

SBPC Sermon-based Small Group 2015 Agreement

SBPC Vision

We are a growing community of fully devoted followers of Christ.

SBPC Mission

We WORSHIP God in community; we BELONG to each other through faith in Christ; we GROW in small groups; we SERVE with uncommon generosity; we IMPACT the world by demonstrating the kingdom of God and inviting others to join it.

Goals of Sermon-based Small Groups

BELONG – We desire Small Groups to be a safe and welcoming place to explore and grow in our relationship with God and others as we discuss Scripture aligned with the weekly message.

BECOME – We believe following Jesus is a journey of becoming like Christ for the sake of others. Spiritual formation happens best in small groups as we engage with scripture, spiritual practices, prayer, and service.

BLESS – We encourage everyone to discover and use their SHAPE (Spiritual Gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality, Experience: see SPBC website) within the church, community, and beyond, alone and together as a group.

Group Expectations

The purpose of this agreement is to help us discuss and clarify our expectations and to set some helpful guidelines for healthy dialogue. I/we agree to uphold the following values with the intent to grow in our love of God, love for others, and to become God's agents of love in the world.

1. **Commitment:** We agree to uphold the purpose of SBPC Sermon-based Small Groups. We will begin and end the meeting on time. For the sake of the group, we commit to making regular attendance a priority. We will offer tangible support and care to one another if the need arises, as a reflection of our commitment to community.
2. **Participation:** The leader will facilitate the group discussion, not teach. The success of the group will depend on the contribution of each person, so I will come prepared and willing to participate. We will focus on relevant passages and avoid jumping to outside topics or personal agendas. Rather than attempting to change another person's viewpoint, we will pay attention to areas of our own lives that we sense God is transforming or challenging.
3. **Confidentiality:** We will respect and hold confidential anything shared in the group. We will honor the trust of those who share by praying for and not speaking about what they share. We will refrain from destructive or divisive conversation regarding the church and its leadership.
4. **Humility and Authenticity:** We will encourage everyone to share feelings, struggles, joys, and hurts without offering unsolicited advice or correction. We will respect each member of the group and deal graciously and biblically with any conflict that arises.
5. **Sensitivity and Listening:** We will be conscious and accepting of the needs, feelings, backgrounds, and current situations of other group members. We will listen to understand perspectives other than our own. We will share in the first person owning personal opinions, thoughts, and experiences without generalizing about others.
6. **Respect:** We will support, respect, and accept group members wherever they are in their journey of faith or their experience of scripture. We will seek to learn and grow from Scripture, prayer, and one another. We will create an environment of trust, respecting opinions and allowing for differences. We will value each person, believing the best of one another. We will refrain from judgmental or argumentative comments.
7. **Hospitality:** We will provide an environment where people feel safe and valued. As God blesses our group with new relationships, we will remain open to the potential of adding or multiplying for the sake of welcoming others.

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We agree to honor this commitment (please sign):

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