

*“As iron sharpens iron,
so one person sharpens another.”*

PROVERBS 27:17



FOUNDRY GROUPS

**TO KNOW GOD AND MAKE
HIM KNOWN.**

Welcome to a new quarter of Foundry Groups! We are so grateful for your leadership and willingness to serve your group. In this packet, you will find helpful information to prepare you for this quarter of Group meetings!

- First Night Preparation Agenda to help you have a great first meeting
- Group Commitment to help set the expectations for your group
- Leader's Guide Commitment to help you walk through the Commitment with your group
- More information about our Social Week and Serve Week
- Four questions to ask when someone is struggling with something in your group
- Information about our Care Team at the Foundry Church and other areas our Ministry Partners can help with

Any additional information you might need, please don't hesitate to reach out to our Foundry Groups Team. Thanks so much for all you do! We are praying for a blessed quarter for your group.

Joshua DeVries and Chantal VanDyke



FOUNDRY GROUPS

FIRST MEETING PREPARATION AGENDA

Leaders/Hosts – Check your rosters online and CONTACT ALL MEMBERS one week before the first meeting and welcome them to the group.

Provide the location and time of your group, as well as any entrees to bring for dinner/dessert.

GOALS FOR THE FIRST MEETING

- Rekindle relationships and meet new members
- Clarify your group's direction/expectations/commitments
- Pray for the building of relationships and the spiritual growth of the group
- Briefly discuss the sermon topic (if there is time)
- Have fun!

ITEMS NEEDED

- Dinner and/or dessert plans decided
- Beverages set up
- Your game from the Group Leader Kickoff Celebration
- Group Commitment Page
- Name tags (especially if you have new members)

THREE ESSENTIAL PARTS OF YOUR MEETING

1. WELCOME, MINGLE AND TALK WHILE YOU EAT

Leader/Host greets members upon arrival with music. The first seven seconds after arrival are critical for new members. Make a great first impression!

2. FIRST GROUP DISCUSSION

Sharing Activity: "Getting to know you" questions and/or Getting to know you game like 2 Lies and a Truth.

Worship (optional): This is a great way to connect spiritually with your group.

REVIEWING THE COMMITMENT IS CRUCIAL

Closing Prayer: Dedicate the quarter to God.

3. KEEP IN MIND, YOUR DESSERT CONVERSATIONS ARE JUST AS IMPORTANT AS YOUR MEETING DISCUSSIONS.

COMMITMENT

Small groups thrive on consistency and participation! The purpose of this commitment is to help you discuss and clarify your group's goals, expectations, and commitments.

FOUNDRY GROUPS: THEIR PURPOSE

Foundry Groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth through meaningful Christian relationships and the study of God's Word (Romans 8:29 & Hebrews 10:24-25). We'll do this by focusing on four primary activities:

SHARE- Each week we'll take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first, this sharing can include planned "sharing questions," but after the first few weeks, it will become more informal and personal as we feel more comfortable.

STUDY- Each week we'll study a section from God's Word that relates to the previous weekend's sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life.

SUPPORT- Each week we'll learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (John 15:9-13). This care can take many forms, such as prayer, encouragement, listening, challenging one another, and meeting real needs.

SERVE- Spiritual growth is fostered not only by what we gain through the support and input of others but also through service to others. The role each of us fills is important to the health of the church and for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to our community (Ephesians 4:11-16). Throughout the quarter, it is our hope you can find and/or be affirmed in the ways God has designed you to serve and make a difference in God's Kingdom.

FIVE MARKS OF A HEALTHY GROUP

For our group to be healthy, we need to...

1. Make spiritual growth our number one priority (Romans 8:29).
2. Accept one another (Romans 15:7).
3. Take care of one another (John 13:34).
4. Treat each other with respect (Ephesians 4:25-5:2).
5. Keep our commitments to the group (Psalm 15:1-2, 4b).

GUIDELINES & COMMITMENT

1. Dates

We'll meet on _____ nights for _____ weeks. Our final meeting of this quarter will be on _____.

2. Time

We'll arrive between _____ & _____ and begin the meeting at _____. We'll spend approximately _____ minutes in singing (optional), _____ minutes in study/discussion, and _____ minutes in prayer/sharing.

3. Study

Our studies will focus on the same topic covered in the previous weekend's sermon. Our goal is to hear from everyone every night and keep God's Word at the center.

4. Prayer

Praying for one another.

5. Homework & Attendance

Joining a Foundry Group requires a commitment to attend each week and do the homework ahead of time. Obviously, allowances are made for sickness, work conflicts, and other special events—but not much more! If we cannot come to a meeting, we will call or text _____.

6. Dessert

7. Social & Service Projects

Get out your calendars and plan a day during our Social (Week of October 16) and Serve (Week of November 26) weeks for your Group to get together.



FOUNDRY GROUPS

LEADER'S GUIDE COMMITMENT

- Each copy of the Groups Workbook will contain a copy of the commitment
- When discussing, use the proactive leadership style - clear direction, yet flexible

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FOUNDRY GROUPS: THEIR PURPOSE

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SHARE- Each week we'll take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first, this sharing can include planned "sharing questions," but after the first few weeks, it will become more informal and personal as we feel more comfortable.

STUDY- Each week we'll study a section from God's Word that relates to the previous weekend's sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life.

Our goal is to interact interpersonally on the topic and how we can practically follow Christ, not to answer all the questions.

SUPPORT- Each week we'll learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (John 15:9-13). This care can take many forms, such as prayer, encouragement, listening, challenging one another, and meeting real needs.

SERVE- Spiritual growth is fostered not only by what we gain through the support and input of others but also through service to others. The role each of us fills is important to the health of the church and for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to our community (Ephesians 4:11-16). Throughout the quarter, it is our hope you can find and/or be affirmed in the ways God has designed you to serve and make a difference in God's Kingdom.

FIVE MARKS OF A HEALTHY GROUP

For our group to be healthy, we need to...

1. Make spiritual growth our number one priority (Romans 8:29).

⇒ Tangents – they are okay sometimes, but sometimes we need to be refocused. We'll need to keep spiritual growth our focus and stay on topic.

2. Accept one another (Romans 15:7).

⇒ We will have different preferences.

3. Take care of one another (John 13:34).

⇒ When a crisis happens we're there to help with support, prayer, encouragement, listening, meals, connecting you with pastoral support when needed, etc.

4. Treat each other with respect (Ephesians 4:25-5:2).

⇒ Listening to one another, if one's talking let's all listen, nothing worse than two conversations going on at once.

⇒ Our goal is to listen, not give advice. (Advice is given when asked for) We are not here to judge or fix – unless someone asks. An example of giving advice is by saying, "Well this is what I think you should do." On the other hand, that doesn't mean we can't question what is said or what someone is doing.

⇒ Some of us have the gift of gab, also known as a dominator – be careful, I as a leader might have to help you.

⇒ Be careful of gossip prayers. For example, "We need to pray for (person's name) because they are doing this ..."

⇒ No put-downs.

⇒ What is said here, stays here – of course, we never promise confidentiality if something shared would be harmful to yourself or someone else and/or if I, as the leader, need to seek counsel on how to respond to an issue in the group.

5. Keep our commitments to the group (Psalm 15:1-2, 4b).

⇒ Please give us a call if you can't make it to Life Group so we know what's going on and how to pray for you.

GUIDELINES & COMMITMENT

1. Dates

We'll meet on _____ nights for _____ weeks. Our final meeting of this quarter will be on _____. **Fill in blanks**

2. Time

We'll arrive between _____ & _____ and begin the meeting at _____. We'll spend approximately _____ minutes in singing (optional), _____ minutes in study/discussion, and _____ minutes in prayer/sharing. **Fill in blanks**

3. Study

Our studies will focus on the same topic covered in the previous weekend's sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to hear from everyone every night and keep God's Word at the center. **Not to answer every question.**

4. Prayer

Praying for one another.

Remember - being forced to pray in groups or just the idea of it can cause people to not want to come to your group. If you have new people in your group, you might want to say something like this: "It's exciting to see how God works in our lives through prayer. We also realize prayer in groups is something many have never done. Know that you will never be forced to pray."

5. Homework & Attendance

Joining a Life Group requires a commitment to attend each week and do the homework ahead of time. Obviously, allowances are made for sickness, work conflicts, and other special events—but not much more! **This commitment is the key to a healthy group.**

If we cannot come to a meeting, we will call or text

_____.
⇒ Emphasize the importance of the commitment to attendance and preparation. (A good group starts with good preparation)

⇒ Make sure that everyone is with you. (Do we agree? Is this what we want? Make eye contact, etc.)

⇒ Most weeks require 20-30 minutes of homework to prepare for the group study and discussion.

6. Dessert

Have everyone sign up for a night to do dessert.

7. Social & Service Projects

Get out your calendars and plan a day during our Social (Week of October 16) and Serve (week of November 26) weeks for your Group to get together.

Emphasize the importance of a quarterly social and service project. Ask the group to bring their calendars next week. New groups are preferred to have their social by mid-quarter. You can refer to Social and Serve Week in this guidebook for more information.

**We agree to honor this commitment throughout the quarter.
(To be decided by each person on or before the third week.)**



FOUNDRY GROUPS

SOCIAL AND SERVE WEEK

We have built into our fall quarter a time for your Group's to go out (or stay in) and be social and to serve together. Though we have only built in these two weeks into our calendar we want to encourage you to be as social and serving as YOUR calendars will allow. We believe these are two ways to both deepen and strengthen the relationships you are making.

Our Social Week will be the week of October 16, 2023, after we have guest speaker Larry Osborne visit us. We will be posting a number of ideas for you and your Group to do later on our website, so make sure you check back in regularly.

Our Serve Week will be the week of November 26, 2023. It is our hope that this will give you an opportunity to not only serve together with your Group but to also serve alongside other Group's at the Foundry. We will be posting a list of all the service opportunities on our website so you'll want to check in by the beginning of October to select your Group's service project.

CARE AND PRAYER RESOURCES

Care Questions

The Four Q's

Four key questions to ask when someone comes to you with any issue they're experiencing. Getting the facts and context usually makes the next steps relatively straightforward on how to support them or the kind of help they need.

1. How long have you been dealing with this?
 - When did this first occur?
 2. Who else knows?
 - Have you talked to anyone else about this? If so, who? When was the last time you talked to someone about it?
 3. Have you received any advice or counsel on how to deal with this?
 - What have those you've talked to said about it? Have you sought any other help or resources regarding this issue?
 4. Do you have any plans for your next steps?
 - What do you think might be your next step? Would you like me to check on some other resources? (Don't make the calls but give them referrals, etc.)
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INSIDE THE FOUNDRY RESOURCES

MEAL TEAM

We have developed a team of people who love to cook! If someone needs more meals than you are able to provide, we can ask the Meal Team for support. I will create a MealTrain and the team can sign up as they are able.

FREEZER MEALS

We are starting to get together a few times a year to make meals for the church freezer. You can use these at any time to supplement meals for someone who needs them.

CARE PROJECTS TEAM

If you have a person who needs help around the house with things like; yard work, minor home repairs, cleaning, shoveling snow, etc. we can employ the help of the Care Projects Team!

CARE FUND

We do have a small fund set aside to help with small financial needs or put gifts together. If someone is in need of a gas card, grocery gift card, or gift basket, this fund can help!

EACH OTHER

We have an incredibly gifted Care Team who have different life experiences. If you're in conversation with someone who is struggling in an area that you aren't familiar with, ask your Care Teammates if anyone is able to give support.

OUTSIDE THE CHURCH RESOURCES

We have partnered with a number of ministries here in West Michigan that are able to provide professional and additional support. If you, your Group's Members, or someone you encounter are dealing with any of the following please reach out to Alison Elders- alison.elders@foundrychurch.net or 616-748-2439.

- Mood disorders
- Trauma
- Parenting issues
- Marriage problems
- Divorce recovery
- Domestic violence situations
- Identity or worth issues
- Grief or loss
- Crisis living
- Poverty
- Homelessness
- Budget counseling due to deficient funds month to month.
- For unplanned pregnancies, our ministry partners can help you with; pregnancy testing, and ultrasounds, and can walk you through pregnancy options. They also have support services for the men involved in these situations.