

Groups as Part of Hope's Mission

Hope's mission statement is "Offering experiences, relationships, and places where people can find life and purpose through Jesus Christ."

Hope Groups is interwoven into the overall mission of HOPE. Through small groups, people can experience life together and develop deep relationships that could never form by simply attending weekend services. Sometimes these relationships develop around the kitchen table, as people share stories and thoughts. Sometimes, it's through celebrating together over the birth of a child. It may involve grieving together over a loss. Whatever the circumstance or venue, small groups bring people together to experience life as a community. Small groups are like "little churches" – part of the larger Hope community that extends beyond our physical campus and spreads throughout our Richmond Metro region, offering an environment where people can find life in Christ.

A successful small group at Hope will offer the environment for people to...

CONNECT: People get to know each other on a deeper level, forming friendships and enjoying being together on a regular basis. Over time, a person can begin to feel known and understood by trusted group members.

LEARN: A group is a safe place to ask questions, express doubt, and open your heart to new ways of seeing things, as taught in the scripture. A goal of groups is to help people grow deeper in their faith and to become more like Jesus.

SERVE: Groups should look *outward* for ways to serve, whether it's through our weekend service teams, community organizations, or missions. Being in a group provides a great opportunity for friends to tangibly show the love of Christ to others.

groups

Our community groups are places where people are...

Finding Life in Christ

We were created to be in a relationship with the God who made us. Jesus said that He came so that we could find life in Him. In groups, we can study the scripture together so that we can know Christ and become rooted and established in Him.

Becoming Like Christ

As we grow in our relationship with Christ, we want to do more than just gain knowledge. We want our lives to be transformed. In groups, we can encourage each other to reflect the character of Christ so that we live the way that He lived and love the way that He loved.

Doing Life Together

If we want to grow in life with Christ, then we need to be in relationships with others who have the same goals. By doing life together, we can celebrate the highs, survive the lows, and share the moments in-between.

Caring for One Another

The scriptures call us to care for each other in the body of Christ. At HOPE, the primary way that people receive care and support is through being in a group. In difficult times, we want to help each other find strength in Christ.

Being the Church

While we are called to care for each other in the church, we are also called to *be* the church by representing Christ in the world. We want our groups to serve together and participate in the work that God is already doing in the world.

Inviting Others In

Welcoming new people into our groups is a great way to help others find life in Christ. Each group will need to decide when and how they want to expand by inviting others into their group.