

**This Shared Commitment is a guideline that helps us understand what to expect in our group regarding purpose and commitments. It's great to start out on the same track. Think of it in terms of a guardrail for cars. It keeps us safe as a group, which provides an environment for growth, help, care, and authenticity.**

## **TOP PRIORITIES FOR A HEALTHY GROUP**

### **1. Make spiritual growth your number one priority.**

God has designed our spiritual growth to take place in community. As we rub against each other, our rough edges are smoothed. Form meaningful relationships with group members that will help you to grow. Our goal is to learn how to apply and live out God's Word in our everyday life. Real growth comes when truth is practiced. Read the following scriptures:

Jeremiah 15:16: *When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, O LORD God Almighty.*

James 1:22: *Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.*

### **2. Commit to attend every week.**

Joining a Growth Group requires a commitment to come. It's not the same without you, and you will be missed when you're not here. Don't let anything keep you from your Growth Group. Please be prompt so that we may start on time. If you cannot come to a meeting contact your facilitator.

### **3. Come prepared.**

If you are part of a Bible Study, come prepared by doing any homework assignments. If you have no homework, get involved in Daily Devotions such as the online devotional series, *Know the Word*. This will prepare your heart.

### **4. Give everyone the opportunity to speak.**

Don't monopolize discussions. Give everyone the opportunity to speak. Don't interrupt. Don't ask a clarifying question and then "take over the conversation."

### **5. Keep confidentiality.**

If someone shares something in confidence, it cannot leave this room without their permission. Keep your prayer request sheets private. The exceptions are if it is life-threatening or causing imminent danger.

### **6. Be an active listener.**

Active listening involves eye contact, includes clarifying questions, offering affirmation, empathy, and patience.

### **7. Pray for each other.**

### **8. Don't give advice.**

Examples of giving advice: beginning statements with "you need to" or "you should" or "I do this..." Don't give judgmental feedback.

### **9. Honor our differences.**

We welcome diversity of all kinds. Be careful not to degrade others by making derogatory comments about churches, denominations, people groups, political affiliations, marital status, economic status, age, etc.

### **10. Help your group foster a "one another" culture of support.**

Each week we will learn to take care of one another as Christ commanded in John 15:9-13. This care may take many forms such as prayer, encouragement, listening, challenging one another, and meeting practical needs. We look forward to what God has in store for us. When all of these are combined, it results in what Ephesians 4:16 calls, "the building up of His Body in love."

John 13:34: *A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.*

Romans 12:5: *...so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.*

Romans 15:7: *Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.*

Ephesians 4:25, 29, 32: *Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*

Ephesians 5:1-2: *Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

Hebrews 10:24-25: *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

Ephesians 4:13: *...until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*

John 15:9-13: *As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in His love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.*

Ephesians 4:16: *From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.*

**Facilitator Information:**

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**GROW**