

“GROUP MINISTRY” THROUGH BIBLE EFC

June 2008

Intention:

Bible EFC will encourage, endorse, and provide coaching/equipping for relational ministry. “Group Ministry” has as the primary purpose of creating environments for relational connection to occur with Jesus and others. As a church we are not concerned with the type, style, format, or common interest that unites the group, rather we desire to excite people’s desire to gather together with the purpose of relating with God and one another.

As life happens ~ if people are relationally connected to one another for the purpose of knowing and applying the Bible to their lives, we believe the Holy Spirit will bring about Spiritual life-transformation, which will result in disciples who are convinced, changed, called, and committed.

Initiation:

Bible EFC desires for the impetus, expansion, and multiplication of “Group Ministry” to be a grassroots movement fueled by the Holy Spirit, with very few (see below) top down hindrances or ongoing bureaucratic management.

Endorsement:

Bible EFC desires to be aware of and incorporate into regular promotion available Bible Groups for people to connect into. Toward this end groups in order to gain endorsement must:

1. Designate or have a point person, leader, or facilitator
(*Subject to Women and Teaching Roles at Bible EFC document*)
 - Meet (at least yearly) with a Pastor to discuss specifics for their “Group’s Ministry”
 - Complete a written “Group Ministry Proposal” as the basis for meeting with a Pastor
 - Communicate with the church office any relevant schedule or location changes
2. Define their own meeting schedule, location(s), and (at least a yearly) ending/evaluation date
3. Gain a yearly endorsement from a Pastoral Staff member

Instruction:

Bible EFC will offer a minimum of three corporate “Group Ministry” equipping opportunities each ministry year. This will be highly recommended for people involved with “Group Ministry” but it is not required. Personal (individualized for the group) equipping/coaching toward “Group Ministry” will be limited only by the desire of the point person, leader, or facilitator and the schedule availability of the Pastoral Staff.

Implementation:

Ongoing “Group Ministry” as God directs is intentionally entrusted to the Holy Spirit, group and its point person, leader, or facilitator as they seek God to determine His will and direction. The Bible EFC office, in partnership with the Adult Ministry Team and/or Pastoral Staff, will create, keep current, and publish in a variety of venues ~ lists of “Endorsed” Groups for individuals, couples, families to relationally connect into.

“GROUP MINISTRY” ~ PROPOSAL FORM

Bible EFC has entrusted its “Group Ministry” up to God. We simply require that you complete this one page written form or verbally discuss it with a Pastor, so that we have an accurate understanding of how God has inspired you to relationally connect people to Jesus and others.

The Pastoral Staff will use this outline when you meet (at least yearly) toward launching or evaluating your group’s ministry. So **tell us about your ministry** 😊
POINT PERSON/LEADER/FACILITATOR NAME/PHONE/E-MAIL:

GROUP NAME: _____
(not required – facilitators last name will be used as a default toward identification)

GROUP MEETING LOCATION(S): _____

GROUP SCHEDULE: (Day/Time/Frequency)

GROUP EVALUATION/ENDING DATE: (must be within one ministry year)

GROUP AVAILABILITY/ACCESSABILITY: (please circle) **Open**😊 **Closed:**

If closed please provide rationale... _____

GROUP DESCRIPTION/PURPOSE:

HOW WILL THIS GROUP PLAN TO FURTHER BIBLE EFC’s MISSION & VISION?
(on back)

DO YOU KNOW JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR PERSONAL SAVIOR AND LORD? YES / NO
DO YOU AGREE WITH BIBLE EFC’s STATEMENTS OF FAITH? (on back) **YES / NO** ~ if no or not entirely, what are your points of contention/non-alignment?

HAVING MET & DISCUSSED THE ABOVE BIBLE EFC ENDORSES THIS GROUP!
Pastor’s Signature _____ **Date** _____

“GROUP MINISTRY” REFERENCE OF BIBLE EFC’S MISSION/VISION/STATEMENTS OF FAITH

Mission:

Bible EFC exists to honor God first in Tomah and then throughout the world by making disciples of Jesus Christ who are becoming **convinced** by him, **changed** to be like him, **called** to his priorities, and **committed** to loving relationships. (Mark 12:28-33)

Vision:

We will be a community full of life – real, everyday followers of Jesus who consistently multiply communities of Christ-followers so that an increasing percentage of our mission field is connected to Jesus and others.

Bible EFC Statement of Faith:

God

1. We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory.

The Bible

2. We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.

The Human Condition

3. We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image, but they sinned when tempted by Satan. In union with Adam, human beings are sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God, and under His wrath. Only through God’s saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled and renewed.

Jesus Christ

4. We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one Person in two natures. Jesus—Israel’s promised Messiah—was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate.

The Work of Christ

5. We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed His blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation.

The Holy Spirit

6. We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners, and in Him they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service.

The Church

7. We believe that the true church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ, of which He is the Head. The true church is manifest in local churches, whose membership should be composed only of believers. The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, which visibly and tangibly express the gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer.

Christian Living

8. We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially, and to live out our faith with care for one another, compassion toward the poor and justice for the oppressed. With God's Word, the Spirit's power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil. In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people, always bearing witness to the gospel in word and deed.

Christ's Return

9. We believe in the personal, bodily and premillennial return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission.

Response and Eternal Destiny

10. We believe that God commands everyone everywhere to believe the gospel by turning to Him in repentance and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that God will raise the dead bodily and judge the world, assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth, to the praise of His glorious grace. Amen.