



PARISH GROUPS

~ what to know & expect ~

Boise Gospel Church

**They devoted themselves
to the apostles' teaching,
to the fellowship,
to the breaking of bread,
and to prayer. Now all the
believers **were together** and
held all things in common.**

Acts 2:42, 44

**The Christian life is a whole-
life journey to know and
proclaim Jesus Christ;
a journey that we called to
make **with** one another.**

"In our world full of strangers, estranged from their own past, culture and country, from their neighbors, friends and family, from their deepest self and their God, we witness a painful search for a hospitable place where life can be lived without fear and where community can be found... That is our vocation [as Christians]: to convert the enemy into the guest and to create the free and fearless space where brotherhood and sisterhood can be formed and fully experienced."

~ Henri J. Nouwen



WELCOME TO PARISH GROUPS

One of BGC's primary convictions is that God has saved us into a family and calls us to live together with that family in the ordinary places and rhythms of life. We call these ordinary places "Parishes," which is just an old, churchy word, reminding us that we each live in small distinct places, with real people, identities, and stories. Parish Groups are the smaller expressions of BGC that gather in and around Boise during the week. They serve as the primary places for care, discipleship, and localized mission.

We hope this document helps you understand what to expect and how you can best serve and belong to a Parish Group at BGC.

PARISH GROUP DESIGN

Parish Groups are built on simple rhythms that we believe help foster healthy community and discipleship, because they grow us *upward*, *inward*, and *outward*. We pursue growth together in these directions by committing ourselves to the following:

to experiencing God through Word and Worship,
to loving one another through Care and Community,
to reaching our city through Mission and Multiplication.

UPWARD Word + Worship

INWARD Care + Community

OUTWARD Mission + Multiplication

Belonging to a Parish Group means participating in each of these components as God has gifted you.

UPWARD

Word | Colossians 3:16

The primary way that we encounter God's revelation of Himself is through His Word. We practice regular Bible study and discussion together. We also desire that the Word would dwell among us richly, as we encourage, exhort, teach, and admonish one another, with all wisdom.

Worship | John 4:23-24

Our ultimate goal is to adore and praise God's glory together. We spend time responding to who God is and what He's done by worshipping together through singing, praying, silence, and other creative expressions of praise.

INWARD

Care | Galatians 6:2

It is important that we be truly *with* one another, through the struggles and victories of ordinary life. We care, serve, celebrate, and bear burdens. The Gospel shapes our listening, praying, confession, and encouragement, as we seek to be the consistent, non-anxious presence of Christ in each other's lives.

Community | John 13:35

To be truly *with* each other means making time and space to know the unique personalities of other group members. We enjoy being together, doing fun things, and try not to take ourselves too seriously. Hospitality, creativity, and planning are important for encouraging a healthy community in Parish Groups.

OUTWARD

Mission | Matthew 22:35-40 & Matthew 28:18-20

As small expressions of BGC, Parish Groups share the same goal—to know and proclaim the Gospel, making more and better disciples of Jesus Christ. Parish Groups seek to be on mission together to reach their friends, neighbors, and local parish. Mission flourishes when we are deeply burdened for the lost and devoted to demonstrating and proclaiming the Gospel to others.

Multiplication | Acts 2:46-47

Parish Groups share BGC's vision to see disciples, leaders, and churches multiplied. Multiplying Parish Groups is an important aspect of that strategy. Healthy multiplication doesn't need to be forced or programmed but happens naturally and beautifully when more of those seeking God are invited in, and when more leaders are identified and raised up in the context of life together.

SUNDAYS + WEDNESDAYS

Sundays. BGC members and visitors can expect the same simple and accessible rhythm of gatherings, starting with Sundays, where we gather corporately to worship and sit under the teaching of God's word.

Wednesdays. It is in Parish Groups that we gather consistently and more intimately during the week. Ideally, all Parish Groups gather on Wednesdays. We believe that being on the same weekly rhythms will foster greater unity and continuity among the whole body. Groups are encouraged to be creative with their schedule and activities together in the summer, while not necessarily "taking a break." That said, space for rest and renewal is crucial for healthy groups and healthy leaders.

First Wednesdays. Every first Wednesday of the month, Parish Groups take a break from their regular meeting time and place and gather with the whole church for a meal and focused time of worship, rest, silence, and prayer.

PARISH GROUP EXPECTATIONS

Belonging to a Parish Group is a commitment to your own personal growth as well as to the growth of the church body. To that end, it is important that Parish Group members prioritize the following:

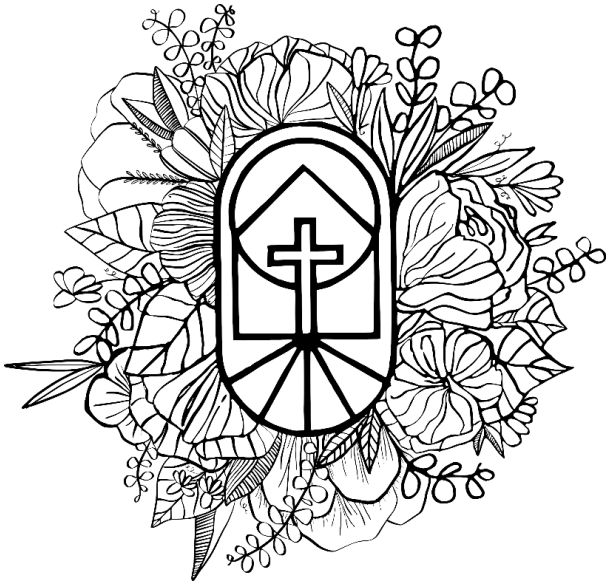
- Making attendance and participation a priority in their lives.
- Preparing for and building into the life of the Parish Group.
- Living authentic and transparent lives, being prepared to receive and extend God's truth and grace with each other.
- Joining the group on mission and service of our communities.
- Communicating timely and consistently with Parish Group leaders and other members throughout the week.

Therefore I, the prisoner in the Lord, urge you to walk worthy of the calling you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope, at your calling—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

Speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into him who is the head—Christ. From him the whole body, fitted and knit together by every supporting ligament, promotes the growth of the body for building itself up in love by the proper working of each individual part.

Ephesians 4:1–6, 15–16.



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