

Forming a New Faith Group?

Please read this page first, and when your ready to form your new faith group, click on the link at the bottom of the page.

Thank you for following God's call to form a faith group. Forming a group can be intimidating and we hope the following approach will support you in this journey. In forming your group, we encourage you to emphasize relationship over any other factor of group formation. One of the most effective means of group formation involves prayer. Below is one of what we believe to be the most effective approaches to organic and God-directed group formation. This process is a demonstration of trust in God and a far less institutional and more relational way of forming a life-giving community within the larger church.

- Take some time to pray about the group God has put on your heart, asking God to reveal a vision for what this group will become. Vision drives spiritual growth and keeps any study we may be involved in from being merely an intellectual pursuit.
- Then write a paragraph sharing who you are, your passions, and your vision for what this group can be. This relational approach is far more compelling and personal than simply stating what you will be studying and who the group is for; emphasizing study over relationship often sets up the group to be seen as another church program that demands our time rather than an essential life-giving community we're excited to set time aside to live into.
- We have a two-pronged approach to getting your group started:
 - From your paragraph of discernment, we will highlight your passion and vision for the group (through various means) so others outside of your circle know your group is starting. That opens your group to those within the larger church who may be attracted to your passion and vision.
 - We will ask you to place your group before God in prayer, because the God who calls us to form a new faith group will help us populate it with the people God knows need to be in it. Specifically ask that God will supply you the names/faces of the people who need to be involved. As God reveals them to you, you will extend an invitation, explaining your vision and hopes for the group. Try not to default to people you know well unless the individual is somebody God names in your prayer. And encourage them to take time to pray it over.
- As people begin to discern that they are called to be part of your group, encourage them to pray as you have that God would give them the names of any other individuals who are called to be in the group. This will build the group naturally and organically through relational means rather than institutional means.
- As your group gets started, we recommend an approach of shared leadership roles. That way everyone has a responsibility, whether you rotate who facilitates, or somebody is in charge of prayer requests, or another checks in on members of the group during the week. Building that shared leadership creates ownership that will hopefully lead to the intentional creation of new faith groups that bring new life to others.

Personal Invitation Email Example

Hi [Name],

I hope you are doing well! [Any personal remarks you'd like to make].

The reason I am emailing you right now is that I have received a calling from God to start a new Faith Group. [Insert more here about your vision and passion for the group]. [Consider adding a word about your goal. Example: that we may grow in our faith through our time together and that we may go on to form new groups when that time ends].

God has given me several names so far that could become part of this group. Your name is one of them. I know you're a busy person and I certainly don't want to take you away from any other formational groups you might be part of, but I wanted to obey my sense of who God is calling me to reach out to and simply put it before you. Would you please commit to pray over this and let me know what you decide in the next week or so? Blessings to you!

[Your name]

Ready to start your group? Please [click here](#).