

## **What to Expect when joining a Small Group**

At Pathways Church we believe that life is better connected, and we recognize that moving from the “row” to the “circle” can be intimidating for a variety of reasons. This pamphlet will hopefully answer some of your questions and put your mind at ease. If you find you have additional questions, please call the church office at 920-735-0422 for further information.

## **What is a Small Group?**

A Small Group is one way to help a big church feel small – it’s our way of being the smallest big church we can be!

- Groups ideally are made up of 12 or so individuals (or less)
  - We have groups made up of **married/unmarried adults of all ages**
  - We have groups made up of **couples**
  - We have groups made up of **young adults (ages 18-30)**
  - We have groups made up of just **men**
  - We have groups made up of just **women**

That seems like a lot of choices! When considering joining a Small Group, keep in mind, you can visit as many groups as you like before you decide which group to join. We just ask that you respect the type of group it is while making your list of which groups to check out.

## **Where do Small Groups meet?**

Our Small Groups meet throughout the Fox Cities area – from Greenville to Kimberly, throughout Appleton, and down through the Menasha/Neenah area. Most meet in homes, and a few meet at the church. Some people choose a Small Group based on the location most convenient to them, but if the location doesn’t matter to you, that gives you more options to choose from!

## **What time do Small Groups meet?**

The majority of our Small Groups meet during the evening hours; however, some meet early morning, or even mid-day. Most groups meet for 90 minutes.

## **How often do they meet?**

Each Small Group decides on how often they want to meet. Some groups meet weekly, while others choose to meet less frequently – that might mean they meet one – two times each month.

## **What days of the week do Small Groups meet?**

Each Small Group chooses which day of the week they meet. Often there are options on each day of the week to choose from, but not always.

## **What can I expect to experience when I visit a Small Group?**

One thing we can guarantee that you will experience is a warm welcome! Other than that, each Small Group chooses what their time together looks like. Generally, this time will include time to get to know one another, some sort of study, and a time to share and ask for prayer.

- There are a few different options that most of our groups use for the study portion of their Small Group.
  - Message Based: These groups use the provided discussion questions called “Beyond the Row” to take a deeper dive into the previous weekend’s message.
  - RightNow Media studies: PWC subscribes to the “NetFlix” of Bible studies and offers complimentary accounts to all of its attenders. There are thousands of studies for Small Groups to choose from!
  - Scriptural based studies: Some choose to study scripture by simply reading and discussing, while others may use a guide to help them through the study portion of a scripture based study.

## **How can I learn about current Small Group options?**

All Small Groups that are open to new members are listed at [pathwayschurch.us/groups](http://pathwayschurch.us/groups). On the website, you can filter the groups by type, day of week meeting, etc. and if you see one you would like to receive additional information on, simply click on the group and select “Email Leader.” This information is also found on our Pathways Church app.

If you do not have internet access, or would rather talk with someone about the options, you can call the church office at 920-734-0422.

## **Other questions you may have:**

Do I need to know anything about the Bible to be part of a Small Group?

- NO! One of the many wonderful things about gathering with others is that we are all at a different spot in our spiritual journey and we are learning together – regardless if you have ever even opened a Bible before or are a biblical scholar!

I don’t even own a Bible. Will that be a problem?

- Most likely you will need a Bible (physical or access to one on your mobile device). If you do not have the means to purchase a Bible, please let the church office or the Small Group Leader know and we will make sure to get one for you.

Will I be expected to have the Small Group meet at my home?

- Most groups meet at the same location each week, but if asked, you ALWAYS have the freedom to say no.

May I bring my children with me?

- That depends on the group – if the group provides childcare, or if children are welcome to join their parents, it is noted on the groups page of our website.