



Sunday Morning Discussion & Prayer Small Groups



The Rationale for the Point Church's Sunday Morning Small Groups

The Point Church's Sunday small groups are integral to accomplishing one of the key purposes of our assembling together as a church:

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another ...

Hebrews 10:24-25 NLT

Spurring one another on to love and good works. Encouraging one another. The apostle Paul summed up this function of Christian assemblies very simply:

Let all things be done for building up ...

1 Corinthians 14:26 NRSV

The goal of reciprocal upbuilding and encouragement is best achieved in small group contexts that promote interaction and facilitate the development of relationships in a way that larger group contexts struggle to achieve. Gender specific groups further enhance the achievement of these goals by capitalising on the gender peer factor where most people seem more likely to share their thoughts and experiences with those of the same sex. Gender specific groups also ensure that we honour biblical principles pertaining to gender relations in the church (e.g. 1 Timothy 2:12).

The Focus of the Point Church's Sunday Morning Small Groups

The focus of the Sunday small groups is twofold:

- The small groups purposefully follow the sermon to promote discussion and *especially application* of God's word. To this end, teachers are requested to provide sample questions to assist small group facilitators in leading their group's discussion.
- The small groups provide a key context for deepening relationships through sharing life's experiences with *gospel intentionality* and praying together. To maximise this relational benefit, our gender-based groups are intergenerational (composed of young and old and everywhere in between).

The Sunday Morning Small Group Facilitator's Role.

A facilitator is a person that makes an action or process easy or easier. In the case of our Sunday small groups, their role is to facilitate group discussion and application of the lesson, group member sharing and prayers. They are not *necessarily* mentors (though they may be), nor are they expected to be social organisers for their group. It is hoped that the fellowship fostered within small groups might extend to social engagement and support beyond the context of Sunday assemblies. But the responsibility for such belongs to any and each group member in accordance with their giftedness (e.g. don't expect a teacher or administrator to be the one to take the initiative in organising hospitality or mercy, etc.)