ is the centerpiece on the “table”.

- Similarly to when a feast is in the center of the table, Christ is in the middle of the room on display in small group. He is the focal point and the one “thing” that unifies us.
- Christ must be central in our language and focus during group (and all of life). Leaders must be willing to refrain from focusing time and energy on topics that we are not unified around (no matter how much passion they may have for that area). This includes potentially divisive commentary on cultural hot-takes, personal political opinions or agendas, and even tertiary theological issues.
- Watch what has drifted to the middle of the table.

We Consider our Circles

We must remember that we are on mission everyday of the week in the spaces God has placed us.

- This means that we ask about each other's mission field opportunities. We spend 98% of our lives outside of gathering in a church building. God has scattered us strategically where we live, work, play. Field and Family.
- This must remain in the conversation or else we will lose why we are here.

We need to have a growing list of names of those our small group members are trying to engage with the gospel.

- We join each other in praying for these people.
- This means we are going with each other in the scattered places.

We plan on celebrating salvations.

- Invest in mission with expectancy.

We help each other see how our daily lives can be lived on mission.

- Learn the places where group members spend their week, and speak kingdom language into that.

We Make Room

We are looking, planning, and hoping to multiply our small group.

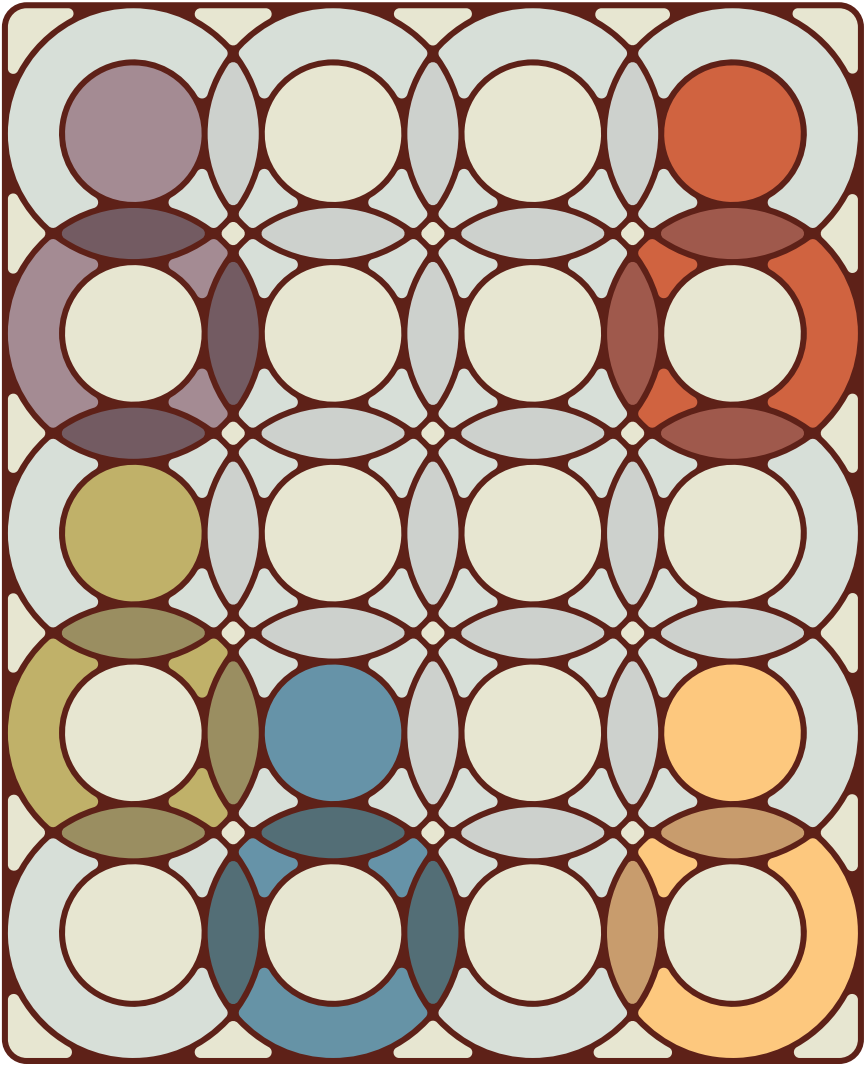
- This is a mindset that means we don't tight-fist our small group. We are even careful about using "my" language about the group.
- We need to always be thinking about a next-up leader who can lead another group or take over leadership of the current one.
- This is a "We Responsibility"

We need to be ready for quick, exponential growth as a church.

- We don't know what God will do this week, so we (as a church) need to be ready to expand at any moment.

The mindset is to pull up a chair for someone else to feast on the Lord and his community.

- We want everyone to be able to experience what we have experienced.
- This comes with sacrifice and commitment to a bigger picture.



Individuals are part of small groups, small groups are part of the larger church, and yet we are all woven together beyond the boundaries of any one group. Small groups are one of the ways we live out and grow in discipleship together - not as separate groups within a church, but as one body, continually connected to and shaped by one another.

