

# GROW



# GROUPS

“Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together...but encouraging one another...”

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV)



Good **Shepherd**

Lutheran Church – Noosa

# Gathered to Grow, Sent to Serve

This is our vision. And everything we do at Good Shepherd is focused on this faith formation process. It is our way of helping one another become the disciple Jesus is calling us to be.

Good Shepherd provides programs, services and opportunities from which we can better understand the love of God and show our appreciation for that love.

All are welcome to join us on our journey of faith in Christ.  
Enquires can be made to GSLC Ministry Centre - 07 5449 8856



Life is not meant to be lived alone. In fact, God hates loneliness. You were created to experience life with other people, and that's why at Good Shepherd we encourage you to get into a small group.

A small group is a group of three or more people who gather each week in a home, workplace, or online. In a group you'll hang out, study the Word, and pray together.

Groups come in all shapes and sizes — married couples, singles, men, women, kids, no kids, workplace, under 20, over 40 — the list goes on. No matter where you are in life, there's a group for you.

At Good Shepherd we encourage everyone to be part of a Grow Group. Grow Groups help each other to fulfil our God given purposes of:

- Be Loved
- Belong
- Become
- Be Blessed

Join a Grow Group today.



## Why Small Groups?

Churches use all sorts of names for small groups—life groups, growth groups, home groups, cell groups. They also use various models, numerous strategies for connection, various plans for assimilation, and church-specific vision and goals for their group ministries. Yet all would agree that small groups are a means to an end, not an end in and of themselves. Small groups exist as a way for people to engage in biblical community that helps them become more like Jesus in every area of their lives.

### **Biblical Basis for Small Groups**

God himself is in a community of three persons in one—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—who exist in perfect unity. So it is not surprising that from the beginning, God created us to be in community with one another. Genesis 2:18 states: "It is not good for man to be alone." This passage is often used in the context of marriage, but it also speaks to our fundamental need to connect with others in the human community.

Community is deeply grounded in the nature of God. It flows from who God is. Because he is community, he creates community. It is his gift of himself to humans.

When Jesus' ministry began, he called 12 disciples to be his primary relational and ministry community. Did Jesus need this motley crew to help him? Not really. But Jesus chose to love them, teach them, and pour himself into relationships with them, thereby creating the first "small group."

The apostles continued Jesus' model and formed a community of believers who loved God and loved one another. Despite incredible persecution and against all odds, this rag tag group of Jesus-followers launched small communities (i.e. church) that proclaimed the gospel and changed the world forever.

### **Purpose of Small Groups**

The Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20 mandates that every follower of Christ is on mission to "go and make disciples of all nations." Jesus gave this instruction to all his followers, both as individuals and as the body of Christ. We, as a small group and as a church, bear collective witness to the good news of Jesus Christ.

One of Jesus' final instructions to his disciples is found in John 13:34-35: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Note that Jesus did not say people will know we are Christians by how many churches we build, how many Bible studies we complete, how many prayers we say, or how many people come to our church. The litmus test is clear: people will know we are Christ-followers when we love each other the way Jesus does.

Ultimately, small groups are a way of living out our purpose, both as individuals and as a collective group of believers—to be the church. We share a common foundation of faith and God has called us to live out the implications of that faith in a relational community, in the context that we call a small group.

Start today!



For more information about our Grow Groups, please contact our Office.



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