



# RADIANT GROUPS

EIGHT COMMITMENTS OF RADIANT GROUPS

# EIGHT COMMITMENTS

While each group has its own dynamics, we want every small group member to embrace *Eight Commitments*. Together, these commitments are intended to set clear expectations and increase ownership among small group members. [Healthy small groups thrive on participation and consist of members who strive to live out all \*Eight Commitments\*.](#)

1

## SPIRITUAL GROWTH

*I will pursue spiritual growth and encourage my group as they grow in their walk with Christ.*

2

## CULTIVATE RELATIONSHIPS

*I will be present and make it a priority to know and stay connected with the people in my group.*

3

## ACCEPT OWNERSHIP

*I will look for big and small ways to contribute and care for needs that come up in my group.*

4

## BE AUTHENTIC

*I will trust, be transparent and strive to be open while maintaining respect and confidentiality in my group.*

5

## EMBRACE ACCOUNTABILITY

*I will invite my group to speak into my life while extending grace to my group.*

6

## CELEBRATE GROWTH

*I will encourage and celebrate when God is working in the lives of my group.*

7

## SERVE TOGETHER

*I will serve with my group and look for ways to permeate the west side of Indianapolis with the hope of the gospel.*

8

## MULTIPLY MINISTRY

*I will be open to new members and as we grow, we will multiply to advance God's work so more people can experience what we have experienced.*

# 1 SPIRITUAL GROWTH

*I will pursue spiritual growth and encourage my group as they grow in their walk with Christ.*

Over the years, we have seen that small groups are the most effective environment for sustained spiritual growth. Spiritual growth requires the supernatural work of God and transforming power of Scripture. It takes personal discipline and dependence on the Holy Spirit. It takes abiding in Christ. And it takes the influence and support of others.

To grow spiritually, you need people who are devoted to you and will step into your life and point you to the hope of the gospel. You need people to pray with you, encourage you and call you out when necessary. You need people who will sharpen you and are committed to growing in Christ.

Beyond making friends or having a place to belong, becoming more like Jesus must be the primary goal of each small group. Spiritual growth shapes everything we do in small groups.



## 2 CULTIVATE RELATIONSHIPS

*I will be present and make it a priority to know and stay connected with the people in my group.*

God brought you to this church and placed you with a particular group of people. We believe God has a reason for your small group.

Maybe these people are like you and it's easy to see you have a lot in common. Or perhaps your group is totally different. The odds are you would not pick these same people on your own, but that's what makes these relationships so powerful.

As a church, we want to experience relationships as God intended. This means we must be willing to risk looking weak and vulnerable. We must open up and be real with each other. We must learn how to self-disclose and support one another. We must extend grace, reciprocate ministry and initiate care. We're tired of settling for shallow and empty relationships. At Radiant, we want deep, life-giving relationships.



# 3 ACCEPT OWNERSHIP

*I will look for big and small ways to contribute and care for needs that come up in my group.*

Sometimes, we can barely manage our own lives, let alone the daunting task of trying to come alongside others. Yet the New Testament commands us to minister to one another.

Rather than having a few highly trained leaders, we want to call each person in every small group to step up in ministry. Imagine hundreds of people who are devoted to ministering to one another. This is what the priesthood of all believers is about.

Our whole church can come alongside and minister to one another through small groups. We don't just go to church, we are the church.

In small group, each member is expected to take ownership and is responsible for ministering to the needs of the group. There are no consumers or spectators. Small groups are designed to mutually minister to one another.



# 4 BE AUTHENTIC

*I will trust, be transparent and strive to be open while maintaining respect and confidentiality in my group.*

As Christians, it's easy to spend much of our lives hiding our inadequacies and covering failures. But we're tired of fake. Just as Christ accepted us, we need to accept others. We're far from perfect, and that's okay. While authenticity is intimidating at first, it's one of the most life-giving traits in small group. We want to be real and genuinely authentic.

Small group is where we can be known. We share hurts, confess sins, disclose doubts, admit fears, acknowledge weakness, ask for help and seek out prayer. This is where we can reveal our true selves and share the ups and downs of life.

This isn't about sharing our deepest and darkest secrets. We just want to be real. As God's image bearers, we're less concerned with protecting our own image and more focused on reflecting Christ through our imperfect lives.



# 5 EMBRACE ACCOUNTABILITY

*I will invite my group to speak into my life while extending grace to my group.*

One distinguishing trait of small group is something we call breakout. In breakout, men gather with men and women gather with women for a focused time of accountability and prayer as we bear each other's burdens and passionately pursue Christ together.

Accountability is not about exercising authority over one another. It's also not a sin hunt or interrogation. Rather than piling guilt on one another, we strive to speak truth into each other as we look for opportunities to grow in grace, encourage one another and pray together.

At its core, accountability is being honest with ourselves, real with others and dependent on God. In the fight against sin, having other people in your corner is a powerful motivator.





# 6 CELEBRATE GROWTH

*I will encourage and celebrate when God is working in the lives of my group.*

Spiritual growth is not something manufactured or produced on our own. Although we are involved in the process, each of us are powerless to grow and change ourselves. Because we cannot become more like Christ without God intervening on our behalf, spiritual growth is something we must celebrate. When we celebrate God's work in our lives, we shift the attention off ourselves and focus on what the Lord is doing.

Spiritual growth is more than a change of behavior. It's a heart change that impacts your attitude, perspective and priorities as you grow in your ability to view life through the lens of God's truth. This includes trusting God when life is hard, prioritizing the wisdom of God's Word when making decisions, being Spirit-dependent and extending grace to people who don't deserve it.

Like physical growth, spiritual growth is often slow and subtle. In small groups, sharing stories and prayer requests is important sometimes it is difficult to recognize the growth that is taking place. Celebrating God at work is worship.



# 7 SERVE TOGETHER

*I will serve with my group and look for ways to permeate the west side of Indianapolis with the hope of the gospel.*

At Radiant, we want to be a positive influence for Christ. We want to be a church that loves people. We want to be known for compassion and caring for our community. Small groups can play a vital role in accomplishing this.

Imagine if our church disappeared. Would our community and neighbors notice? We desire to make a difference, not to check the box for good deeds. We believe that God can use our efforts to impact people around us.

Serving is an essential part of small groups because it awakens us to life outside of ourselves and launches us into the world. Serving reflects the heart of God and mobilizes us with a mindset for ministry. It forces groups to move outside the comfortable living room and into the community.



# 8 MULTIPLY MINISTRY

*I will be open to new members and as we grow, we will multiply to advance God's work so more people can experience what we have experienced.*

In some ways, multiplying seems counterintuitive, especially when a small group invests years building deep relationships. Why end a good thing like that? Because multiplication is core to our mission. Everything we do in small groups supports our mission as a church to point all people to a passionate pursuit of the radiant God.

The natural tendency in groups is to stay together too long. As we share our lives and minister to one another, a small group becomes a safe and comfortable place. For some, the thought of multiplying is heartbreaking. But, the only thing worse than multiplying is staying together for too long.

Over time, people can drift toward complacency. Once this happens, people lose interest and are prone to sit back. The best time to multiply a small group is when everyone in the group is living out the Eight Commitments of small group.



