

## **Small Group Guidelines\***

We try to love one another well by observing some guidelines. In each Small Group we gather together to FEAST:

**Focus on Christ** - We avoid getting sidetracked by sports, politics, pop culture, etc. We focus instead on Christ, the Word of God made flesh, because he alone is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

**Encourage & Comfort** - We don't express judgment or disgust with another's struggles. We also avoid giving unwarranted advice. What our brother or sister needs most from us is for us to carry their concerns before our Heavenly Father. When we want to give counsel, we ask their permission privately after the gathered time.

**Allow Others to Have the Spotlight** - We put others first. We are here to love and serve one another, not solely to receive care ourselves. We all try to participate, either as active listeners or speakers. We each try to keep our sharing to a few minutes, and remain engaged as others speak.

**Safe Place** - We are not perfect people, and we all need a safe place to gather and be honest. What is said here stays here. We do not gossip to others outside our Small Group. (\*\*However, if someone shares something that endangers him/herself or others, or if there are legal implications, the leader will share with a pastor ASAP.)

**Together for the Journey** - God created us for community. We need each other in order to grow in Christlikeness. So we invite others in, to know us and to walk through life together. Because God never gives up on us or leaves us alone, we commit to journeying with one another through thick and thin.

\*Guidelines adapted from *Life Giving Groups*, by Jeremy Linneman