

Connecting With Church Family

G.R.O.W. – R – Relationships

1. The Local Church is an expression of God's Family

- a. In the same way that a physical baby is born into a physical family, a person choosing to follow Jesus experiences new life in a spiritual family. (John 1:12-13)
- b. Our new faith positions us for new life. (Romans 8:14-17)
- c. There is actually a spiritual “adoption” that takes place where we are no longer orphans but now part of God's family. (Galatians 4:5-7)

2. Growth Happens Best in Relationship and Community

Benefits of a Church family include:

- a. Getting together for church services, small groups and social activities
- b. Encouragement – to grow in faith and to keep going through hard times
- c. Protection – there is safety and protection when surrounded by people that care for you.

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Goal #1 – *To participate in a small group outside of weekend services.*

1. Healthy Churches and People Need Each Other for Encouragement and Growth (Acts 2:42-47)

- a. Believers were devoted to the **TEACHING** of God's Word.
- b. They spent **TIME** together – eating and praying.
- c. This resulted in experiencing God's **POWER**.
- d. They were **GENEROUS** and walked in **FAVOR** with people.
- e. God added to their number **DAILY!**

- In addition to going to church each week, being a part of a small group allows you to connect with people in ways that may not happen at a weekend service.

Some of the ways people at Christ Church connect through Small Groups include:

- **L.I.F.E. Groups** – these are small groups that meet in member’s homes to get together to learn and connect with others during a time of Bible study, food and conversation.
- **Life Activity Groups** – these are small groups that meet based on an activity that groups participate in. These are very diverse and you can learn about them at: www.christchurchusa.org/smallgroups

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Goal #2 – *To serve within Christ Church – weekend services or events.*

- Serve in a Christ Church Ministry – in addition to the impact you have by serving others, many people become strong friends with the people they serve with at Christ Church
- Everywhere you serve within the church helps to strengthen current members while also making connection points with those looking to connect with God.

Action Steps for Spiritual Fitness:

- 1) Sign up for a Small Group or learn more about the different small groups at www.christchurchusa.org/smallgroups.

Types of Small Groups:

- L.I.F.E. Groups – interactive social time and Bible study in a member’s home
 - Life Activity Groups – groups based on an activity that small group members enjoy doing together
- 2) Choose a ministry to serve at Christ Church or to learn more, go to: ChristChurchUSA.org/Serve
 - 3) Come to a service each weekend and bring friends.