

THE BIG PICTURE OF SMALL GROUPS IN THE CHURCH AT BROOK HILLS

We glorify Christ by making disciples of all nations

Our Vision: WE GLORIFY CHRIST... (Philippians 3:10 – to know and become like Christ)

Our Mission: BY MAKING DISCIPLES... (Matthew 28:18-20 – to go and make disciples)

Components of our Mission:

- Share the Word
- Show the Word
- Teach the Word
- Serve the World

Our Goal: OF ALL NATIONS (Psalm 67:1-2 – total world impact for God’s glory)

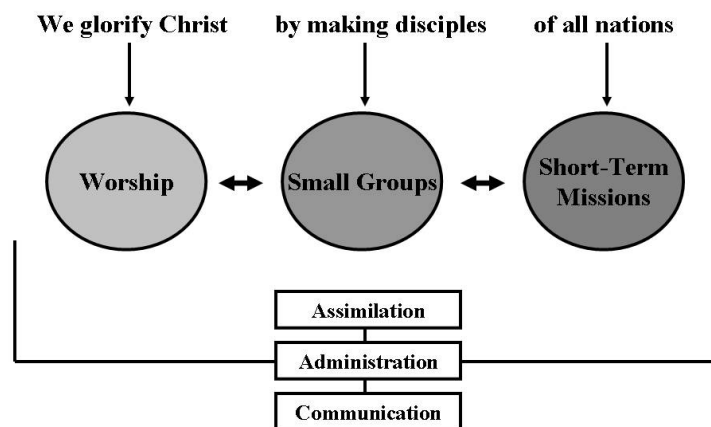
Our Values:

- Biblical Proclamation
- Desperate Prayer
- Whole-Hearted Worship
- Sacrificial Care
- Exponential Multiplication

Our Strategic Non-Negotiables:

- **BIBLICAL...** We align all of our plans with the Word of God.
- **SUPERNATURAL...** In everything we do, we are desperate for His presence and dependent on His power.
- **RELATIONAL...** We prioritize care for people and investment in people.
- **INTENTIONAL...** We focus everything we do on developing world-impacting disciple-makers.
- **REPRODUCIBLE...** We organize our ministries and maximize our resources for exponential multiplication of the Gospel
- **CROSS-CULTURAL...** Our goal is ultimately to proclaim the gospel to every people group in the world.
- **RADICAL...** We are willing to risk everything to accomplish the mission of Christ.

From Mission Statement to Programs



Why Small Groups?

They reflect the pattern of our Creator – John 17:20-26

They follow the precedent of Jesus Christ – Luke 6:12-16

They model the practice of the early Church – Acts 2:42-47; cf. 1 Cor. 16:19; Col. 4:15; Philemon 1:2

Small Group Leader Description:

Small Group Leaders are spiritually mature, emotionally healthy, and desire to know and become like Christ personally as they shepherd others to know and become like Him. As deacons (servant leaders) they Show the Word, Share the Word, Teach the Word, and Serve the World in biblical community with their small group, while leading them to do the same. Their desire is to equip and empower their small groups to embrace Christ's purpose for their lives and to multiply God's Kingdom both locally and globally for His glory. They seek to equip attendees to become disciple-makers as they multiply their group every couple of years.

Lifestyle Expectation:

All church leaders are encouraged to abstain from alcohol use and any other practices that might in any way hinder their representation of Christ in His church. The Elders and Staff choose to abstain from alcohol use in order to be blameless and above reproach in their representation of Christ in His church.

Closed & Open Groups:

There may be times when small groups need to close in order to address needs and / or adjust to situations within the group. Below are some criteria for closing a group:

1. Communicate with the local disciple-making team the reason for closing the group. Reasons might include a new group that has grown too fast, outgrowing the group's location, to maintain confidentiality or transparency, for periods of intentional disciple making, or a variety of other situations that might make it inappropriate or uncomfortable for new people to join the group.
2. Communicate the decision to close the group with other group participants.
3. Discuss a plan for leading your group in addressing the need or situation with a member of the local disciple-making team.
4. Choose an end date when the group will become open again or multiply.

On & Off Campus Groups:

Some small groups meet on the campus of the Church at Brook Hills while others meet in homes, businesses, and other locations off campus. Generally, on campus meeting space is reserved for those groups that need to utilize childcare and student resources on a consistent basis, groups with a majority of senior adult members, and groups with special circumstances. On campus groups that meet on Sunday mornings are always "open" groups since this is the time that a majority of members and attendees participate in and connect to small groups. On campus groups should typically be considered as "pass-through's" that enable individuals to quickly connect, form biblical community, and become part of a disciple-making process that moves them away from our building and into their communities. In general, biblical community develops more quickly in an off-campus group or on-campus groups that meet at other times.

Small Group Promotion:

We encourage all Christ-followers to be obedient to Him by making disciples. The Local Disciple-Making team would love to partner with those who desire to make disciples through the context of a small group by supporting and promoting their groups. In order for the LDM Team to list and promote a group, the group leader must schedule an interview with a member of the LDM Team and must affirm The Church at Brook Hills Deacon Expectations.

Small Group First Week Guide

1. Greet and Eat – (15 minutes)

While everyone arrives, encourage people to have something to eat and drink and make a nametag (we encourage you to provide nametags the first few times you meet). Providing snacks or even serving dinner helps to facilitate conversation, break up awkwardness feelings, and creates an environment of home and safety. Serving coffee and cake or a dinner, like sandwiches and chips, is usually best. Keep it simple. Encourage people to continue eating as you transition to the next part of your time together.

2. Tell Your Stories – (1 hour)

Start telling your stories by asking everyone to identify 1 or 2 people that have played a significant role in their lives and share why. Then continue by having everyone share 2 or 3 events or 2 or 3 places that help tell their story. People should feel free to share as little or as much as they want since some members may not be Christians or might be naturally shy.

- As the leader, you set the tone so plan on sharing first. You might consider sharing at least one personal fear or failure as the night continues in order to help everyone feel safer to be transparent.
- If time allows, allow everyone to share one of his or her most embarrassing moments or a favorite childhood memory. This will help you end on a light note.

3. Introduce Your Curriculum – (15 minutes)

Use this time to explain the options you are considering for the Bible study portion of your meeting. We recommend using the Small Group Guides as your group forms, which are located under the weekly teaching tab of the home page (www.brookhills.org/media). These guides give your group common ground for discussing and investigating biblical truth regardless of the groups individual's spiritual maturity. They also give people the opportunity to process the biblical content taught by the pastor on Sunday mornings for personal application. Once your group has formed and you enter into more significant relationships, you'll be better able to determine what curriculum or study to pursue as a disciple-making tool.

4. Prayer Time – (15 minutes)

End your group time together with a time of prayer, but do not simply "take prayer requests". Often there is an uncomfortable silence when a leader asks for "requests" and people feel pressured to offer an issue in order to ease the tension even if they have not prayed about it themselves. To avoid this, ask those in your group to share some things or people that they are currently praying for and commit to pray with them. Commit to recording these needs and partnering with each other in praying for them. Be sure to email a list to people during the week as a reminder.

5. Official Dismissal

Even though some people may stay around longer, it is important to give everyone who needs to leave an opportunity (i.e. permission) to leave. Try to keep the official group meeting time less than two hours. Remember to collect contact information from every person so that you can call or email them some time before the next group meeting.

6. Group Commitment

At your next meeting, spend some time discussing the purpose of your group, the reason each of the part

Adult Local Disciple-Making Team

Keith Stanley

Local Disciple-Making Pastor
Overall leadership for College, Adults and
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Jamie Labello

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Contact for Local Disciple-Making Issues
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Deric Thomas

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Overall College leadership training/support
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Andrew Whitehead

Young Single's Coordinator
Local Outreach Opportunities
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Jennifer Bearden

Local Disciple-Making Ministry Assistant
Contact for Adult Small Groups and
Local Community Outreach issues
jbearden@brookhills.org

Website Links:

Small Group Leader Resources	www.brookhills.org/adults
Small Group Guides	www.brookhills.org/media
Statement of Faith	www.brookhills.org/new

Recommended Disciple-Making Resources:

The Bible

The Adventure of Discipling Others, Ron Bennett and John Purvis

Discipleship Essentials, Greg Ogden

How People Change, Paul Tripp and Tim Lane

Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands, Paul Tripp

The Lost Art of Disciple-Making, LeRoy Eims

The Master Plan of Evangelism, Robert Coleman

Transforming Discipleship, Greg Ogden

LifeChange Bible Study Series, NavPress

Bible Doctrines and/or Christian Beliefs, Wayne Grudem

Christianity Explained, Michael Bennet

Secret Church Series: Old Testament, New Testament, the Doctrine of God, the Holy Spirit, etc...

Weekly Teachings / Sermon Series of David Platt, (Abide, Follow Me Threads), www.brookhills.org/media

Small Group Leader's Profile

Name: _____

Interviewed by: _____

Date: _____

The following information is considered confidential and will only be shared
with Local Disciple-Making and Senior Leadership team members.

Contact Information:

Address: _____

Phone: (h) _____ (w) _____ (c) _____

Email: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Which phone number may we list in the worship guide, small group directory, and on the website? _____

Do we have your permission to use your email address in publications and on the website?

Yes _____ Signature: _____ No _____

Personal Information:

Occupation: _____

Employer: _____

Work Status: Full Time Part Time Student Homemaker

Marital Status: Single Married Divorced Widow(er)

Small Group Information:

Place: Home On-Campus Other: _____

Type: Couples Men Women Mixed

College Singles Seniors Support Type

Other: _____

Age: _____

Day & Time: _____

Start Date: _____

Interview Questions:

How did you come into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ? Describe your baptism experience (include your age and approximate dates).

How long have you been a member of The Church at Brook Hills? _____

What leadership roles or ministries have you participated in as a part of the Church at Brook Hills or other churches?

Please explain disciple-making as you understand it.

Are there any beliefs that are expressed by our Senior Pastor, or that are detailed in our Statement of Beliefs (visit www.brookhills.org/new for a complete listing) with which you take issue?

Please indicate your understanding of the following Small Group Leader Expectations by reading and initialing next to each of them:

___ Small Group Leaders agree to teach in agreement with Brook Hills Statement of Beliefs.

___ Small Group Leaders will demonstrate emotional health as evidenced by a minimum of 12 months of recovery from life-controlling issues (divorce, addictions, etc.).

___ Small Group Leaders agree to support The Church at Brook Hills' Mission, Vision, Goal, and Core Values and affirm Deacon Expectations.

___ Small Group Leaders agree to only teach curriculum that has been approved by the Local Disciple-Making team.

___ Small Group Leaders agree to participate in Small Group leadership development, which includes partnering with the Local disciple-Making team to develop a disciple-making plan for their groups.

___ Small Group Leaders agree that success is not achieved numerically but in multiplying their groups by raising up disciple-makers to send out and/or lead new groups.