

Share Groups

Share Groups finds its point of origin in the Bible (Acts 2:42-47). Scripture tells us in the Book of Acts that there were basically two formats for worship that the early Christians practiced. They went daily to the Temple to receive teaching and experience corporate worship, and they went daily from "house to house" for the purpose of prayer, care giving, and assimilation into the Body of Christ.

Both experiences were critical to the growth and development of the early church. There are some effects that are appropriate to each of these two environments. While the Temple (church) is best setting for corporate worship and liturgy, the home environment offers the opportunity for intimacy and real Christian community.

Through the Share Groups environment, St Philip's is able to meet the needs of the individual because the individual is better known. Thus, there is opportunity for fellowship, body ministry, personal needs to be met, and individualized instruction and growth in Jesus Christ. The venue is then available for each member to feel a part of the entire parish's ministry.

The church did not begin its existence as a large enterprise. Jesus spent most of his time in a small group environment with the 12 disciples. He shared his greatest truths with this small group and his most intimate moments were with them. This small group received the power of the Holy Spirit and turned the world upside down within one generation.

The home is recognized as one of the most important agents in accomplishing the ministry of the church. In its history, the church has proven that no spiritual movement can be accomplished without a strong, small-group home ministry at its base.

John Wesley launched his movement through the use of small groups. Share Groups is designed upon the principles that Wesley initiated. These can be found in the Works of John Wesley 1816.

1. To meet once a week.
2. To come punctually at the appointed hour.
3. To begin exactly at the hour with prayer
4. To speak in order, freely and plainly, the true state of our souls
5. To end every meeting with prayer
6. To ask questions and seek learning

Years may have passed but the essence remains the same...without open and honest communication, none of us can ever hope to grow nor will the small group be successful.

If you are interested in becoming part of, or learning more about, Share Groups, contact Fr Eric or George and Judy Freeman gforce2730@gmail.com, 210-885-9990 (George) or 210-885-9991 (Judy)! Share Groups will be starting in the near future so look for more information soon!