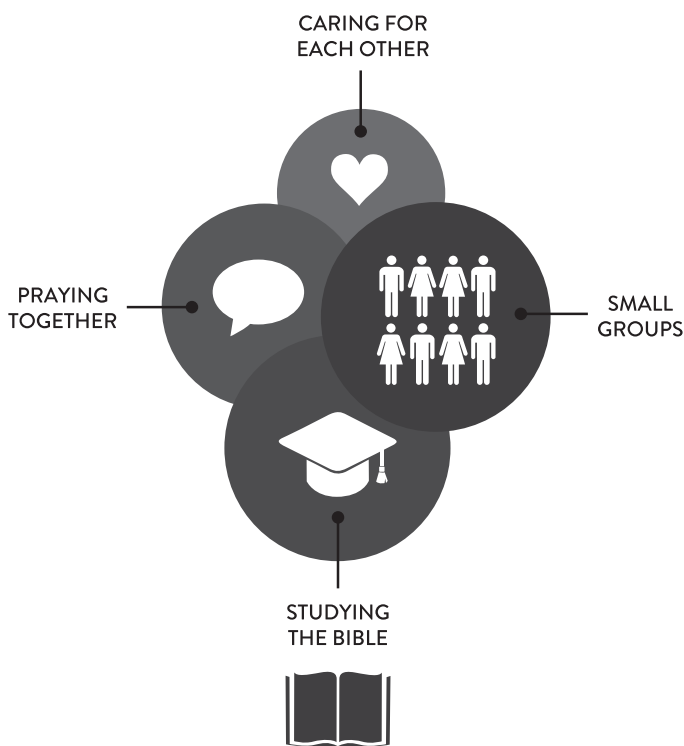


Growth Groups at HUNTERBIBLECHURCH



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.'



Essentially, Growth Groups are weekly small groups where members of HBC dig into the Bible, pray and care for each other under the leadership of mature Christians.



HBC Growth Groups are the first context for pastoral care across church. This means that being a committed member of a group is the best way to be served in this way and (perhaps more importantly) to serve others as well.



For many people at HBC, being part of a Growth Group is one of the best experiences in their Christian life.



Our groups run for a year at a time - sometimes continuing the following year, sometimes changing depending on things like growth, leader transitions and new opportunities.



Growth Groups are mainly about us growing together in Christian maturity even though the other 4 'Ms' which we talk about in church will naturally find expression here too.

This is why HBC Growth Groups put a big emphasis on growing to be more like Christ - through prayerful Bible study, loving relationships, godly leaders and a culture of personal repentance.

EXPECTATIONS

COMMITMENT

We expect everyone to commit to encouraging the people in their Growth Group in their walk with Jesus. Hebrews 10:24-25 talks about this as does

EPHESIANS 4:16

'From Christ the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.'

In practice this will mean, at the very least, making every effort to be there for each other at Growth Group and Sunday church each week. There's nothing more encouraging than seeing the familiar faces of your Growth Group friends at these gatherings - ready to spur you on. Beyond this, things like prayer, emails and one-to-one ministry can be great ways to build mutual encouragement.

RESPECT

We expect everyone to respect their Growth Group leaders. These men and women are carefully appointed by the pastors of HBC according to the principles of passages like 1 Timothy 3, Titus 1 and Acts 20. They take a genuine responsibility for their groups and so deserve the respect spoken of in places like 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 and Hebrews 13:17.

PARTNERSHIP

Groups can expect to play a wider part in the life of church. This can include things like serving on church rosters, committing to praying for a particular missionary family or hearing about church news or financial updates. Ideally, things like this won't feel like a burden - rather they are all ways in which we can partner with each other in God using us to bring glory to Jesus in Newcastle!



THE CONNECT SERIES

Growth Groups are a really important part of HBC! This is one of the reasons we ask new people at church to hook into The Connect Series before committing to a Growth Group. We've found it's just the best way to help them dive into the life of church with their eyes wide open!



If you've got questions about Growth Groups you might find them in the FAQ section of the website www.hunterbiblechurch.org or else email Richard at richard@hunterbiblechurch.org