

# WHAT ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A HEALTHY SMALL GROUP?

## CONSISTENCY

Whether it is every week or every other, small groups need consistency in order to help people connect with each other.

## TRANSPARENCY

Small group should be a place where we feel safe being real with each other. Healthy small groups are marked by a commitment to authenticity and confidentiality.

## SERVICE

As people grow in their faith through small group, they will begin to discover more about what it means to love others. We encourage small groups to look for different ways to serve together within Seacoast as a means of growing closer together and making an impact.

## PRAYER

Healthy small groups pray with and for each other. Not everyone is comfortable with prayer, so leading with patience and sensitivity will help our groups begin to see prayer for what it is - an honest conversation with God.

## SCRIPTURE

You will have access to thousands of small group resources that can be helpful to you and your group. We encourage you to use those resources because they are designed to create honest discussion around specific topics. We also encourage you to focus on the Scripture references that are offered within them. In healthy small groups, people should develop a hunger for God and His word.

## PURPOSE

The measure of life change that takes place in small groups depends largely on the health of the group. So what does it look like to have a healthy small group? Building a healthy small group takes time. It can be challenging to know whether or not you are on the right track. Here are some characteristics that you may begin to notice as your group becomes healthy.

## SUPPORT

As small groups grow closer together, we look for ways to care for group members. That means we notice when someone stops coming and we reach out. That means we offer our help where we can. Essentially, healthy small groups are attentive to each other.

## PLAY

A healthy small group should find opportunities away from the group meeting to connect with and enjoy each other.

## SHARE RESPONSIBILITIES

When groups are healthy, responsibilities are shared. No one person should have to think about the food or the childcare or the location. Groups work best when everyone contributes. .

## A SIMPLE PLAN

Healthy small groups are simple. It should feel like a casual gathering with friends instead of an event you are hosting. Together, you can decide on the plan for the semester so that everyone knows where and when the group will meet.

## VISION

Healthy small groups understand where they are today, but they also have a vision for where they hope to be tomorrow. As leaders, we should look for people in the group who can step into a co-leader role where they can be equipped to lead on their own someday.