

Connect Group Guidelines

The Connect Group ministry is a vital component of the future of Rogers First Assembly. The primary purpose for these groups is to connect with fellow believers and grow together as we journey through life. Connect Groups is our main avenue to ensure that our church family is building relationships with one another as well as ministering to each other's needs. Your choice to be a part of a Connect Group reveals your desire and commitment to spiritual growth as well as the purpose stated above. As with any ministry, it is important that guidelines are established to keep proper balance to the group and to enable your leader to lead with the most effectiveness.

Every member of a Connect Group should agree to the following values.

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| Clear Purpose | To grow healthy, spiritual lives by building a healthy small group community. |
| Group Attendance | To give priority to the group meeting. (Call if you are absent or late) |
| Participation | Everyone is given the right to their own opinion, and "dumb questions" are encouraged and respected. |
| Safe Environment | To create a safe place where people can be heard and feel loved (no quick answers, snap judgments, or simple fixes) |
| Confidentiality | Anything of a personal nature that is said in the meeting is never repeated outside the meeting.* |
| Spiritual Health | To give members permission to help you live a healthy, balanced spiritual life that is pleasing to God. |
| Respect | To respect others by not controlling the discussion time and allowing others to share. Everyone is encouraged to participate but you are encouraged to be considerate of others input as well. |
| Punctuality | To attend the Connect Group faithfully and be punctual to each meeting. It is also expected that each member should leave the host home promptly at the conclusion of the meeting. |
| Conflict Resolution | To avoid gossip and to immediately resolve any concerns by following the principles of Matthew 18:15-17 which begins with going directly to the person with whom you have an issue. |
| Welcome Newcomers | To invite our friends who might benefit from this Connect Group and warmly welcome newcomers. |
| Building Relationships | To get to know the other members of the group and pray for them regularly. |

Every member of a Connect Group is vital to its success. We encourage you to hold to these guidelines and help us build a strong Connect Group ministry.

*We hold to strict confidentiality. For legal purposes, however, we are required to report any admissions of the abuse of minors or when someone is considered a danger to others or themselves. These cases will be reported to our pastor.