



fx church

foot of the cross

re:group

Purpose

Great Commandment: Matthew 22:36-40 Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Great Commission: Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:7-8, "Go be fruitful and multiply" (OT)

FOOT OF THE CROSS CHURCH exists to GO Love God and Love people making disciples through commitments to KNO SHO GRO.

We can only *create environments* where love and discipleship can happen.

The reality is that if you are not in a group you will struggle to feel loved and discipled.

Act 2:42-47- Large gathering and homes. We still have the same issues.

People

Ephesians 4:15-**21** "Submit to one another out of a love of Christ."

1 Peter 4:7-11 "Be hospitable to one another without complaining."

FARTS for Jesus: Faithful Available Real Teachable Surrendered

Multigenerational: Titus 2:1-8 (older/younger) James 1:27-2:1 (widows/orphans)
2 Timothy 2:2 (entrust to reliable men) While it's natural to invite people who are around our age or culture we must be willing to reach outside our comfort zones and purposefully invite and reach out to people regardless of age or culture.

Facilitator: A church approved leader who only needs to be one step ahead.

Co facilitator: The leader under the facilitator preparing to take the next group.

Host: The person who is having the group in their home.

Insiders: People who have attended by invitation or request.

Outsiders: People who have not been connected to a group.

Children: YOU MUST HAVE A WELL THOUGHT OUT PLAN! If you are going to create an environment for love and discipleship, you must plan for kids. No area of our life exposes us more than when children are a part of a gathering. The church has been dealing with childcare and different parenting styles for centuries. We can handle it. (See attached **Childcare**)

Group size: 6-15 Consistently 15 or beyond is unsustainable. Jesus only had 12. Once you have reached the upper number begin to plan to grow a new group.

Place

Meet in homes. "...the church that meets in...home."

Geographical: This is the best option for Care, Growth, and Strategy. Host homes can rotate just have a well communicated plan.

House rules: Be sure to set house ground rules when people arrive. Nothing causes more conflict in relationships than uncommunicated expectations.

Plan

Ephesians 4:11-16 “*equip the saints for the works of ministry*”

As a group you will need to think through GO KNO SHO GRO commitments.

Re:group is not just a bible study or group of friends. This is a group of people being equipped to live the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.

Material: We are educated far beyond our obedience. We do re:group notes (online) that go along with the Sunday morning sermon series. We would expect you to do these notes. If you would like to do a special material, you will need to get permission in advance. Keep in mind Christian books and bible studies are not an addendum to the Bible. God’s word is sufficient. Often people want to use a bible study or sermon to confront people instead of a loving conversation out of our own brokenness and healing. Your best material will flow out of your own discipleship and obedient walk. One idea for doing a book or bible study is to have separate smaller group for a set time outside of your re:group with insiders and/or outsiders (i.e. Men’s/Women’s).

Food: This could be a meal, a sweet and/or salty snack, just drinks (non alcoholic please as underage people could be invited to a group). Keep in mind that there is a cost to providing and bringing food and refreshments. Communicate expectations and plan clearly so people have time to prepare. If you are doing a meal, divide up different parts of the meal to different people. Keep in mind that there may be people with dietary or cultural restrictions. Do your best to serve them, and they should do their best to serve the group.

Plan in chunks: It *MAY* also help to think in terms of OPEN and CLOSED.

OPEN: Sept (RELAUNCH)-Nov (Thanksgiving)

CLOSED: Nov-Dec (Christmas)

OPEN: Jan-Mar (Spring Break)

CLOSED: Mar-May (School end)

OPEN: June-Aug

Special Events: Be sure to plan special events where the environment would be easier for outsiders to attend. These are especially effective around holidays and seasonal activities.

Flexible: Plan in the power of the Holy Spirit and adjust in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Produce

Galatians 5- “*Fruit*”

Acts 9:31- Increase in numbers

Growth is not a problem. Fruit is a byproduct of healthy organisms. We desire that your groups would be bearing fruit all week long in insiders and outsiders lives.

How long: All living things have life cycles. The average lifecycle of a small group is typically 18-36 months. We would hope that instead of groups dying they would be reproducing.

Problems

John 16:33 - *"You will have trouble."*

Hebrews 13:16-17- *"Obey your leaders"*

We are all sinful people who are being sanctified by Jesus through the Holy Spirit. As a group facilitator or co facilitator you are under the care and discipleship of the Church leaders. You will have problems. Your stuff will get messed up. People will get hurt.

There will be problems. It is still worth it. Please seek out wise counsel.

As an insider, you may have problems. Please, seek the wisdom of the facilitator and if necessary the Church leadership.

We are excited about what God is doing in and through the people at fx. We hope that you would connect and commit to a re:group so that you could be in an environment for more love and discipleship.

Pray

Prayer is mentioned over 190 times in the Old Testament and 166 times in the New Testament. It is the foundation of everything we do. Prayer is not just talking. it is also listening. Listening through the word, other believers, and silence.

Current groups

meeting this Fall:

- ELLETTSVILLE at the Shockney's, SUN 6-8pm, contact mat@fxchurch.com
- SOUTH SIDE at the Kirtman's, SUN 6-8pm, contact trevor@fxchurch.com
- WEST SIDE at the Snyder's, SUN 6-8pm, contact mac@fxchurch.com
- CAMPUS at ??? TUE 8-10pm, contact trevor@fxchurch.com
- YOUTH at the Banneker, SUN 6-8pm, contact bryan@fxchurch.com

Register

To get connected to a re:group, please fill out the re:group interest form on our website.

CHILDCARE

Lay out house ground rules and why. Be as specific as possible.
Be sure participants know the plan so they have time to plan.

Concerning Location of Childcare

1. The children and the adult group meet in the same home. The adults meet in the living room while the children are being watched in another part of the house. Be sure to consider weather as well.
2. The children are being cared for in another home within a reasonable drive of the home where the adults are meeting. During the meeting designate one cell phone to receive calls. Choose the person's phone that gets the least amount of calls. This is the designated phone in case there's an emergency where the children are being watched. If that phone rings, all stops until the group is certain if there is an emergency with the children.
3. Children are cared for in their own home. Parents find their own childcare. This can be costly over time and the group needs to plan other times for entire families in the group to get together.

Concerning Who Does Childcare

1. Groups care for one another's children. A group that meets on Tuesday night may partner with a group that meets on Thursday night. The Thursday night group is responsible to send two people to watch the children during the Tuesday night group's meeting. The Tuesday night group does the same for the group that meets on Thursday night. Groups can meet every other week and watch the other group kids on the off week.
2. Use students from the church to take care of the children during the meeting. This is often very settling for the parents of the children as the parents could possibly utilize the students that are already being hired to baby sit their children.
3. Group members take turns doing childcare. In some groups, group members take turns watching the children during meetings. In these situations, a couple of people are with the children during the adult meeting time then the next week a different couple of people take care of the kids while the adults are meeting. This rotating system can work, but there isn't consistency in the group dynamic. It is best if 2 women or 2 men couple up to watch the kids not a married or dating couple.

You can do a mix of all of these. Care for the little ones by having a plan and giving people advance notice so they can plan. Plan in the power of the Holy Spirit and adjust in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Rethinking Pastoral Care (Disciple making)

By Zach Below

It's obvious that I'm being a little facetious, but I want to suggest a paradigm shift in how we view "pastoral care" in our churches. I believe the model of "paid staff does it all" is antiquated, isn't scalable, and models an incomplete teaching on what it means to be a pastor shepherd.

1. TRAINING. I'm going to let you in on a little secret. I went to 4+ years of Bible College and never took a single class, seminar, or even heard a lecture titled "How to Make Proper Hospital Visits" or even "How to Be There for a Family in Need." I have no education or training that makes me any more qualified than the next person to love on people in need.

2. PERSONALITY. You put me in a room with a stranger, and I am guaranteed to crank up the awkward meter. If I'm visiting someone I don't know in the hospital, I always end up asking weird questions, making strange comments, or just raising the awkward level all in all. If you are a patient in a hospital, what is the last thing you want to feel on top of sick and anxious? Awkward!

3. GIFTING. We recently had a two-day retreat with the core team members from our campus. During that time, we took a "spiritual gifts test." What is interesting is that NO ONE on our paid staff had more than a trace of a "shepherding gift." What's even more interesting is that about 10 of our core members had it as their number-one gift.

On the flip side, when small groups pastor/shepherd one another...

1. It's Personal. If you are grouping with someone, they are your people. When we shepherd one another in our groups, it is a personal endeavor because we are directly tied to one another. While I don't necessarily feel called to visit everyone in the hospital as a "paid staff member," you couldn't keep me away from being there for my people.

2. It's Authentic. Small groups often claim that we "do life together." Loving and supporting one another is an authentic and natural action that flows out of life together.

3. It's Empowering. When we designate staff members to manage all "pastoral care," we are robbing our members from getting to be the church. It's time we empower our people to be pastors right where they are.

So, the question is, who are you pastoring/shepherding? Make a list of "your people" and give an honest evaluation of how you are pastoring them.