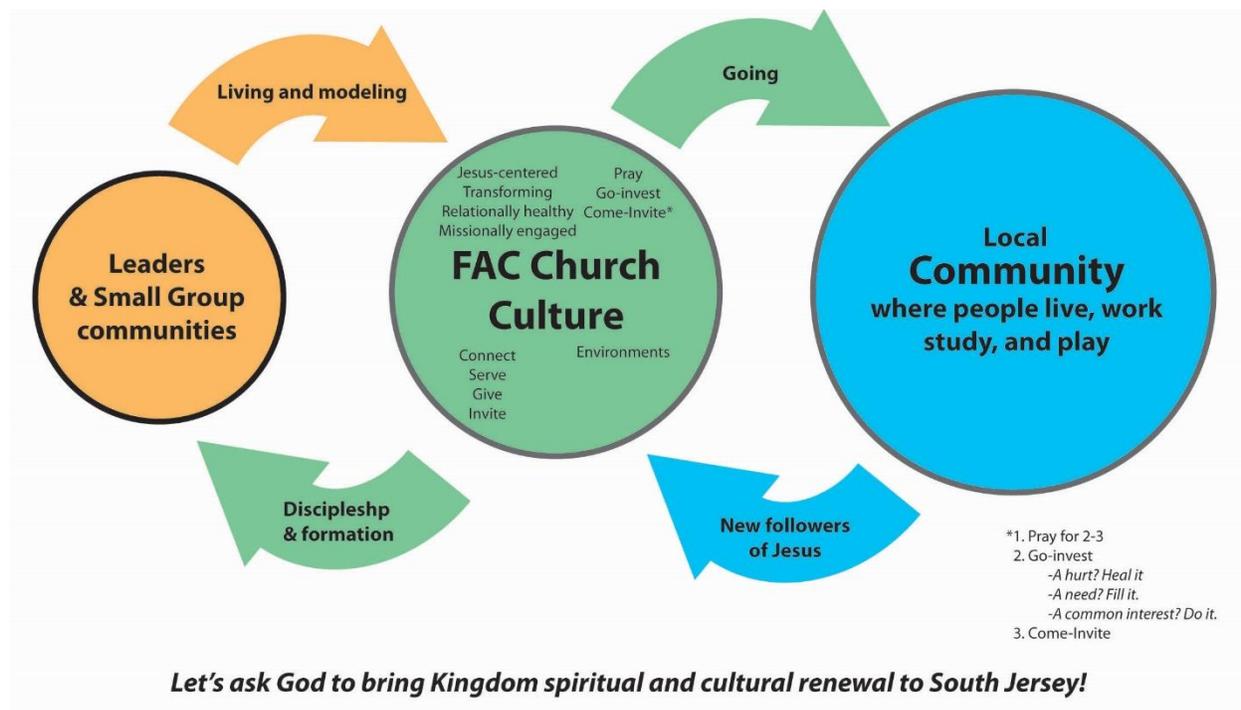


Vision Statement: *“To see communities where people are encouraged and equipped to lead Jesus-centered, missionally-engaged, and relationally-healthy lives.”*

Mission Statement: *“To guide people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ, developed through love, service and community.”*

Changed lives change a local community and the world. This sums up our vision, values and strategy as a church, and it is really God’s vision and mission. God’s vision and mission from Genesis all the way to Revelation is that He has purposed in His sovereign love to rescue and bring a sinful world of His fallen creation to a redeemed world of His new creation through the person and work of Jesus Christ. How has God planned to accomplish this in our day and age? It is through the mission of the church, a people empowered by the Holy Spirit and in the authority of Jesus living **Jesus-centered, missionally-engaged, and relationally-healthy lives.**

We want to build a culture of changed lives, fully-engaged in the life of our church, and having an impact on the local community where we live work, study and play. Community Groups are the small group communities for discipleship and formation at FAC.



What is a Community Group?*

A **Community Group** that meets at home or at the church campus is defined as: a group of people **led** by a Host(s), **meeting regularly**, incorporating **Scripture** in their life together, **reproducing** new Community Groups, and **growing** together through love, service, and community to be:

- *Jesus-Centered*
- *Relationally Healthy*
- *Missionally Engaged*

***NO MATTER WHAT TYPE OF GROUP THE GOAL IS BEING A HEALTHY DISCIPLE THAT IS JESUS-CENTERED, RELATIONALLY HEALTHY, AND MISSIONALLY ENGAGED**

What are the Qualifications to be a Community Group Host(s)?

1. **Committed follower of Jesus and pursues a growing relationship with God.**
2. **Committing** to 1 full year of leading their Community Group.
3. **Being/becoming a Fully-Engaged at FAC** – Connect, Serve, Give, Invite
4. **Embracing the following FAC Core Values:**
 - A Jesus-centered life
 - A missionally engaged life
 - A relationally healthy life
 - A transforming life

Types of Community Groups at FAC:

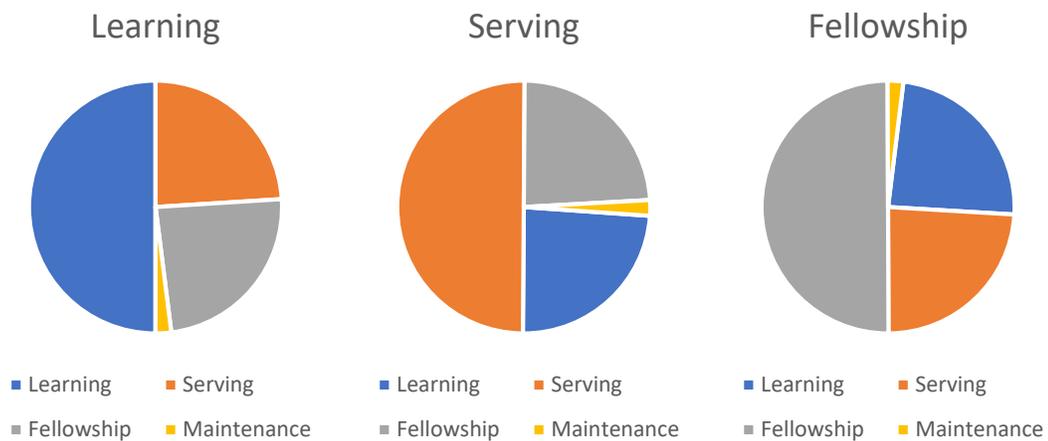
- **Community Groups for Adults** (Mixed-gender)
 - *Leader:* led by a man or a married couple
- **Community Groups for Men**
 - *Leader:* led by a man
- **Community Groups for Women**
 - *Leader:* led by a woman

What are the Expectations and Role of a Community Group Host(s)?

Ten Keys to Effective Community Group Leadership:

1. **Connect:** Connect to a Leadership event and connect with the Leadership Team members.
 - There will also be ongoing **workshops and training events** throughout the year.
2. **Recruit:** Recruit your core members for your group.
3. **Invite:** Invite others to join your group (if you can't invite, we will put your group online as open)
 - **Be sure to respond** to emails within 24 hours from people interested in joining your group (if your group is not FULL).

4. **Prepare:** Even though all Community Groups are to have each component in their group, prepare with the group what focus your group will be (learning, serving, or fellowship)*



***NO MATTER WHAT TYPE OF GROUP THE GOAL IS BEING A HEALTHY DISCIPLE THAT IS JESUS-CENTERED, RELATIONALLY HEALTHY, AND MISSIONALLY ENGAGED. See back of guide for examples of each.**

5. **Meet:** Meet for the first time and use recommended curriculum.
6. **Look:** When you are sitting at a Worship Service, be on the look-out for those disconnected and invite them to your group.
7. **Serve:** Serve needs in your group and outside your group (hurt or need).
8. **Live:** Encourage people to live missional lives where they live, work, study and play.
9. **Bring:** Always bring someone from your group to any of the Leader Trainings or Workshops
10. **Pursue:** Pursue God alone through spiritual disciplines to increase hunger for God and attentiveness to the Spirit's leading.

Community Groups exist to help people be more Jesus-centered. We, as human beings created in the image of God, have an upward call to God to love Him and love others in this world. In Jesus, through the gospel and by sending the Holy Spirit, we can love God and love others as we were created to do. Being Jesus-centered is allowing the life of Jesus and how He lived start to shape how you live.

Discipleship/Formation Goals:

Living a Jesus-centered life means developing...

- A life of intimacy with God and being in His presence BOTH with God alone and with God's people gathered together.
- A life lived in the fullness and power of the Spirit – hearing God, being with God, learning from God, and walking with God through pain and suffering
- A life that serves in ministry through the spiritual authority given by God and not human effort.
- A life that cooperates with the Spirit's work within authentic community.
- A life that pursues to be honest with one another and practices spiritual formation.

Community Groups help people to live RELATIONALLY HEALTHY lives



Community Groups exist to help people have healthier relationships with the people in their life.

This is with those in their group and outside their group. Community Groups are an excellent place to practice out the New Testament “one another” passages which are vital to healthy relationships.

In addition, in Christ, you are part of a larger church family! And Jesus wants us to be fully-engaged in the body of Christ, the church. When we all are fully-engaged the church is set for impact. To be fully-engaged at FAC means to:

- **Connect** in a Weekend Service and in a small group community
- **Serve** in the church and/or outside the church
- **Give** to the mission of FAC
- **Invite** those where you live, work, study, and play out to FAC

However, someone can check all the boxes of full-engagement and not have heart transformation or heart calling to mission. This is why the focus on being Jesus-centered that results in character transformed and calling exercised is vitally important to our full engagement in the church body. Make sure to talk with your group about being fully-engaged and share stories about it.

Discipleship/Formation Goals:

Living a relationally healthy life means developing...

- A healthy relationship with **God** and **themselves**.
- Healthy relationships in their **marriage, family and church family**
- Healthy relationships **with those where they live, work, study, and play**

Community Groups exist to help people be more missionally engaged.

Jesus not only changes our character to look more like Him, but gives every follower the calling to be on His mission to bring others toward a relationship with Him; to make disciples. He calls each of us to be missionally engaged.

Discipleship/Formation Goals:

Living a missionally engaged life means...

- Embracing the call as an **everyday missionary**.
 - *Pray for 2-3 people who don't follow Jesus.*
- **Investing** in relationships where they live, work, study and play.
 - *With the 2-3 people who don't follow Jesus, ask yourself.*
 - *Is there a hurt? Then heal it.*
 - *If there is a need? Then fill it.*
 - *If there is a common interest? Then do it.*
- **Inviting** others to FAC church events to experience God and His people.
- **Serving with our mission partners** for kingdom cultural renewal

Community Groups – Getting Started

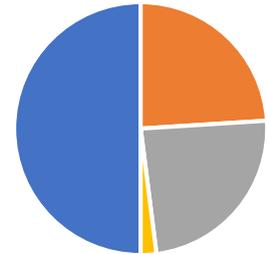
A worksheet to get started with your Community Group

If you're group has a LEARNING focus:

Examples of LEARNING focus group:

- Book of the Bible study
- Theme from the Bible study
- Healthier marriages
- Practicing spiritual disciplines
- Praying together to seek God's presence and encouragement in the journey for one another
- Book reading group
- Etc.

Learning



■ Learning ■ Serving
■ Fellowship ■ Maintenance

Determine Location & Schedule

1. **Dates:** We'll meet on _____.

2. **Time:** We'll meet from _____ to _____.

3. **Frequency:** We'll meet either (choose one)...

a) weekly b) bi-weekly c) 3 weeks on and 1 week off.

4. **Calendar:** We will begin meeting on this date (3rd weekend in Sept. starts the Fall Semester): _____ and we will end meeting on this date: _____

5. **Study:** We have chosen to study the following during this time:

6. **Serve and Fellowship:** How often will we plan to serve together? How often to have fun get-togethers?

Determine Meeting Outline

Below is just a suggested outline. Feel free to modify.

1. HANG OUT.

(About 15 minutes)

As people filter in, hang out and chat over some snacks.

2. GATHER TOGETHER & CATCH UP.

(About 15 minutes)

Gather everyone together to sit down in the room you will have your meeting. Take some time to talk about what's going on in the lives of those in your group. Asking about things like work, the health of their kids, and how their weeks are going goes a long way in building community.

3. PRAY TO OPEN YOUR TIME TOGETHER

(About 1-2 minutes)

4. READ / DISCUSS.

(About 45 minutes)

Depending on what you're studying/reading, you'll have discussion questions and scenarios to think through and talk about. You'll also spend time during this study getting to know one another. See online for recommended curriculum.

5. PRAY.

(About 10 minutes)

Keep it simple and real. Ask God to help you apply what you've learned during that session.

We potentially could have a lot of small children in our group. What can we do?

- A couple of options to consider:
 1. Incorporate the kids in your group! Do a devotional together and serve together. It makes for a more well-rounded community!
 2. Use the Sunday evening Kid Blast at FAC as an opportunity for your children to learn and be in fellowship with other kids. Kid Blast starts in September-May from 6pm-8pm.
 3. Hire a babysitter. This of course carries a financial cost, but it will totally be worth it for yourself and for you as a couple, if you're married.

How can we ensure that we have good attendance for our meetings?

The first thing you want every member to know that can foster this is for all to commit to doing the following:

1. **Show up** – physical presence is important to connecting with one another
2. **Join in** – participation not only benefits you but others in the group
3. **Be real** – this is safe place for everyone to be authentic and real. "It's ok to not be ok, and we'll let Jesus be the one to change us step by step and day by day."

If you your group has a **SERVING** focus:

Examples of **SERVING** focus group:

- Serve together in Children’s ministry
- Serve together in Worship ministry
- Serve together your neighborhood
- Serve together in the school
- Etc.



Determine Location & Schedule

1. **Dates:** We'll serve on _____.
2. **Time:** We'll meet before or after we serve from _____ to _____ to pray together.
3. **Calendar:** We will begin meeting on this date: _____ and we will end meeting on this date: _____
4. **Encouragement:** We have chosen to encourage one another throughout the week in the following ways:

5. **Fellowship:** How often will we plan to have fun get-togethers?

How can we incorporate the learning and fun component if we are serving together as a ministry team?

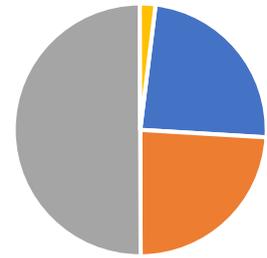
- Plan on either before or after you serve together to meet with each for a short period of time.
- During this time, pray for each other and those you are serving.
- You can also share with each other what you have been learning from God lately.
- Try to have a different person from the team to share a word of encouragement or a word from the Lord when you gather.
- Plan times to get together have fun together as well!

If you're group has a FELLOWSHIP focus:

Examples of FELLOWSHIP focus group:

- Have a regular game night together
- Have a home-made dinner get togethers
- Get together around a favorite sport
- Have a regular mini-golf night
- Get together to play instruments
- Etc.

Fellowship



- Learning
- Serving
- Fellowship
- Maintenance

Determine Location & Schedule

1. **Dates:** We'll get together on _____.

2. **Calendar:** We will begin meeting on this date: _____ and we will end meeting on this date: _____

3. **Encouragement:** We have chosen to encourage one another throughout the week in the following ways:

4. **Serve:** How often will we plan to serve together?

How can we incorporate the learning and serve component?

- Take time to pray for each other even when you get together to have fun.
- Be intentional when you're talking with each other on what's happening in their lives and what God has been teaching them.
- Throughout the week, send encouraging texts or Scripture verses, and pray for each other.
- In regard to serving together, you'll need to make sure you discuss it together as a group and put it on the calendar. Do something that you all would enjoy doing together!