



## HOME GROUPS CHARTER

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### MISSION STATEMENT:

*CSM Home Groups exist to glorify God by living in biblical community for the purpose of cultivating Christ-centered disciples.*

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Home Groups will be our primary means of discipleship, and they will compliment Sunday Mornings. Sunday mornings serve as our opportunity to gather corporately as a church, to worship, to sing, and to participate in the sacraments and be taught the Word of God. Home Groups will give the students an opportunity to process the sermons, to walk in community, and to confess sin and walk in accountability with other students their same age and gender.

In the New Testament, we get to see the spread of the gospel and the start of the early church. Jesus trained twelve men to carry on the work of His ministry once He went to be with the Father. The twelve men were illiterate fishermen, tax collectors, and others, yet they turned the world upside down (Acts 2:41; Acts 17:6). As Jesus' ministry progressed, so did His following. He chose, however, only to walk closely with the twelve. Within that group of twelve, He had a group of three, namely Peter, James, and John. He would teach and explain His parables to all twelve disciples, but He would invite the three to spend even more time with Him. He invited the three to join Him in prayer at the garden of Gethsemane and up on the mountain during the transfiguration (Matthew 17:1; Mark 6:9; Mark 14:33). By observing the Gospel accounts and the life of Jesus, we learn a valuable lesson on discipleship. Jesus taught us that we will make a greater impact for the Kingdom of God by developing deep relationships with a few instead of having shallow relationships with many. Since it is our hope to present everyone mature in Christ (Colossians 1:28), we are going to adopt this model of discipleship within Home Groups.

Since there are far more students in our ministry than our staff alone could disciple, we are going to do Home Groups. Home Groups will allow us to place leaders over smaller groups of students, so that those leaders can deeply invest in the students' lives. Our staff will be primarily devoted to the pastoral care of our leaders, but we will invest in the students' lives as frequently as possible.



Throughout the book of Acts and the rest of the New Testament, there are many accounts of churches starting in homes (Acts 2:46). We do not point this out to say that "house churches" or home groups are the definitive model of ministry. Rather, it is significant to realize that the church is not limited to a particular building. The church is the body of believers. Where the people gather, the church is. Home groups will help communicate this truth to our students and will help them realize their mission in their communities, at schools, and on their sports teams.

# CULTIVATING CHRIST-CENTERED DISCIPLES

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The term, “Christ-Centered Disciples,” is an all-encompassing term that we do not plan to exhaustively explain here. However, there are four particular characteristics of being a Christ-centered disciple that we want our students to grow in.

## 1. PERSONAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE GOSPEL

The first characteristic we desire for our students to gain is that they would have a personal relationship with God. We cannot become disciples of Christ before we understand that sin has separated us from God and that only through Christ can we have a relationship with the Lord (Ephesians 2:1-5). Tim Keller once said, “the gospel is not the abc’s of Christianity, it is the a to z.” If a student does not believe the gospel, then he will remain dead in his trespasses and sins. A Christ-centered disciple is someone who understands the gospel and how it impacts everything in our lives.

## 2. WALKING IN BIBLICAL COMMUNITY

Community is incredibly important, and it is taught throughout all of the Scriptures. The Trinity has existed for all of eternity in perfect community and harmony with one another. For us to glorify God, we must seek to reflect the character and nature of God Himself. We can reflect His communal nature through living in Biblical Community. In true biblical community, there is studying the Word, singing songs, and prayer--but that is not all. There must be transparency amongst the people, discipline, confession, repentance, and accountability as well (Galatians 6:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; James 5:16; 1 John 1:9). Too many Christians have bought into the lie that their faith is private. Our faith is personal, but by no means is it private. The Lord designed us to be in community for our joy and His glory. Walking in deep relationships with other believers in transparency and confession of sin is difficult, but it glorifies God. When we confess sin, we are admitting that we need our Savior. God has designed us to be in community because in community the believer will be cultivated and will flourish for His glory.

## 3. WAGING WAR ON THE FLESH

A “Christ-Centered Disciple” is someone who wages war against their flesh in an effort to mortify their sinful desires for the glory of God (Romans 6:12-13; Romans 8:13; Galatians 5:16). The moment that a person receives Christ, he (or she) is positionally righteous and holy in the eyes of God. When a person is in Christ, his sins are completely forgiven, so when God looks at him, He sees His son Jesus (Philippians 3:9; 2 Corinthians 5:21). You and I both know, however, that we are by no means perfect, righteous, and holy. This is called experiential sanctification and is what we will be talking about. On this side of glory, we will constantly be fighting sin and dealing with a broken world. Sanctification is the process of becoming more like Christ. The more effectively that we reflect the character and nature of Christ, the more glory God receives. So a Christ-Centered Disciple is someone who strives to put sin to death for his joy and for God’s glory.

## 4. LIVING BY FAITH

A “Christ-Centered Disciple” is a person who lives by faith. Living by faith is an all-encompassing term, and we are only going to highlight a few details of what it means to live by faith. Faith is choosing to live as if God’s Word is true regardless of circumstance, emotions, or cultural trends. A person who lives by faith is a person who cherishes and draws from God’s word regularly. A Christ-Centered Disciple is a person who serves. These people understand how Christ took on flesh and humbled himself to serve us, so now they want to reflect that to other people for the glory of God. There is no such thing as a prideful disciple. A true disciple is a person who is humble and who considers others. The gospel motivates service (Colossians 3:23-24; Psalm 100:2). Also, a Christ-Centered Disciple lives on mission with the hope of multiplication (Matthew 28:19-20). It is the disciple’s goal to make disciples and to see the gospel transform hearts for the glory of God.