

## Becoming A Church “Of” Small Groups

Part of our vision at Oakbrook is to “intentionally make disciples and train leaders.” To accomplish this we believe Oakbrook needs to become a church “of” small groups, not simply a church “with” small groups.

A church “of” small groups organizes its entire ministry around small groups of people with shepherding leaders. Small group ministry is fundamental to accomplishing the mission Christ gave the Church and small groups permeate every area of ministry. From children to youth to adult ministry small groups is a way of accomplishing the mission and doing ministry.

At Oakbrook we believe that being a devoted follower of Christ is to be done “in community”. Christ “appointed twelve that they might be with him.” Mark 3:14 His objective was that they would become like Him. “I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.” John 13:15 His training them to become ‘Christ-like’ was done in a small group.

We believe “doing ministry” is to be done together in community. “And day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.” Acts 2:46-47 Small groups was the norm of the New Testament. Acts 10:24; 16:31-34, 40; Romans 16:3-5; 1 Corinthians 16:19; Colossians 4:15.

### If You Are Interested in...

- ~ gaining more personal understanding of God
- ~ growing in your understanding of God’s Word
- ~ building meaningful relationships with others
- ~ in training for service in the Body of Christ then you belong in a Small Group.

### Please Accept Our Invitation

“Community” is one theme that runs throughout Scripture. God has not only called us into a personal relationship with Him but also into a “forever family”. With great joy and without hesitation we invite you to participate in the ‘community’ of a small group. This is the best way to grow toward Christlikeness and to become “connected” in the Body of Christ.

### Small Group Mission

“To connect people relationally in groups (four to twelve) for the purpose of growing spiritually, loving one another, contributing to the work of the church and developing shepherding leaders in order to glorify Christ and make disciples of all nations.”

### Small Group Values

**Affirmation:** Group members affirm and encourage one another.

**Availability:** Group members share their time, talent, treasure and wisdom with each other.

**Prayer:** Group members praise God and “carry one another’s concerns” to God in prayer.

**Openness and Honesty:** The group promotes honesty and ease of sharing feelings, struggles, joys.

**Safety and Confidentiality:** Being open and honest is built on a commitment to be “safe” people. What is said in the group will remain confidential and an attitude of grace will be extended toward each other.

**Accountability:** As relationships deepen and trust develops members of the group will extend support and help in areas of personal commitments made.

**Outreach:** Group members encourage one another to invite others to join them.

**Multiplication:** We want to see God’s kingdom expand and His care extended to everyone. From the start we want to see leaders rise from within and our small groups grow and eventually ‘birth’ new small groups.