

# Small Group Covenant

There is a huge advantage to agreeing to a covenant with your group. It helps everyone understand the expectations we have for each other. A covenant helps eliminate disappointments and lack of understanding, as well as creates clarity. It really helps the whole group get on the same page.

Here are some basic points of a group covenant:

- 1. Be There:** Make it a priority to be there. Make the commitment, stay consistent, protect your calendar.
- 2. Be Ready:** Be ready for each small group meeting by doing any work needed ahead of time (if necessary).
- 3. Be Engaged:** Groups work best when everyone participates in the discussion by not only sharing, but also being a good listener.
- 4. Be Yourself:** Everyone has a story that is worth telling and hearing. Opening our lives to those we trust allows God to use our stories to provide encouragement, guidance and wisdom as we navigate through difficulties.
- 5. Be Kind:** There will be times we have different opinions. We will treat each other with respect even when we do not agree. We care for each other when we think before we speak, do not dominate the conversation and consider if what we say will hurt someone else.
- 6. Protect Confidences:** Groups are only safe if things can be shared in confidence. If we share something outside of the group, we breach the trust of the group. When we break confidentiality, it often leads to hurt feelings and ruined relationships.
- 7. Pray Often:** We show care when we pray with and for others. God draws near to us when we pray and draws our hearts toward others through prayer.