



## MISSION AND VISION

*"Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble." (NLT)*  
- Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

Small Groups at Connection Pointe exist to develop fully devoted followers of Christ. That message can often get clouded in the idea of how to make a big church feel small. Many times people join small groups as a desire to feel more connected in the life of the church or to make new friends. Both of these things can be great bi-products of small group life, but neither are the driving factors of why it is critical to be engaged in a weekly small group. Through small groups, we are able to live out the call to be disciples who make disciples as described in

*Matthew 28:19-20: "Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (NLT)*

Small groups at Connection Pointe are designed to create an environment that engages people in community, cultivates spiritual growth, and creates disciple makers. This goal is accomplished when groups focus on four key elements:

### **LEARN (WHO GOD IS): KNOW GOD THROUGH PRAYER AND STUDYING THE BIBLE**

It is critical that believers are gathering together outside of corporate worship services to continue to study God's Word. As followers of Christ desire to grow in their faith, they must not only study the Bible and how God commanded everyone to live, but also spend time together discussing how it applies to their own lives. It is also important to pray together for each other, for the church, and for the world.

### **CARE (FOR EACH OTHER): BUILD RELATIONSHIPS AND CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER**

Group members must be willing to care for each other as well as receive care. It is important to remember that it is difficult to care for people in the extraordinary times of life without first investing in someone during the ordinary times. This is done by celebrating a promotion, going to a sporting event for one of the group member's kids, or by just grabbing a cup of coffee. However one chooses to do it, get invested and really get to know one another on a deeper level. There are so many stories of how groups that were well connected with one another carried a family through a season of great trial and kept them focused on God's faithfulness in their time of crisis.



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## **SERVE (OUR WORLD): USE YOUR TIME AND TALENTS IN THE CHURCH, COMMUNITY, & WORLD**

Groups that serve together, stay together! There is very little that can truly connect a group more than serving together. By getting out of your comfort zone and having the opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ is an experience that can often bond a group together more than weeks of meeting together can. Seeing God work through each other is truly a gift and often, people are blessed by serving more than those that they serve. Serving others is also an important part of personal spiritual growth because God commands it!

## **SHARE (YOUR STORY): INVEST IN OTHERS BY SHARING YOUR FAITH**

So many people in groups are excited about what Christ is doing in their lives but they're afraid to share that excitement outside of a safe circle of Christian friends. Therefore, groups must create opportunities to share their faith with others. It's not enough to just gain knowledge, be blessed by Christian community, and serve a meal without sharing your faith. Disciples of Christ are not to be inwardly focused; God desires for His followers to bring those who do not know Him to faith. Through serving others, sharing about your small group, and living out your faith, God will give you opportunities to share about what He's done in your life. So be ready!

Ideally, groups are able to balance the four key elements. But there may be times when a group is focused on one area more than the others. This can happen naturally as a result of life circumstances. A group may be in a season of focusing so much on growing in knowledge that they aren't caring for each other. Or a group may become so focused on caring for each other or serving others that they forget the importance of growing in God's Word. If this happens to your group, the key is to make sure that the group doesn't become stuck in that pattern for more than a short period of time. All areas...Learn, Care, Serve and Share...are crucial for the overall growth of groups and to help members become disciples that make disciples.

