

The MAIN COURSE: Info Sheet

I live because of the living Father who sent me; in the same way, anyone who feeds on me will live because of me. John 6:57 (NLT)

Why we meet: To provide the nutrition necessary to grow deep in our relationship with God and fellow Christians.

What's our objective? To build a strong Christian community where we ...

Motivate one another,
Attend to each others needs,
Inspire acts of love and good works, and
Nourish each other's souls

What is our basis in scripture?

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. Hebrews 10:24-25 (NLT)

What is the construct? We use small groups to discuss topics from the contemporary worship service, addressing questions, concerns and sharing how the message impacted us.

Why this approach? We intentionally limit the size of each group so that we can have meaningful discussions, develop stronger friendships and pray earnestly for one another. Interestingly, this is the same approach John Wesley (founder of the Methodist church) used to great effect. According to Wesley, using this approach allowed folks to "happily experience a Christian fellowship they hadn't thought possible before...they had daily a more intimate acquaintance with, and more endeared affection for, each other." We believe this intimacy provides an opportunity for us to fulfill Christ's command in the Gospel of John:

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. John 13:34-35 (NIV)

What if I don't like my group? Someone from the class will contact you to see how things are going. If the class isn't for you, that's okay, we understand this approach won't scratch everyone's itch. If you like the idea, but don't feel comfortable in your group, that's okay too. We'll happily place you in another group where the "chemistry" might be a better fit for you.

What's expected of me? When you are ready, sign the attached Covenant and return to your small group leader.