

## Group Covenants

Small group covenants are a way to “road map” where the group is going. It is a contract between group members that defines the direction of the group and the commitment required to meet group goals. Covenants are developed by each small group to serve as a guide for their group life. Since groups develop their own covenant, each group has its own personality and can meet the needs of the people involved.

### **Questions that can help your group form a covenant:**

How do we want this group to impact our lives?

What commitments will it take from each of us to make that impact?

Are we willing to make these commitments to each other?

### **Some elements you may want to include in a covenant:**

**Purpose Statement:** What is the purpose of our group? Why do we meet? How will our purpose be accomplished?

**Logistics:** When, where and what time will we meet? What will the meeting format look like and what will we study?

**Values:** How will we relate to each other? What is our “code of conduct”?

#### **Confidentiality:**

What is said in the group stays in the group unless it is determined that a person is in danger of hurting themselves or someone else. In this case, the appropriate full time small group staff will be notified to help. Nothing said in the group should be discussed outside the group without the permission of those involved.

#### **Respect Others:**

We do not advise, analyze or “fix” others. We are to support, encourage and admonish each other towards Christ-likeness and always in love.

#### **Limit Sharing:**

We are considerate that everyone in the group needs to share. We will be sensitive not to dominate the group discussion times and limit our discussion.

#### **Regular Attendance:**

We will make a commitment to our group to show up at the appointed meeting times, be on time and end on time. When we cannot attend, we will call the host to let them know.

#### **Listen:**

Everyone needs a listening ear. When someone is talking, they have the floor. Everyone

else should actively listen.

**Conflict Resolution:**

Whenever relationships are involved, there will be conflict. We will handle the conflict Biblically according to the guidelines of Matthew 18.

**Avoid Offensive Statements and Jokes:**

We are all on the same team. We should, therefore, guard against offending one another. If someone offends us, we commit to work it out directly with him or her.

**Branching Plan:**

Begin now to develop and state your branching plan.

**Be prepared:**

Come ready to fully participate in your group including completing any homework.

**Socials and Service Projects:**

We commit to building community and impacting our world. These activities are as important to attend as the study time.

**Benefits of a Covenant:**

Vision for group is clear.

Responsibility of group members is stated.

Conflict resolution is expected and planned.

Branching is an event to anticipate and celebrate.

**Finally:**

Review and sign your covenant, can make photocopies for each group member. This should be periodically reviewed by the group to see if there is anything that needs changing.