



What is a GROW group?

GROUPS at OCC exist to help people: Love God, Love People & Serve the World.

Anyone can start one. All you need is... people! You know, that strange species you haven't seen in weeks. They are still out there and, like you, need connection & care.

A group is 4+ people and could be your family or your roommates. It could be a circle of friends or coworkers. It could be your nearby neighbors, folks you've met at OCC or a even a mix of OCCers you've never met before! Given the circumstances of "stay home, stay healthy" - groups will be meeting online using Zoom.

Regardless of who you are in a group with - the goal is the same... to GROW.

- 1) GROW in connection with & care for ONE ANOTHER. - *We could all use this about now.*
- 2) GROW in relationship with JESUS. - *We're huge fans & followers of Jesus at OCC.*
- 3) GROW in responsiveness to Jesus' mission of LOVE. - *What better time than right now!*

How long do they LAST?

Groups kick-off the week of Easter and meet weekly for a total of five meetings, most lasting about 60-75 minutes. While this isn't a huge commitment, it will require some effort and may mean a tad less NETFLIX to carve out some time. Here's the schedule:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Week 1: Apr 12-18</i> | <i>Signups: Meet & Greet</i> | <i>No Passage</i> |
| <i>Week 2: Apr 19-25</i> | <i>We Belong... to Jesus</i> | <i>Luke 5:4-11</i> |
| <i>Week 3: Apr 26-May 2</i> | <i>We Belong... to One Another</i> | <i>Luke 10:25-37</i> |
| <i>Week 4: May 3-9</i> | <i>We Belong... to Our Parishes</i> | <i>Luke 19:1-10</i> |
| <i>Week 5: May 10-16</i> | <i>We Belong... to The Kingdom</i> | <i>Luke 14:15-24</i> |

You pick the day & time your group meets & we can help you get setup with Zoom.

What does a meeting look like & what is my ROLE?

It's simple, just follow the guide and review the best practices on the following pages!

What if I want to START one, have QUESTIONS or need HELP?

Excellent – let's connect! We are here for you and believe in doing everything TOGETHER. Email, Pastor Cara or Pastor Pat: Caral@occ.org // PatS@occ.org

Quick Start – GUIDE //

Connection // Suggested length: 15-20 minutes

Be creative with how you begin (see next page for ideas), then walk through...

- *What are you **thankful** for this week?*
- *What is **stressing** you out lately?*
- *Do you have a need or know anyone with a **need** that this group can meet?**
- *How did you do with your “**I will**” and sharing from last week?**

Now take a moment to **pray**. Simply pray out whatever has already been shared.

Scripture // Suggested length: 15-20 Minutes

Listen to what Scripture has to say, follow these steps with the **weekly passage**...

- ***Read** the passage aloud. Ask someone to read.*
- ***Re-read** the passage aloud. Ask someone else to re-read.*
- ***Re-tell** the passage in everyday words. Ask who is willing, or do as a whole group.*

Observation // Suggested length: 15-25 Minutes

Listen to what the group has to say about the Scripture, use these **questions**...

- *What got your attention?*
- *What did you like?*
- *Did anything bother you? Why?*
- *What does this passage say about Jesus?*
- *What does it say about humanity?*
- *What might this passage tell us about the life Jesus desires for us?*

Application // Suggested time: 10-15 minutes

Share what it looks like to respond to and **apply these learnings** to real life...

- *What is your “**I will**” statement for this week?*
- *Is it SMART? (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Timebound)*

Person // Suggested time: 5-10 minutes

Good news is **meant to be shared** with others...

- *With whom will you share what you learned this week?*

Go // Suggested time: Brief

Encourage everyone as they return to their weeks. **Remind** everyone they are loved and not alone and if something comes up to reach out to the group. **Send** the “**I will**” statements out to the group after the meeting.

*If any need(s) are beyond what the group can handle, we got you! Email: Care@occ.org.

**You won't be needing this question until Week #3.

Week by Week – TIPS //

Week 1 // Building new relationships.

- The goal of this week is to get to know each other and work out any technology snafus!
- Have everyone share a bit about themselves:
 - o Name, neighborhood, connection (if any) to OCC, why they joined the group.
- After introductions (don't skip yourself) – walk through the “Connection” section and pray, then tell people what they can expect for next week.
- That's it! The first week need not be lengthy, but it should be relational. Make sure every voice is invited and heard.

Week 2 // Set the tone.

- Walk through the guide - you got this!
- Honor people's time. Be mindful of the suggested times for each section.

Week 3 // Settling in.

- Continue getting to know each other. Open with “*Show & Tell*” have people go grab something to show the group, something that describes a hobby they enjoy.
- Walk through the guide. Be thinking who you may ask to facilitate next week. Normalizing shared leadership is a value at OCC.

Week 4 // Share the load.

- Open with “[*Two Truths & A Lie*](#)” – continue getting to know each other.
- Let someone else use the guide to facilitate the group time.

Week 5 // We did it.

- First, thank YOU for honoring YOUR commitment! Seriously, thank you.
- Open with “*Bring Your Pet to Group Day*” – show off your furry friends. No need to worry about people's allergies!
- Let someone else use the guide to facilitate the group time.
- Thank the group for their commitment. Talk about what it looks like from here... do people want to continue connecting weekly? Some may. Some may not – that's okay. You may. You may not – that's okay too!
- Get a pulse to see if anyone would want to start their own GROW group and connect them with Pastor Cara or Pastor Pat.

Training – REMINDERS //

This GROW group model is largely influenced and shaped by something called a “Discovery Bible Reading” or sometimes called a Discovery Bible Study.

Videos //

These are the two videos shown in the onboarding:

- 1) “Disciple Making Movements” – 4 min ([English](#) / [Spanish](#))
- 2) “Discovery Bible Reading” – 4 min ([English](#) / [Spanish](#))

These are recordings of the onboarding trainings on Zoom:

- 1) “How to facilitate a group” by Pastor Pat – 30 min (click [HERE](#))
- 2) “How to host a group on Zoom” by Pastor Pat – 15 min (click [HERE](#))

Areas of Growth //

Here are the ways people GROW through the various questions in this group model:

- Praise – sharing thanks
- Intercession – sharing needs
- Ministry – helping others
- Accountability – sharing “I will” statements
- Knowing God – reading Scripture
- Retention of Truth – retelling Scripture
- Hearing from God – reflecting on Scripture
- Responding to the Holy Spirit – applying Scripture
- Multiplication – sharing with others

Best Practices for Facilitating //

- Don’t allow one person to teach or explain. Everyone gets to share what they are learning. Removing the dynamic of “experts” fosters participation and multiplication.
- Whoever is facilitating should participate but not more than others
- For those with lots of Bible knowledge, keep in mind & remind them:
 - Only share revelation from the Word in the moment rather than expound on prior knowledge (no referencing past sermons, podcasts, books, commentaries)
 - Let others hear from God through Scripture, there may be multiple perspectives
 - Let the Bible speak for itself, rather than doing the speaking for the Bible
- Give everyone a chance to share even if you have to call on people to share
- Time management may call for facilitator to encourage people to give their answers in “sentences, not paragraphs”