



# Faith Building Groups

*“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” - Romans 15:13*



**Purpose:** To intentionally nurture and improve our relationship with God and with each other.

**Definition:** A small group of people who gather intentionally to read scripture, pray, discuss, and share their faith experiences with each other using material provided by our pastor, Pastor Pam.

**Description:** A faith-building group provides a simple way to gather with others, pray, read scripture, reflect on its meaning and share our insights with one another. One way that we grow as followers of Jesus is to read and pray the scriptures with others. Since the goal of our time together is not “studying” but just sharing our faith experiences, no one needs to be an expert on the Bible or on doctrine. We are each an expert on how we live our Christian faith. So we learn from one another as we share our own unique Christian journey and how our Christian beliefs and values influence our everyday lives. The point is not just to learn about our faith (the “what”) but to find ways to make that faith effective in our lives (the “so what”). All of our learning is ultimately for developing a better relationship with Christ and with others with whom we share the journey.

## Essential Elements:

- Each group will be led by a trained lay “shepherd” and will **meet weekly for 1 hour**.
- The **maximum** group size is **9 members**; at 10, the group will split into 2 smaller groups.
- **Covenant:**
  - I will abide by the following group agreements:
    - **Attendance** - I will attend whenever possible. Meeting with the group is a priority for me. If I cannot attend, I will let the shepherd or someone who is attending know.
    - **Participation** - I will encourage all to share their faith experiences and insights, and I will respect both the insights and the person sharing them.
    - **Confidentiality** - I agree to keep what is shared in the group confidential at all times.
  - During the meeting time:
    - someone in the group **reads the appointed scripture** aloud;
    - someone in the group **reads the guided questions** from the “Discussion Guide”, and **the group discusses and shares their experiences and insights**; and
    - **the group hears each member’s personal prayer request**, which is for themselves - not someone else, and **lifts up these prayer requests in verbal prayer**.

To **join a group**, simply **email the leader** and let them know you are interested in joining the group.

All groups are listed in the “**Member Portal**” on our website: **st-philip.org**.