



CORNERSTONE GROUP BASICS

2020

Cornerstone Groups pursue Christian community, engage the historic teaching of the church, and participate in Christ's mission. As with Eucharistic Worship, they are foundational to St. Mark's discipleship strategy.

CORNERSTONE GROUP ESSENTIALS

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

- Meaningful friendships
- Shared ownership
- Grace oriented
- Praying

HISTORIC TEACHING

- Bible focused
- Transformational

CHRIST'S MISSION

- Inviting others
- Serving people and/or sharing the Gospel

Regularly revisit these Group Essentials and your group covenant in order to evaluate your leadership and the progress of your Cornerstone Group. This is best done with your group: *Where are we doing well? Where can we improve?*

CORNERSTONE GROUP CALENDAR

In order to match our church calendar and to give newcomers regular entry points, groups will meet in four different seasons.

- Winter Semester - Epiphany Season & Lent*
- Spring Semester - Easter through June
- Summer Semester - July & August
- Fall Semester - September through December

*During each Winter Semester, all St. Mark's Cornerstone Groups will study the same curriculum which will be tied to the lectionary and the weekend sermons (e.g. Kings in 2020). Groups will select their own study and focus for the remaining three semesters.

CORNERSTONE GROUP LEADER QUALIFICATIONS

A PERSONAL FAITH

- Committed to Jesus Christ and to the Scriptures
- Baptized
- Exhibiting Christian character

A ST. MARKER

- Has taken (or will take within 1 year) Alpha, Confirmation or the Inquirer's Class
- Understands and supports St. Mark's mission
- Generously giving time, talent and money to St. Mark's
- Endorsed by the St. Mark's staff

LEADERSHIP READY

- Loves and enjoys people
- Teachable, accountable, and willing to be stretched
- Can pray out loud and help others to pray
- Has met with a Cornerstone Group Coach and completed the Leadership Application
- Background check

CORNERSTONE GROUP LEADER RESPONSIBILITIES

- Prepare for and execute the group meeting (often through delegation)
- Pray for group members between meetings
- Develop relationships with group members and shepherd them as available/capable
- Identify the next generation of leaders by raising a Co-leader

LEADER SUPPORT

- Prayer for you and your group by your Coach and the St. Mark's staff
- At least one group visit by your coach every year
- One-on-one meetings with your coach as needed
- Periodic Group Leader gatherings (2-3 times a year)
- As much shepherding (care, discipleship, problem solving etc.) as you need and ask your coach for

CORNERSTONE GROUP REQUIREMENTS

EXPECTED OF EVERY CORNERSTONE GROUP

- Have a written covenant with a plan to incorporate new members
- Meet together a minimum of twice per month
- Less than 20 people
- Confidentiality

CORNERSTONE GROUP BIASES

NOT REQUIRED, BUT ENCOURAGED IN EVERY CORNERSTONE GROUP

- Bible study
- Meets weekly
- Meets off-campus
- Grows & multiplies
- Less than 13 people

CO-LEADERS

Think "Pilot" and "Co-pilot" rather than two equally responsible leaders. The Co-leader is someone willing to be trained in the Group Leader Responsibilities by their Group Leader and can meet the Leader Qualifications at the time they are ready to become a Group Leader. A Co-leader is not obligated to lead in the future, but will prayerfully consider Group Leadership should the opportunity arise. More than one Co-leader can serve in a Cornerstone Group at the same time.