

CCC MESSAGE-BASED STUDY GROUPS

WHAT IS A 'MESSAGE-BASED' STUDY?

A message-based study is a Bible study centered around the sermon series. It provides in-depth and thought provoking questions from the Scripture given on Sunday mornings. Digging deeper resources for personal growth are also provided weekly and throughout each sermon series.

A message-based study is NOT a reteaching of the sermon. Its focus is NOT to evaluate and critique the sermon but rather to dig deeper as a group, leaning in and living out the Word of God together.

WHY ARE WE SWITCHING TO MESSAGE-BASED STUDIES IN GROUPS RATHER THAN DVD OR BOOK STUDIES?

Corporate Unity: God loves unity. Intentionally honoring the series topic discerned by the Pastoral leadership means we are all talking about and walking out the implications of the current series. This unified focus keeps us all on the same page while allowing the Holy Spirit to direct each groups' conversation.

CCC Vision: In the message-based studies, each group engages the Scripture and questions as an intentional part of the vision that is happening throughout the CCC community. It gives CCC a path to move together as we live out God's Word, being united in the same Scripture each week. Go to <http://visitccc.com/events/ind/our-vision> to read CCC's vision.

Group Growth: We need each other to help growth happen. We can learn a lot on our own, but together we can learn more. Message-based groups keep the Bible close at hand. Being on the same page topically allows for better promotion for new people to get involved in groups, helps us better encourage one another to live out what we are learning, and strengthens us as a church as we journey together.

Excellent On-Ramp: Message-based groups tend to be less intimidating to new believers, for those who lack a spiritual background or those who don't know the Bible well.

Easier Application: Knowing that the sermon topic will be discussed in group time increases attentiveness, increases note taking, fosters deeper discussion, focuses on the vision of the church, allows you to reach more people in that if they missed the sermon they are more likely to listen online to prepare for group time and all this leads to more application.

More Group Leaders: It takes less experience and knowledge to facilitate a group than it does to teach a group. To facilitate a group that is message-based, you need to have a growing relationship with God, a heart for people and be willing to learn how to lead a discussion. This enables more people to become group leaders, which allows for more groups to form, impacting more people.

CCC GROUPS FAQ *CONTINUED*

WHAT TYPES OF GROUPS ARE OFFERED AT CCC?

There are three types of groups where people can connect and grow:

Community Groups: These message-based study groups focus on the series topic as attenders share and do life together. They include women, men, and mixed groups.

Focus Groups: These groups meet people where they are in certain stages of life. They meet for a season and then are offered a transition to a Community Group. Example: Foundations (4 weeks)

Support & Recovery Groups: These groups provide a safe place to process the storms of life. Most meet for a season and then are offered a transition to Community Groups, as well.

WHEN AND HOW OFTEN DO GROUPS MEET?

Most groups start in mid-September and go until the end of April with breaks around the holidays. Many groups meet weekly during the season; however some groups meet bi-weekly and/or year round. **Message-based studies for Women's, Men's, and Community Groups will go from September through April, with optional continuation of these groups doing a different Bible study in the summer.**

HOW LONG DO GROUPS STAY TOGETHER?

Each season individuals have the opportunity to remain in their existing group or try out a different group. Each year groups will be asked to discern if they should continue as they are, multiply into two or more groups, or change in some other way.

HOW DO WE GET MESSAGE-BASED MATERIAL?

Discussion questions are available Sunday afternoon online and at the new Groups Center (formally the Ministry Center) in printed form.

CAN MESSAGE-BASED GROUPS WORK FOR PEOPLE WHO MISS A SUNDAY OR DO NOT ATTEND CCC?

Yes, they can. Group members can watch or listen to the message prior to group if they miss a message, or the discussion questions work without even watching the message. You can watch the message live by going to facebook.com/visitccc/videos or at messages.visitccc.com.

WILL WE EVER TALK ABOUT SUBJECTS NOT COVERED IN A MESSAGE SERIES (PARENTING, MARRIAGE, DATING, EVANGELISM, HEALING, SERVING, ETC.)?

Yes. While group content centers on the Sunday service message, the intent for the group is to talk about how it applies in life. This provides great opportunities to apply biblical principles to our marriages, parenting, budgets, dating, etc.

CCC GROUPS FAQ *CONTINUED*

WHAT IF I AM IN A WOMEN'S OR MEN'S GROUP AND A COMMUNITY GROUP?

The message-based study allows for a variety of questions, Scripture, and resources that each leader can dig into uniquely. The intent is for each group to talk about how it applies in their lives as women, men, parents, singles, etc.; therefore, discussion will be different in each group. Being in the same Scripture more than once allows for greater opportunities for God's Word to stick in our hearts and be lived out in our actions. The pull of where to divide personal spiritual growth between multiple Bible study groups is removed in this model.

HOW DO PEOPLE JOIN A GROUP?

There are two ways for people to join a group. The most common time to join a group is just prior to a group's season when new groups are open. Existing groups also list their openings for additional members. Before each group's season starts, interested people can sign up for groups online or in person on a Sunday.

Many groups remain open to new members throughout the year and are also listed online. Other groups launch from Support & Recovery or Focus groups that have built relationships during the season. And finally, interested parties can launch their own groups after filling out the Group Leader Application and completing Group Leader Training.

WHAT IF SOMEONE WANTS TO TRY A DIFFERENT GROUP?

People sometimes try different groups before they find one with the "right fit". If someone wants to switch within the first 2 weeks of a group starting and there is another group that they are interested in, we can help to make that change.

CAN MY GROUP DO A DIFFERENT BIBLE STUDY OTHER THAN MESSAGE-BASED?

Based on the benefits listed in the FAQ, we are leaning into message-based groups for this season at CCC from September through April. Groups have the option to choose a different Bible study if they wish to continue meeting in the summer. Focus groups may study different curriculum based on the group's focus (example: financial peace) for a limited time (example: 6 weeks).

WILL WE STILL DO EVENTS JUST FOR WOMEN, MEN, STUDENTS, ETC.?

Yes, from time to time we will have separate events as they connect to our vision or the message series.

CCC GROUPS FAQ *CONTINUED*

WHAT DOES GROUP LEADER TRAINING LOOK LIKE?

New group leaders will be instructed in the basics of facilitating discussion questions, handling group dynamics, and how to gracefully handle situations that may arise. Group leader training will be offered regularly.

WHAT KIND OF SUPPORT WILL GROUP LEADERS HAVE?

Group leaders will be assigned a Groups Team Leader who they can check in with if they have any additional questions and concerns. Team leaders will regularly check in with their Group Leaders but are also available for questions or to talk through concerns as needed.

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SUPPORT & RECOVERY GROUPS?

care.visitccc.com or send an email with your questions to care@visitccc.com