

HDC SMALL GROUPS: THE 5 W'S OF A SMALL GROUP

At HDC a small group consists of 6-20 individuals who meet together regularly to encourage and remind each other of the mission God has given us. In the early church we see five practices that occurred when Christians met in their homes. These practices are found in Acts chapter two. **At HDC we call these the 5 W's of a Small Group.**

Acts 2:42-47

"⁽⁴²⁾ They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁽⁴³⁾ Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. ⁽⁴⁴⁾ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁽⁴⁵⁾ Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. ⁽⁴⁶⁾ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁽⁴⁷⁾ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

Word: Scripture is central for our discussions and authority.

Acts 2:42 "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching..."

Our small group studies are centered around scripture! Our opinions and experiences are important but they always must be tested against scripture. We expect every small group to open up the Word of God, study it and apply it to their life.

Warmth: Provides friendship, support, and accountability.

Acts 2:42 "...and to the fellowship..."

The word fellowship in the Greek is "Koinonia" It means deep companionship, communion, partnership. We expect every small group to have a warm and welcoming environment. We want your small group to lock arms with each other through thick and thin.

Worship: Prioritizes prayer and some groups share communion and sing.

Acts 2:42 "...to the breaking of bread..."

The breaking of bread refers to taking communion and worshipping God together. Many of our small groups may want to take times of worship through signing and communion. However, all of our small groups should be praying for each other weekly.

Work: Cares and serves those inside and outside the group.

Acts 2:42 "...and to prayer..."

The early church was characterized by ministry. Prayer in many ways was that ministry as they prayed for those being persecuted and jailed for their faith. A small group is the place that you will be cared for during tough times and have opportunities to serve others within the group.

Witness: Reminds everyone to pray and be strategic about oikos.

Acts 2:47 "...And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

None of their small groups were closed to outsiders. They were always willing to invite their oikos and share the gospel. HDC Small Groups provide a place to remind you of your mission and invite your oikos to lock arms with you and your group through thick and thin.