

SMALL GROUPS

STRUCTURE AND
STRATEGIC VISION
HANDBOOK





CHURCH VISION:

“Real people, walking with Christ, inviting others, and serving together to reach our neighbors and the nations for Jesus Christ.”

THE MISSION:

Parkway Family Small Groups help people know and **love** God and lovingly **connect** with one another as we unite and **build** on the foundation of Jesus and center our lives together on Scripture to **impact** the culture and world in word and actions.

WHAT IS A SMALL GROUP?

An **open** and **inviting** group of people who love God and unite their lives together in community by centering on Jesus and His Word, and who lovingly impact our culture and world through gospel-centered mission.



WHY DO WE NEED SMALL GROUPS?

Life is not meant to be lived alone. We all have an innate desire to be understood, to be cared for, to connect with others, to matter to other people, to find our tribe, crew, squad, group, friends, to go through life with, being loved and loving.

We believe that there are 2 great priorities for every follower of Jesus, and really, for every person. We call them the great commandments. The first says, we are to love God in response to His amazing love for us. The second says for us to love other people like God loves people. These commandments are founded in the very core of who God is. God is defined as “love” in the Bible and He’s loves all the people of the world selflessly and sacrificially. So it makes sense that God’s desires, plans, & priorities for us, as those created by Him and in His image, would also live healthy lives that are centered on love. The two great priorities (commandments) are simple to know and understand but we need His help, and each other’s help, to live them.



WHY DO WE NEED SMALL GROUPS?

Small groups are part of God's plan for us to grow in living out these two commandments.

Jesus helps us understand how to live these priorities through His teaching and in what He modeled. Jesus gathered a small group and he gathered large groups to help them love God and love people. He walked, traveled, ate, lived, cried, laughed, loved and shared His very self with His disciples and others. His final command to His followers before ascending to heaven was for them, now us, to go to all the people of the world, loving God and loving people, and help them become disciples, as He made disciples. In our small groups, we aim to love and live like Jesus and to apply God's Word in all areas of our lives.



STRATEGIC VISION

And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

Matthew 22: 37-40

As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

1 Peter 2:4–9

RIVER ROCKS

In 1 Peter, Peter writes to the church that is living in a culture which goes against Jesus and Christianity. He lets us know that as God's children, we have a new life that has eternal hope and a new status in this world as citizens of God's Kingdom and members of his family. (1 Pet 1:3-4)

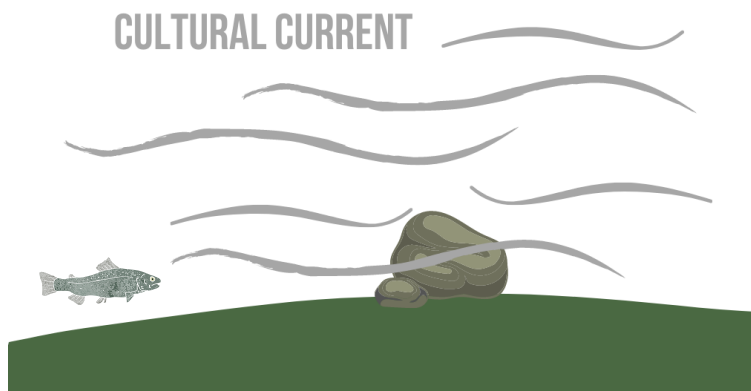
We are not like the culture. Peter and others in the bible call us exiles, strangers, foreigners, and even enemies or outsiders to the world. However, when we are united together as family, as those who love God and each other, it makes a difference in our world. Our unity and family connections as God's children make us different and forces the culture to deal with the stark contrast between the Body of believers and the world.

As an example, rivers can teach us about the contrast between the body of Christ and the world.

Rivers are incredible forces of destruction. The world and the culture in so many ways are like a mighty river. As Christians, we are on a straight and narrow path that actually goes upstream against the roaring cultural current that we live in. This is one reason why the Bible calls us strangers, foreigners, exiles, and aliens.

The current of the culture and the world are pushing against us like a powerful river, and often tries to erode our foundations, wear us down, and constantly tries to pull us downstream. The cultural "river" is deceptive and looks inviting, beautiful and powerful, when in reality, it is dangerous, volatile and life taking. It can wear us down little by little, or it can sweep us away in a raging flood.

What If we throw a stone, in say, the James river? What happens? *Not much...*



But what happens when many stones are placed together on a solid foundation in a river? *The stones change the flow of the river.*

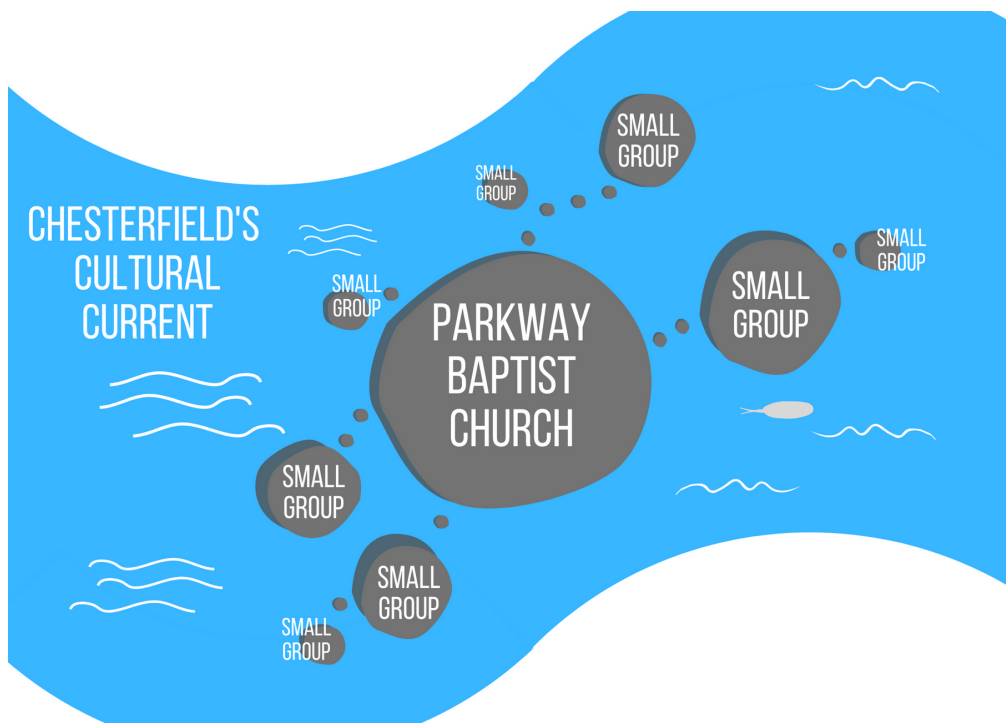


Now imagine a stone mason looks at each stone and then he crafts them together, cuts edges off, shapes them, transforms them, so they beautifully fit together. What if He unites them together on something bigger and eternally strong? This is a picture of Christians united together on JESUS - the Chief Cornerstone. If the Stone Mason puts the stones together in a river, He changes the flow & actually can build a dam.

GOD is the Master stone mason of our world.
JESUS is the firm foundation.

Our small groups are uniquely positioned in our culture to engage and impact it and the world.

United together with JESUS as our Rock and His Word as our foundation we are a solid force that our cultural “river” has to navigate around or join. We don’t need to be like the culture to impact the culture. We need to be united with Jesus and each other. It is our loving unity in Christ and His Word that we embrace and build our lives on in order to change the flow of the cultural-current...one rock at a time..





CENTERING EMPHASES:

While every Small Group at Parkway is not the same, we do employ the same healthy, anchoring structures and rhythms in our different groups in order to help the communities grow as wholistic disciples. Without a healthy structure and direction, we lean, grow lopsided, or even miss the mark altogether of wholistically loving God and loving people. Our personalities, giftings, talents, desires, fears, and even strengths can draw us towards and away from healthy balance without structure and direction.

Small Groups exist to make disciples that love God and people, through bible study, community, and mission. Small Groups help people know and **love** God, lovingly **connect** with one another, unite and **build** on the foundation of Jesus, center their lives together on Scripture, intentionally & lovingly **impact** the culture and world together through our words and actions.

We center on:

- **LOVING** and knowing God by growing in putting Him first (wholistically: heart, soul, and mind)
- **CONNECTING**, loving, and caring for one another.
- **BUILDING** on God's Word, the Bible, as our foundation for truth, growth, life, and plans.
- **IMPACTING** and engaging our culture and world.

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.



LOVING AND KNOWING GOD:

There is nothing more important in a person's life than knowing and loving God. God showed His amazing, divine, love for us by sending His son, Jesus, to give his life as a payment for our sins and to offer us forgiveness of our sins. Because God loved us first, we can love Him. We are called to love God with every aspect of our lives, and we are the happiest and healthiest when we are in a right loving relationship with Him. (1 Cor 10:31, Psm 37:4) From this priority relationship stems all other relationships. Our Small Groups always aim us at knowing, loving, and trusting the one, true, God. We do this through wholistic discipleship. Our small groups help us move towards being wholistic through Bible intake, prayer, worship, and fellowshiping with others who know and love God and desire to share Him with others.

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you

1 Peter 1: 3-4

We love because he (God) first loved us.

1 John 4:19

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. - 1 Corinthians 10:31

Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. - Psalm 37:4

CONNECTING, LOVING, AND CARING

The beautiful difference in the church and the world is selfless love that is modeled after Jesus our LORD. We all know that life is not meant to be lived alone. Life can be tough and having people who you trust and can depend on is beautiful. Built into all people is a desire to be loved and to love others. Some people might be fearful, having had bad experiences in the past, or think they are doing fine on their own, but we all need to connect with others, to be understood, to be cared for, to feel we matter to other people, to go through life being loved and loving others. We need a group of people where we have mutual trust and care for one another. We need people who encourage us, strengthen us, and even challenge and correct us. Small groups are places for genuine relationships to grow.

Proverbs 27:17 says *Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another*. A good friend and brother once said to me, “We can’t sharpen iron with a cotton ball.”

The Bible calls this type of love, care, and connection with other Christians “fellowship”. Small Groups are necessary for us to connect in genuine, relevant, fellowship. A large group gathering meets many needs we have as followers of Jesus, but we also need a small group, coupled with our large group gathering, to really soar as a Christ follower. Small groups help the church family connect through personal prayer, support, accountability, and trust by sharing our lives more intimately with each other.

“Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

Galatians 6:2

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

James 5:16

And all who believed were together and had all things in common.

Acts 2:44

Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God;

1 Peter 1:22–23

We love because he (God) first loved us. If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.

*And this commandment we have from him:
whoever loves God must also love his brother.*

1 John 4:19–21



BUILDING ON GOD'S FOUNDATION:

We center our small groups on studying the **Bible** together, not to just have more Bible knowledge, but to understand God and His truth so we can wisely apply it to all aspects of our lives. The Bible gives us the foundations for life, relationships, family, God, people, work, this world, everything. Together in small groups, we can discuss the Scriptures and understand that they are relevant and applicable. Our small group leaders are equipped to help us discuss and understand God's all sufficient Scripture.

When our lives are rooted in God's truth, we have joy, peace, wisdom, and love for God, each other, and the world around us that we are engaging. Being in the Bible together helps us develop Gospel centered relationships with each other.



*Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it
you may grow up into salvation—*

1 Peter 2:2

*With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your
commandments! I have stored up your word in my heart, that I
might not sin against you. Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your
statutes! With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth. In the
way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches. I will
meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. I will
delight in your statutes;
I will not forget your word.*

Psalms 119:10–16

*Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according
to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn
from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good
success wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart
from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so
that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it.
For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will
have good success.*

Joshua 1:7–8

*All Scripture is breathed out by God
and profitable for teaching, for
reproof, for correction, and for
training in righteousness, that the
man of God may be complete,
equipped for every good work.*

2 TIMOTHY 3:16–17

IMPACTING AND ENGAGING

In many ways evangelism and missions have become church events, the task of a select few, a class we take, or a trip we make. Engaging and impacting the world around us with our words and actions is the role of every Christian, Church, and Small Group. Engaging and impacting our culture is a lifestyle, not an event. Our small groups have a rhythm of intentionally engaging the community and world for gospel impact. Jesus modeled this small group priority in his own small group.

When we unite our lives together on the rock-solid foundation of Jesus and his Word, we are positioned to impact the cultural current. Alone, we are not as effective, and we often get frustrated with engaging the culture. United together with love for each other, building our lives on the foundations of Scripture, and living in genuine community together, we attract the world around us. We have purpose, meaningful relationships, fun, a group to do life with, serve others with, and the help and care we need, because we have a small group of people who are centered on loving God with us.

Each small group is positioned uniquely to impact the cultural current. We have different circles of influence, interest groups, neighborhoods, events in the community, coworkers, and friends that God has given us to proclaim his excellencies to. Our words and actions are a witness to the community, and our small group community's life and unity are a witness as well.

Not only do our small groups have an emphasis on being missionaries and ministers in our community, but also in our world. At Parkway we take partnership with missionaries around the world seriously. We have primary partners and we have many support relationships with missionaries around the world.

Each of our small groups have an intentional partnership with an international mission work. Whether that is Peru, Kazakhstan, Romania, the Philippines, India or wherever the Lord will lead, our groups pray with, partner with, and push forward with missionaries around the world to preach the gospel and plant healthy churches.

And he appointed twelve so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach.

Mark 3:14

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

1 John 4:18

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Acts 1:8



RHYTHMS

Getting in routines or “rhythms” is important for healthy balance and growth. We can easily lean into our preferences and strengths rather than being a balanced small group. This is why our structure provides rhythms (routines) to help our small groups balance the essentials that we discussed earlier (Loving and knowing God, connecting with each other, building our lives according to God’s Word, and impacting and engaging the world).

We encourage and have different types of small groups in the Parkway family. We have groups of all kinds. One group may be mostly young married couples, another might be made up of just men, another composed of empty-nesters, while another group might be a mix of families and singles. Even though these groups all look different, the essential structure and rhythms are the same. A rhythm helps balance the four “essentials”.

These rhythms create the contexts where we grow in various ways as disciples. Each rhythm provides a designated time to focus on one aspect of disciple making, instead of trying to do everything at once. Additionally, these rhythms create the perfect opportunity for group leaders to raise up others in their group to lead in specific ways, allowing everyone to engage in the functioning of the group.

THE RHYTHM OF BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study is a time to read, study, discuss, and apply the Word of God together. God's Word is all sufficient for us and we need to know, stow, show, and sow, God's Word. We highly value the Word of God and it is an essential part of everything we do. Our large group worship gatherings and our small groups prioritize and emphasize the scriptures. Being in the Bible together with other people in a small group is an opportunity to safely interact with God's Word and discuss how it applies to our lives. It is a way for us to live out God's plans for us joyously with others.

But he answered, "It is written, " 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

Matthew 4:4

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Romans 10:17

"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Isaiah 55:10–11



Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15

WHY DO WE NEED A BIBLE STUDY RHYTHM?

We protect platforms that provide a place for people to intake God's Word. This rhythm helps us not only grow in understanding as a community group, but it also develops in each of us a maturity to study the Bible for ourselves. (1 Corinthians 3:2, Hebrews 5:12, 1Peter 2:1-3, 2 Timothy 2:15)

By applying a consistent inductive Bible study method, individuals in small groups are given the necessary tools to be students of God's word who self-feed, rather than being dependent on someone else's opinion of God's Word.

Bible Study Guides are provided each week in order to help lead the group in the study time. The guides introduce the material and then lead the group through observation, interpretation and application questions.

Bible study guides are created by and or chosen by our Curriculum Team which is made up of pastors and leaders. The design is aimed toward discussion of Scripture and learning to self-feed. We want all people to engage with what the Bible says and means. We use inductive methods like *Hook, Book, Look, Took*.

The weekly Bible study guides gives an outline and a lessons plans for each meeting, but small group leaders should use them as a general plan and not feel they must use them strictly. The Small Group Leaders are weekly updated with plenty of time to pray, prepare, and personalize their guides to their group's atmosphere.

1. ***HOOK***

Grab listeners with a story or open-ended question that can be applied to the verses

2. ***BOOK***

Use the hook to connect to the passage you read and explore the big idea

3. ***LOOK***

Encourage listeners to examine their hearts & lives in relation to the truths of God's word

4. ***TOOK***

Discuss calls to action or practical takeaways from the verses you read

TYPES OF BIBLE STUDY GUIDES

- **Parallel guides:**

Throughout the year, most guides will follow along with the current sermon series, even though they may not correlate directly with the passage of the sermon for that week. The goal is for groups to be able to use the Bible study guides to thoroughly study a book of the Bible.

- **Alignment guides:**

During certain seasons in the church, all discipleship ministries (kids and adults) will have the same topic and passage at the sametime.

- **Topical Core guides:**

These guides may be produced from time to time to allow Parkway pastors and elders to lead groups in a particular core to Christianity topic, issue or skills.





EXPECTATIONS OF BIBLE STUDY RHYTHM

During the Bible study rhythm, groups should study the Bible. This sounds obvious, but the Word of God is powerful and sufficient for teaching us who God is, who we are as people, and how to live in this world. The Bible is God's Words written to and for us. It is relevant, applicable, and it is the only source of truth.

The Rhythm of Bible Study should be practiced at roughly 90% of the group meetings. Even if it is a brief review, an exhortation for something else we are doing, or a time of sharing a memory verse, God's Word should be present.

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. - Hebrews 4:12

*Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
John 6:68*

*Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success
.Joshua 1:7-8*

THE RHYTHM OF FAMILY TIME

We live in a busy culture and a culture that is quickly moving away from spending time in relationships with others. Our modern social media, screen-based interactions, instant downloads, devices that replace actual face to face interaction can be useful tools and can also be a draw/danger/deception that we are *with* people, when in reality, we are not. God's Word clearly lays out the core values that we, as the church, are family, and family needs to be together.

Family time provides a time and place for eating and fellowshiping and having fun together. Small groups are not a class, they are a group of people sharing life together. Jesus created the church, not as an institution, but as a family. "Family Time" is meant to take the small group from acquaintances to family, allowing the group to share meals together and taking their relationships deeper, learning to love and care for one another. This is not meant to just be snack time, it is meant to be meal time, time around the table as a family. Food and drink are a big part of our lives. Sharing meals together is essential, and allows us to get to know one another in another way. Again, we follow Jesus' example in everything, including eating with one another.





So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:31

EXPECTATIONS OF FAMILY TIME

Groups are expected to share a meal together with the entire group at a minimum of every other month.

We also strongly encourage each group member to share a meal either with the entire group or each member of the group sharing a meal with someone else in the group. A few men eating breakfast together, ladies grabbing a coffee, have another family over to your house for a meal, dessert, or a fire pit encounter. The goal is fellowship, not just eating. However, we know that when we break bread together, it is a relationship builder.

TIPS FOR FAMILY TIME

- Have fun and eat a meal. The goal is to have fun and connect as a small group. Start with a meal, but get creative.
- From time to time Family Time can be a game night or outing as a group. The goal is fellowship, not just food!
- Try rotating homes each time or visit venues like parks, pavilions, etc.
- Have everyone bring a dish. Use websites like *mealtrain.com*, *perfectpotluck.com*, and *signupgenius.com* to organize and plan
- Intentionally invest in people, and ask questions. Don't just react during Family Time.
- Pray before Family Time starts, and ask God to give you insight into who he wants you to encourage or invest in.
- Think of this as a family Thanksgiving meal without all the pressure. Wouldn't that be great?

EXAMPLES OF FAMILY TIME

- A meal together before a small group gathering or after weekend worship service
- A cookout or party at a small group member's house
- Attend a sporting event together or gather at a home to watch a sporting event
- Note: Going to a movie is not an example of Family Time. Making your own home movie is an example of Family Time. Going for ice cream after a movie would be Family Time.

THE RHYTHM OF MISSIONAL HANGOUTS

Every member of the church is a minister and missionary. As we saw in the structure of our small groups, Missions are a part of following Jesus.

Missional Hangouts are **informal** and **fun** gatherings that allow small groups to invest in their non-Christian friends and communities together.





WHAT IS A MISSIONAL HANGOUT?

These are opportunities for your entire group to be a gospel witness together and share the good news with people who have not yet come to faith in Jesus. The general idea would be like your group hosting a party for all of your non-Christian friends, neighbors, coworkers, and family.

Missional Hangouts can be a picnic in the park, inviting the neighbors and your group for ice cream at your house, gathering around a fire pit with you small group and inviting your unbelieving friends. Maybe the men do something men specific and the women do something women specific.

Missional Hangouts are not just a service projects. Instead, they are opportunities for your group to grow together, to invite people they already know (neighbors, coworkers, etc.), whom God has intentionally placed in their lives to spend time with other believers in a non-threatening environment, and to engage the culture as a united, loving force. Missional Hangouts provide an opportunity for members of your group to engage in casual and spiritual conversations with those you are seeking to share the gospel with.

WHY DO WE NEED MISSIONAL HANGOUT RHYTHMS?

We are all commissioned by Jesus to go make disciples. Together as the church, we have the role of evangelism as united rocks built together on Jesus our foundation. God has united us in the current of the culture we live in. Our unity and relationships are desired by our lost community together. Jesus said in John 13:35 that all people will know that we are His disciples, “if you have love for one another.” Seeing is believing. Experiencing our unity, care, concern, fun, family, atmosphere that we have in small groups is a powerful witness and platform to share the gospel from.

Jesus modeled and led his small group of disciples to do evangelism together. When we do it together, we are following Jesus’ patterns. When we do evangelism together, we gain a unified heart for the lost people around us. We provide opportunities for other believers to connect with our non-believing neighbors.



Maybe our co-worker enjoys playing ultimate frisbee, is from the midwest, or loves board games, but we don't connect with them in those ways. It is likely that we have someone in our small groups that would have similarities in past experiences, likes, hobbies, or family situations, that can be bridges to the gospel. Sometimes it's easier to have a more forward spiritual conversation with someone you've just met than someone you've lived beside for years. That is the beauty of doing Missional Hangouts as a group. We spread out the opportunity and the responsibility as a team.

The goal is to help one another move relationships with non-Christians toward spiritual and gospel conversations. We are not ganging up on people but rather we are living our gospel centered lives with each other in front of them.

CONVERSATIONAL EXAMPLES

NEIGHBOR: How do you guys know each other?

YOU: We work together. We go to church together. Jack said you enjoy fishing and talking about it at the pool.

NEIGHBOR: Where do you like to fish?

YOU: I love Kerr Lake. What are you doing this weekend?

NEIGHBOR: I'm going fishing, do you want to go?

YOU: I'm going to church with my family Sunday morning. Do you want to go fishing Sunday afternoon?

COWORKER: I see you have a Virginia Tech sticker on your car. Did you go to Tech?

YOU: No I went to NC State, but I've been a Tech fan since I was a kid. Do you follow Tech? Jack and some friends from church come over for a few games a year and we have a good time eating and hanging out. Why don't you catch a game with us?

EXPECTATIONS OF MISSIONAL HANGOUT

Groups are expected to work together to quarterly invest in a missional hangout. The small group team can help make suggestions, but the best missional hangouts are grassroots, meaning they are envisioned from the group. When the group has ownership of the missional hangout, comes up with the idea, and prays over the opportunity together, the Lord uses these times as cultural current changers. We want others to connect with us and most importantly, to Jesus our Rock.



For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”

Romans 10: 13-15



THE RHYTHM OF PARTNERING WITH GLOBAL MISSIONARIES

Missions is a vital part of the church. We exist to make God's glory known to our neighbors and the nations. We can negligently go past our neighbors to the nations and we can ignore the nations while we engage our neighbors. Jesus said in Acts 1:8 that we need to engage with all people in all parts of the world. Of course, our neighbors are priority as we have the most opportunity for engagement with them. It is also pretty amazing that we live in a very multiethnic country where the nations are living here in the US.

Parkway small groups partner with our international missionary partners to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. Every member of the church is a minister and missionary. Partnering our small groups with intentional missionaries is a biblical win-win. Acts 1:8 is clear that we all have a united roll in engaging the people of the world with the gospel. The church sends some to places where the gospel is not. Because it is best done through relationships, Parkway has chosen to encourage, support, strengthen, and bless our sent out ones through our small groups. Small groups are best positioned to engage in relationship with missionaries.

Missionaries are sent out from the church as an extension of the church to make disciples and help healthy churches start, grow and reproduce on an indigenous level. We want every small group to have relationship with and ownership in at least one strategic missionary partner. A partner is someone you are in a relationship with. It is a two way street of mutual edification, encouragement, support, care, blessing, and is being iron on iron. In our small groups, we pray for our missionaries, reach out to them, connect with them and their work via internet chats, prayer requests, and share life with them. It is great when we have a connection with a missionary team because it gives both them and us a connection to sharing the gospel and building healthy churches all over the world.

EXPECTATIONS OF PARTNERING WITH MISSIONARIES

Pray, Partner, and Push Forward.

Weekly in small groups, spend 3-5 minutes praying for and sharing updates on your global partners. When the partner is with us in the Chesterfield area for encouragement and renewal, they are part of your group, enjoying face to face fellowship with you, and together you know and each other as family. When our small groups have the opportunity, your group sends group members and goes to be on the field with your partners, to encourage, come alongside, taste and see the work God has called them to do. When our small groups embrace the great commission together in partnership with strategic partners, we all grow, and we all glorify God. The ideal end goal is that people from your group *pray, give, go, and send.*

EXAMPLES OF BIBLE STUDY RHYTHMS OVER A 6-MONTH PERIOD

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
WEEK 1	FT	BST	FT	BST	FT	BST
WEEK 2	BST	BST	BST	BST	BST	BST
WEEK 3	BST	BST	BST	BST	BST	BST
WEEK 4	BST	BST	BST	BST	BST	BST
WEEK 5	MH		BST		MP	

BST = Bible Study time

FT = Family Time (At least every other month)

MH = Missional Hangout

**MP = Missional Partnership with Global
Partner**

**Every week there is life-on-life discipleship,
fellowship, and prayer**

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY STRUCTURE

**Practical Application of Vision, Mission,
Structure and Rhythms**



GROUP LEADERS

Family member, shepherd, teacher, leader

CONNECT TEAM

Connect people to groups, connect new leaders to people

CURRICULUM TEAM

Create Scripture centered curriculum to root the church in the Word of God

MINISTRY STRUCTURE

Within our Small Group Ministry Structure, we focus on:

- Clear Vision and Expectations
- Healthy Communication
- Relevant Routine Equipping
- Encouragement and Accountability

CLEAR VISION AND EXPECTATIONS

This handbook was written with a deep desire to provide clear vision, direction and expectations. Clear biblical vision is the train tracks in which we run on. The track is laid and set in such a way that the train can run smoothly and intentionally toward the intended destination. Clearly defined biblical vision, mission, strategy, structure, and goals help us stay focused, move with purpose and efficiency, expand our work, navigate storms, and reach our God honoring goals.

As a church we stand on the tracks of Loving God and Loving People. Our small groups exist to help people love and know God, connect and care for one another, build our lives on Jesus and his Word, and impact and engage our culture and the world by making Jesus known through word and action.

The structure and rhythm discussed earlier in this book lay a clear path through that vision and establishes real and practical expectations for groups and leaders to follow.



HEALTHY COMMUNICATION

We strive for healthy, efficient, and effective communication. In any relationship, a break-down in communication can become the number one stress point. Healthy communication honors one another and brings glory to the Lord. Whether in edification or confrontation, we are committed to healthy, biblically-based communication.

God's word is clear on how we are to communicate:

Love one another with brotherly affection.

Out do one another in showing honor.

Romans 12:10

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

1 Corinthians 13:1–2

Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ

Ephesians 4:15

Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

Colossians 4:6

Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger

James 1:19

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Ephesians 4:32

PRINCIPLES OF HEALTHY COMMUNICATION

- ***Love one another with brotherly affection. Out do one another in showing honor.*** Romans 12:10
- **Apply proven meeting strategies.** When meeting, apply principles like *Death by Meeting* (Patrick Lencioni) and the 5 steps from *No Fail Meetings* (Michael Hyatt)
 - *Decide.* Is this meeting even necessary? If so what type of format?
 - *Schedule* the right people, the right time, the right length, the right location
 - *Prepare* a result-driven agenda (people “want to” and “have to” engage)
 - *Meet.* Engage in a powerful, productive conversation that moves vision forward
 - *Follow Up.* Provide action points, review meeting notes, complete assigned tasks, hold accountable
- **Request in a timely and respectful way.** Last minute, late, loud, lazy, lacking, communication is for lousy loser, lame, lacking, leaders.
- **Respond in a timely and respectful way** (asap, within 24- hours) Even if you can’t help or don’t know the answer, a quick reply shows care, concern and respect. If you can’t fully respond to an email promptly, at the least email back within 24-hours, confirm your receipt and say when the sender can expect a full response.



PRINCIPLES OF HEALTHY COMMUNICATION

(CON'T)

- **Ask and answer questions in an organized way.** To avoid confusion number or bullet questions when there are many questions and be specific in answers. In email we are missing all kinds of communication tools such as tone of voice, eye contact, and body language. Organized and thorough answers take longer originally to write but save time and cut down on volume of emails needed.
- **Ask clarifying questions and use summation** to make sure messages are received and understood correctly.
- **Don't overuse or abuse CC, BCC, reply all, or group emails** to avoid junking up others inboxes, but be careful to reply all when needed and to CC people who need to be in the loop.
- **Keep things simple and clear** when possible but recognize most leaders are not accused of over-communicating.
- **Wisely use different forms of technological communication.** Messaging or text, can be very useful but discern when to call and engage face to face or virtually meet, when needing a more immediate response or when facing miscommunication or confusion.
- **When in doubt, reach out.** Very few organizations have a problem with over communicating. Culturally, we shy away from confrontation, or do it in unloving ways such as gossip or back biting. We fear offending. We tend to shy away from getting the speck out of our brothers' eyes in order to avoid the logs in our own eyes. Please, when you are in doubt, reach out. Loving, open, honest, direct, communication is biblical.



COMMUNICATION ROUTINES FOR LEADERS

- **ANYTIME**

- Calls, texts, emails, virtual meetings
- Pastor Joe and the teams relating to small group ministry are accessible and available.

- **WEEKLY**

- Weekly Email to small group leaders with updates, announcements, encouragement, curriculum.
- Weekly reporting from the small group leaders via Elexio/Website

- **TWICE A YEAR (BIANNUALLY IN SEPT AND FEB)**

- Two times a year we gather our small group leaders and co-leaders, as well as people who might be interested in leading a small group for encouragement and training events. This is a purposeful time to be together, pray, encourage, network, learn from each other, and grow our small group ministry. In this venue we cast vision, enjoy fellowship, celebrate victories, grow as leaders, sharpen each other, and strategically look at the vision and strategy from a 10,000 ft up perspective.



RELEVANT, ROUTINE EQUIPPING

NEW LEADER TRAINING

Every new leader will need to go through our leader application process and leadership training. We are responsible before God and to the church family to raise up godly, good, small group leaders who love the Lord and love people. We will offer Small Group Leader training multiple times a year as the need for new small groups demands.

BIANNUAL GATHERINGS

We are life-long learners. We don't meet just to meet, but there is real value in meeting a few times a year to focus, be encouraged and sharpened one another. The aim of our gatherings is to bless, encourage, strengthen, and simply be better leaders. Our small groups are not autonomous from the Parkway Baptist Church. Our Biannual meetings are also a time to interact with each other, our leadership, and our small group leaders.

***Give instruction to a wise man, and he will
be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and
he will increase in learning.***

Proverbs 9:9

ENCOURAGEMENT/ACCOUNTABILITY

Small Groups are a vital part of a healthy Christian's life and a healthy church. Our small group leaders play a very important role and we need encouragement and accountability. Routine, weekly, communication is needed.

WEEKLY EMAIL

A weekly email goes out to all of our small group leaders with curriculum, announcements, encouragement, and updates. It is essential that small group leaders have accurate, timely, updates and information to communicate church wide opportunities and messages for the church. The Parkway Small Group Leadership is committed to not filling your inbox with too many emails or irrelevant emails. We are committed to providing Biblical curriculum and relevant, supportive communication.

WEEKLY REPORTING

Our small group leaders are the front lines of Parkway Baptist Church ministry. In order to best serve the church family as a whole it is essential that small group leaders help with keeping the church up to date in certain areas. Weekly reporting from the small group leaders is an easy, online, process, that keeps the pastors informed and gathers some information to help us track where we are, what we need to improve, what we are doing well, and who in our church family needs prayer or assistance.

AVAILABLE AND ACCESSIBLE SUPPORT

Our small group support teams and pastors are available and accessible via phone calls, texts, emails, etc. At times we need prayer, clarification, encouragement, advice, or just to talk through something. The old saying is true, "we have not because we ask not". It is our aim to bless and support.

PASTOR JOE TANNER

jtanner@parkwayfamily.org | 757-582-8036

SMALL GROUP LEADERS

Family Member, Shepherd,
Teacher, Leader

THE ROLES OF A SMALL GROUP LEADER:

FAMILY MEMBER -

As a family member, we love, respect, and embrace our church and group members as brothers and sisters

SHEPHERD -

As a shepherd, we know our group members.

TEACHER -

As a teacher, we know the Word of God and share it as relevant truth.

LEADER-

As a leader, we know where we are going, and others will go with us.



ROLES	OBJECTIVES	TASKS
Family Member	Loving the brothers and sisters	Embrace the group
Teacher	Teaching the Word for transformation	Exhort the group
Shepherd	Shepherding Biblical community	Encourage the group
Leader	Leading missional living	Be an Example for the group

in each of these roles, there is something you should do:

- As a **family member** you *love* the group as your family. You embrace their strengths, weaknesses, personalities, or difference.
- As a **shepherd** you *connect* and care for the members. You are an encouragement.
- As a **teacher** you *communicate* God's message of building our lives together on Jesus and His all sufficient Word. We help people love God and others. You are an exhorter, explainer, and guide.
- As a **leader** you *clarify* and drive the mission of impacting our culture with Christ-like community and living.

FAMILY MEMBER

Every one of God's children are equally special to our Father God. We are brothers and sisters in the Parkway Family and in any healthy family there are different roles that different members of the family have. We love each other members of our family and even see the difference in personalities, strengths, weaknesses, faithfulness, and ability as a part of God's sovereign design in the body of Christ. We embrace.

SHEPHERD

A group leader is a shepherd in the Parkway Family. They care for, lead, disciple, & tend the sheep that belong to our Savior Jesus Christ and who are entrusted into the stewardship of Parkway Baptist Church. As shepherds we learn our sheep. Their strengths, weaknesses, needs, talents. Their spiritual, emotional, relational, even financial situations so we can lead the group to love and care for one another and engage the culture around us.

- Jesus calls on shepherds to feed and tend the sheep.

*Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you."
Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."
John 21: 15-17*



- Jesus lived an example for us to follow:

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd.

I know my own and my own know me

John 21: 15-17

A strong argument could be made that the role of a shepherd is the most important role a group leader lives. If you are a good shepherd, your members know they are loved, will listen to what you teach, and follow where you lead. But if you are not a good shepherd, they will not care what you know or where you want them to go. Therefore, we learn to love our group members well. We care for our small flocks. If we can do this well, we will be surprised at how much better a teacher and leader we will become. We shepherd out of love for God and love for our brothers and sisters.



TEACHER

The role of teaching is responsibility and a privilege. As small group leaders we base everything we teach on God's all sufficient Scripture because it is the only source of absolute truth and we know it is relevant and applicable for all people.

As shepherds and teachers we equip and entrust others with God's Word and help our brothers and sisters have wisdom so they grow in maturity of biblical living with eternal hope and relevant impact in the culture around us.

Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. - 2 Timothy: 2-5

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16–17

Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

Joshua 1:7–8

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ

Ephesians 4:11–12

You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

2 Timothy 2:1–2

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Ephesians 4:11–16

LEADER:

God has an order for everything. He even has a leadership structure in His triune person. He gives the church men and women to lead under the authority of the all sufficient Word. We lead in word and conduct as we proclaim the excellencies of God in all spheres of our lives. Leadership is a skill to develop. We are committed to helping our leaders grow in being better leaders.

Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.

Hebrews 13:7

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ

Ephesians 4:11–12



GROWING IN THE ROLES OF A SMALL GROUP LEADER:

One or more of these roles may not come naturally to us. That is normal; but it does not excuse us from growing and sharpening all our roles. It may mean that we need to learn how to be a better teacher, shepherd, or leader. That is not only okay it is healthy and good. The key is that we are willing to grow in all areas. We all have God given talents and there are skills we learn in His grace. As family members, shepherds, teachers and leaders we humble ourselves before God, love and honor Him, and grow in loving one another and those we lead. We are learners. This is part of our spiritual act of worship and our transformation by renewing our minds (Romans 12:1-2).

DISCIPLESHIP:

All Christians are commissioned to make disciples. Our greatest example of how to do this is Jesus our Lord. Our Small Groups provide discipleship for those who are saved. Discipleship is more than Bible study; it is living life together in such a way that we sharpen each other in loving God and loving people. Small groups provide a platform to safely learn and apply God's Word in our everyday lives. A disciple is a student, learner, a follower, and an imitator of the teacher/mentor/master. In the Bible, "Disciple" is the title most often used to refer to a follower of Jesus. Discipleship is centered on teaching God's Word so that Christians grow into a deeper relationship With Christ and follow Him in a surrendered, faithful, lifestyle.

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers
Acts 2:42

According to Acts 2:42, Discipleship is:

- CHURCH WIDE
(*"And they"* = all of them)
- CONTINUAL
(*"continued steadfastly"*)
- CONCENTRATED
(*"in the apostles' doctrine"*)
- CONNECTING PEOPLE
(*"fellowship, breaking of bread, and in prayers."*)

Discipleship is a growing process with others and through others.



PRAYER:

Never underestimate the importance of prayer. As small group leaders have a role of being prayer warriors and leading others to wage war through prayer. We are always developing a culture that has an ethos of prayer. When someone says pray... we stop and pray.

- Have a list of your group members and pray for them routinely.
- Encourage and budget time to pray for one another in group times.
- Encourage a way for your group to pray specifically as things arise between meetings.
- Keep an account of prayer needs, praises, and answers to prayer.
- Recruit a prayer advocate for your group.
- Pray Luke 10:2 Pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into the harvest field.
- Include fasting in your prayer times.



FELLOWSHIP:

Fellowship is more than friendship as it happens on a heart level between Christian brothers and sisters. We love one another like Jesus loves us and that is nothing short of a divine miracle. We love each other in our divine family even though we are different, come from different backgrounds, have different status' in life, and even look and talk differently. This is God's beautiful plan for His church, His family.

There are imitations of fellowship in our world at the football game, at the gym, at the same-interest club, and at the bar. Biblical Fellowship is so much more than everybody knowing your name. We are one body, as the church. We are united in such a way that we have one blood. We might have different color hair, different color skin, different shapes and sizes, but we all have red blood and we all have the blood of Jesus that unites us.

1 Corinthians 12:12–20 says:

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.



Every time we are together, we have the opportunity for fellowship. Our small groups cultivate fellowship. A farmer cultivates his plants, waters them, plants them in healthy environments, fertilizes, and weeds them, and as a small group leader we cultivate fellowship. When we are intentional about Jesus and the Word of God being the center of time together, we cultivate fellowship. Jesus is our foundation and the Word of God is the mortar that brings us together and helps us stick together. When we root our lives together in the Word of God and on the chief cornerstone Jesus the Messiah, our fellowship is strong, deep, and an amazing blessing to the body of Christ. It is also an amazing attraction to the lost world. Loving Biblical Fellowship is where we see love cover a multitude of sins, through forgiveness, care and concern. Unrighteous fear hinders true love, but God gave us *a spirit of power, love and sound mind* (2 Timothy 1:7). In His love we love each other and have fellowship in genuine, unified, relationships through prayer, support, accountability, and by sharing our lives intimately with each other.

SHARED OWNERSHIP = LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:

Small Group Leaders are not supposed to do it all alone. All leaders have different capacity levels. Leading a small group doesn't mean you do it all alone. Raising up leadership and developing leaders is critical to every successful work in the world. Wisdom tells us to grow, and sharing leadership is essential for every small group.

Shared ownership develops leadership. Everyone should be involved in the spiritual family. In a family, there should not be one person doing everything and twelve people watching. For the same reason that a mom shouldn't be the only one cleaning up after dinner, the group leader shouldn't be the only one serving the group.

Shared ownership:

- Helps prevent leaders from burnout.
- Creates a stronger discipleship culture.
- Means new small group members and immature Christians can begin to serve right away.
- Provides an opportunity to train new leaders in a safe environment. New leaders need opportunities with feedback and coaching to grow.
- Creates a pipeline for developing new small group leaders, allowing for healthier small group multiplication.
- Grows everyone in selfless sacrificial love and hospitality.

HOW DO YOU SHARE OWNERSHIP?

- Plan to share leadership of your group from the beginning.
- Personally invite and challenge the group and individuals to lead in a specific way. Be clear with expectations for both time and duties.
- Rotate small group roles, with designated limits on how long someone will lead a particular role.
 - The goal is to have everyone involved, not to find the best person to fill a role.
 - Sharing ownership is discipleship.
 - More capable leaders can handle larger roles; less mature believers may benefit by shorter leadership terms at first.
 - Groups mature together through shared ownership.
- Consider teams to lead certain roles.
- Celebrate when someone accepts a leadership role and when that person finishes a leadership term.

Note: Shared ownership is not having others lead only when you are absent, nor is it having people do things that you obviously do not care about. We want to make disciples while raising up new leaders, not deputize substitute teachers as needed.

POTENTIAL ROLES

- **Bible Study leader:** Lead the small group through Bible Study curriculum. The small group leader typically serves in this role, but he or she may appoint someone else from the small group to share in leading the Bible Study rhythm. The Team Teaching approach is solid discipleship and very healthy to prevent burnout and to prepare for multiplication.
- **Gender Group Leader** (male and female): Prepare and lead when the men and women segregate for accountability and prayer. A female and male leader are both needed.
- **Missional Hangout leader:** These leaders help small groups proactively scheduling, pray for, and intentionally engage and impact the lost friends, neighbors, and coworkers around us. They help organize Missional Hangouts at least one time every quarter. It is good to rotate this role and to have the leader of the last event help the leader/s of the upcoming event.
- **Family Time Leader:** This role can be held by one or more small group members and should rotate. These leaders help the small group proactively schedule, plan, and coordinate Family Time once a month. It is actually good discipleship to share the hosting so people learn the spiritual discipline of hospitality.
- **Prayer and Communications leader:** These people help the small group prioritize prayer in every aspect and rhythm of small group life and help your small group stay informed and up-to-date on upcoming gatherings, details, and prayer requests between meetings.
- **Missions advocate:** Help the small group prioritize caring for, praying for, and communicating with international, domestic, and local outreach missions partners.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR A SMALL GROUP LEADER:

Small Group Leaders are active followers of Jesus, faithful and active members of Parkway Baptist Church, showing evidence of loving and walking with Jesus daily.

Small Group Leaders understand that they are a loving family member, shepherd, teacher, and leader, and they see their leadership role as a way to humbly love and serve God and to humbly love and serve others.

Small Group Leaders are F.A.T. (Faithful Available and Teachable) followers of Jesus and they love God's Word.

Small Group Leaders are fully committed to the Parkway vision, mission and strategy.

Small Group Leaders recognize the need to live above reproach and seek in every situation to glorify and honor Jesus and His Church.



EXPECTATIONS FOR A SMALL GROUP LEADER:

The Small Group leader cultivates a God loving, Word centered, Jesus focused small group environment.

The Small Group leader leads the group to 1) love and trust God, 2) to connect and care for one another, 3) to build their lives together on Jesus and His all sufficient Scripture, and 4) to Impact our culture and world by making Jesus known as a group through words and actions.

The Small Group leader identifies with and supports the vision, strategy, structure, and routines of the Parkway Baptist Church and Parkway Baptist Small Group Ministry.

The Small Group leader commits to healthy, honoring, routine communication both with their group and with the other leadership of Parkway Baptist Church.

The Small Group leader commits to participation in routine training and sharpening provided for the small group leaders.

The Small Group leader commits to accountability and encouragement from the Parkway Leadership.

The Small Group leader commit to love, pray for, and shepherd their groups' members.

The Small Group leader embraces the missional aspect of a small group both in our community and to the nations.

The Small Group leader seeks to grow the group with creating an all inviting, open group atmosphere, and they are intentionally developing potential future leaders within the group.

The Small Group leader shares ownership and develops leadership within the small group.

HIGH VALUE ACTIVITIES FOR SGL'S

- Love God and walk closely with Him
- Love on People
- Connect and be a connector both in and outside of group meetings
- Proper Prior Prayer and Planning
- Grow in the skill of asking good questions
- Interact with the Word through discussions
- Pray when someone says pray
- Shepherd the sheep
- Model, Assist, Watch, Leave (MAWL)
- Talk about the gospel & Jesus in “unplanned” time
- Lead in having fun together (in group gatherings, dinners, events)
- Engaging locally together. (combined this with having a fun outing? Park day? Bring extra food)
- Sharing testimonies with each other (what has God been teaching you?)
- Invite others constantly
- Lead by example / be a model in word and conduct

QUESTIONS TO ASK FREQUENTLY

- How long have you been at Parkway?
- Are you connecting in one of our small groups?
- Would you like to check out my small group?

PARKWAY BAPTIST CHURCH

parkwayfamily.org

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