

COMMUNITY GROUP FIRST STEPS

Welcome to your new community group!

We believe that the first few weeks of meeting and doing life together are incredibly important for the success of your group moving forward. As we work diligently to find your group a Launcher, utilize the structure below to guide your time together.

Getting Started:

- Don't wait for a Launcher to join you to start gathering. Create a group message (phone numbers included in the email) and plan your first weekly meeting.
- Make an effort to see each other outside of your weekly meeting - attend a life stage ministry (The Porch, Gather, etc.), sit together in weekend services, or enjoy a meal. Utilize this time to learn more about each other's backgrounds and spiritual journeys.
- Communicate proactively with the group if you can't join the meeting that week.
- Reach out to your Community Formation Director if you need additional guidance.

How to Spend Your Time Together:

The following meeting framework is used as a baseline for all groups, and you can begin utilizing it now.

1. **Relational Connection (15 min)** – Enjoy casual conversation and catch up on your week
2. **Transformational Content (45 min)** – Our desire is that every community group would take focused and intentional steps to mature as disciples together using the 10 Markers. As a newly formed community group, start with a resource to help you grow as Bible Revering disciples. Here are a couple of options:
 - a. Read and Discuss God's Word: Start by reading a passage of scripture together. Consider and share how that applies to you today. Unsure where to start? Every Thursday on Join the Journey, Watermark's bible reading plan, you can find a devotional and community application questions based on that week's passage. Read the scripture and devotional together and discuss the questions as a group.
 - b. Discuss the Sermon: Every week, Watermark releases a Sunday sermon guide with reflection and discussion questions from the [most recent service](#). Use this guide as a group to discuss the previous week's message and how it applies to your lives.
3. **Spiritual Care + Missional, Merciful Prayer (60 min)** – An opportunity for every member to be known and loved
 - a. Give Personal Updates: Begin to share with the group what's going on in your life. Focus on highs, lows, encouragement from you time with God, missional opportunities, and needs for prayer, accountability, or biblical counsel.
 - b. Pray: There is no greater joy than connecting with God through prayer and doing that alongside your new group will lay a great foundation. Make intentional time

at the beginning, end, and throughout your meeting to pray for one another and your group. If guidance would be helpful, use this [prayer guide](#).