

CG Mission Statement

NCF exists in order to reflect the redemptive love of God up, in, and out. Through our Connect groups, we want to reflect the redemptive love of God in on each other as we connect to one another's daily lives (Heb 3:13), connect to Sunday's sermon through discussion (1 Thes 5:11), and connect to each other as brothers and sisters in Christ (Acts 2:42 and Rom 12:4-5).

CG Core Practices

1. Share your life

Connect Groups provide opportunities for individuals to share life by laughing, crying, and so much more. The goal is to be known well, not simply to be well known. The way "to know" and "be known" is not through a program but through the organic development of wholehearted friendships in pursuit of a common goal of reflecting Jesus' redemptive love where we live, work, and play.

2. Share God's Word

Following Jesus involves much more than digesting sermons and memorizing theological propositions. All of us need a place to wrestle with the claims of God's Word and to explore the implications of Biblical teaching for life. In Connect Groups, we have the opportunity to dialogue with one another as we consider how the Gospel shapes our lives, relationships, and mission.

3. Share in Prayer

Prayer is one of the greatest acts of faith we can have. Indeed, without faith it is impossible to please God. So, through prayer we exercise our dependence on God. Keeping a list of answered prayers is a sure way to kindle faith, reliance on God and on one another. Through prayer, the Spirit reveals that we belong not to a world of success, fame, or power, but to God as His beloved.

4. Share a Meal

Meals embody God's grace and provision, as well as give form to community and mission. Remember that meals help connect people, ease fear, and create space for conversation. Perhaps this is why the Bible is filled with so many different stories, miracles, and occasions that revolve around food. We can all relate to being hungry, enjoying a satisfying meal, and connecting with our dining companions. To that end, Connect Groups are not just encouraged to have snacks and coffee during their regular meetings, but to host regular "dinner parties" to connect with each other, welcome new members and guests, and dive deeper into each other's lives on a personal level.

5. Share in Mission

As the Gospel transforms our lives, the body of Christ will more fully reflect the glory of God in all aspects of life. We are committed to tangibly expressing God's care for the world by seeking wholeness for the poor, justice for the oppressed, offering fellowship to the lonely, and so much more. Connect Groups are encouraged to identify service opportunities and to find creative ways to bless others where your Connect Group works, lives, and plays.