

Community Group Purpose

Community Groups cultivate an environment to know and be known by one another that we may grow together into the image of Christ.

Following Jesus is a Community Project. We embrace a vision of church that extends beyond casual acquaintances. A vision of profound friendship where people who might never rub shoulders are united together through the person of Jesus. In showing this sort of devotion to one another we not only demonstrate the work of the gospel in us, but we actively disciple one another to grow together into the image of Christ. This community project is where people know and are known in such a way that they minister to one another, serve one another, share with one another, and challenge and encourage one another in following Jesus throughout everyday life.

This is why Community Groups are so integral to our church family and mission. ***Community groups cultivate an environment to know and be known by one another that we might grow together into the image of Christ.*** They are more than just a weekly study. They are more about a lifestyle than an event. These uniquely designed environments are spaces to know one another so that the work of the gospel might be made manifest among us and continue to grow deep within us. There is simply no substitute for this sort of life together, and our Community Groups help give a level of intentionality to our rather unstructured relationships within the church. Our hope is that everyone who attends First Free would join a community group for their own growth in Christ and the growth of the gospel.

Each group varies in size, make up, and meeting rhythm. All groups are led by trained lay leaders from our congregation who receive continued oversight and support from our pastoral staff and elders. In this way groups are a means for the church and elders to shepherd one another toward growth in the gospel.