Aldersgate UMC - Growth Groups

**Growth Groups: Their Purpose**

## Growth Groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth through significant Christian relationships centered and study of God’s Word. (Hebrews 10:24-25, Romans 8:29) We will do this by focusing on four primary activities.

## SHARE

## Each week, we will take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first this sharing will include some planned “sharing questions.” After the first few weeks, it will become more informal and personal as our group feels safer and more comfortable.

STUDY

Each week we will study a portion of God’s Word that relates to the weekends sermon. Our goal is to learn how to apply and live out our Christianity in our day-to-day experiences and relationships.

SUPPORT

Each week, we will learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded. (John 15:9-13) This care will take many forms, such as praying, listening, meeting needs, and encouraging and even challenging one another as needed.

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 imitation of Jesus to our community (Ephesians 4:11-16). Throughout the semester, it is our hope that 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. Focus on growing into deeply devoted disciples of Jesus together as a top priority (Philippians 2:1-4)

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

3. Take care of one another. (John 13:34, James 1:19-20)

4. Treat one another with respect. (Eph. 4:25-5:2)

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

**Growth Group: Covenant**

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This Growth Group will meet on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ nights/afternoon from date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Time: We’ll arrive by \_\_\_\_\_ p.m. and begin the meeting. We’ll spend time sharing, studying and discussing, and praying for each other. We’ll end the meeting by \_\_\_\_\_ to allow the children to be picked up by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Study: Each week we’ll study the same topics/scriptures covered in that day’s sermon. There will be homework questions in the church bulletin every week, and they are also on the website (www.aldersgateabilene.org). The questions need to be answered before you come to group each week to be prepared for the study/discussion.

Homework and Attendance: Joining a Growth Group requires commitment to attend the group and Sunday morning worship (or listen to the podcast) each week and do the homework ahead of time. Obviously, allowances are made for sickness, vacation, work conflicts, and other special events - but not much more! This commitment is the key to a healthy group. If you cannot come to a meeting please contact a leader and let him/her know.

Socials: We will plan 1 social outside of group time that could include children if the group decides on that.

Service Projects: We’ll plan 1 or 2 service projects a year. Please let the leaders know if you have an idea on this.

We agree together in Christ to honor this covenant.

(To be decided on and signed by each group member on or before the third week.)

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