



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

If you have further questions, contact our GROUPS Pastor.

What are GROUPS?

A GROUP is a gathering of 5-15 people who commit to meet weekly to share, study and support one another. A trained leader will lead each group. An average meeting lasts for an hour and a half, and sometimes includes light refreshments.

How do I choose a GROUP?

Simply look through the list of GROUPS that are available each semester for what interests you. When selecting a group, we recommend you choose a group based on its leader and what the GROUP is studying, rather than its location. Over the years, we've found that groups do best when members share common interests with each other.

If you have any questions (especially if you are new to Olive Knolls Church), please don't hesitate to call the church, and we will gladly assist you. Keep in mind that it might take two or three groups before you find the perfect fit, but don't worry, you'll find it!

What Types of GROUPS are there?

We offer a variety of GROUPS where you can develop encouraging friendships and grow in your faith. No matter what season of life you may be in, there is a group for you.

We have three types of GROUPS:

SKILL GROUPS

Skill Groups focus on developing real life skills in areas such as finances, family, parenting, marriage, grief, recovery, and sexual addiction.

STUDY GROUPS

Study groups focus on studying the Bible, Bible-Based Books, and Bible-Based Topics aimed at spiritual growth.

INTEREST GROUPS

Interest Groups gather with a common interest in mind such as serving, sports, food, and other activities.

Do GROUPS meet In-Person or Online?

We believe GROUPS are so important, especially during this time. We want you to be connected no matter what your comfort level is in this time of COVID-19, so we are offering both In-Person and Online options.

In-Person: These groups will meet completely in person.

Online: These groups are a hybrid as some people meet in person and others join them via zoom.

How important are GROUPS?

Here at Olive Knolls Church, GROUPS are the hub of our ministry. They're a place where we study God's Word while supporting and sharing our lives with one another in community. We believe that meeting together on a regular basis is time well spent. Being a part of a group is the best way for people to be known, get connected, and grow in your faith.

When and Where do GROUPS meet?

GROUPS meet on various nights of the week in homes, at the Church, and at various locations throughout Bakersfield. Most evening groups meet around 6:30pm. GROUPS that meet during the day have varying meeting times. The meeting times for each of the GROUPS are listed in the GROUPS description.

How long do GROUPS last?

Each Life Group session lasts 9 to 11 weeks. We have Fall, Winter & Spring semesters. At the end of each semester, you will have the choice of staying in the same GROUP, trying a new GROUP or even taking a break. Most GROUPS stay together throughout the entire year. Most GROUPS do not meet mid-June through August.

What is the required commitment?

Joining a GROUP requires a 9 to 11 week commitment to attend weekly meetings. Obviously allowances are made for sickness, vacation, work conflicts and other special events, but not much more. This commitment is the key to strong GROUPS. We encourage you to use the first three weeks to decide if the group is a good fit for you.

What will we study?

There are a variety of Bible-based topics that are being studied in our GROUPS. Some GROUPS studies are based on the previous weekend's message while other are walking through a book of the Bible. We have GROUPS dealing with grief, recovery, or teaching through a series based on a book. We also have GROUPS that are focused on serving or other activities. There is a description of what each GROUP is studying included on the GROUPS page.

What does it cost?

Few things in life are free and GROUPS are no exception! The cost of GROUPS is the cost of commitment. That commitment is the promise to attend each week and to participate in the discussions. We realize it's a big commitment, but it only lasts for 9 – 11 weeks. At the end of each semester, you have the choice of recommitting for another quarter, trying a new group or taking a break from GROUPS altogether. Some groups may have minimal costs for study materials or books.

What about childcare?

Most GROUPS are for adults. However, there are GROUPS each semester that do offer childcare. We leave it up to each GROUP to decide how they want to handle child care. Sometimes it works best for families to share a sitter or to choose a time and location where childcare is available.

When and how can I sign up for a GROUP?

Sign-ups begin three weekends before the start of each semester and remain open one week into the semester. There are three ways to sign up for a group: online, on the response card, or by calling the church office. A printed GROUPS list is available at the weekend services with information about each of the GROUPS.

You can call the church office to speak to our GROUPS Pastor who can assist you in finding and signing up for a group. (661) 399-3303

Are there GROUPS for teenagers or kids?

Yes, our Jr. High, High School, and Kid's Ministries all incorporate small groups into their weekly programming. Although these groups are not included in this publication, they are very important to our church. Kid's GROUPS meet on Sunday mornings during the 10:00am service. Jr. High and High School GROUPS meet on Wednesday nights at 6:00pm and Sunday Morning at 8:30am.

For more information about these groups, please contact our Church Office at (661) 399-3303

Can I start a new GROUP?

Yes! If you are interested in starting a new GROUP of any type, contact our GROUPS Pastor, Brent Kall, at the Church Office (661) 399-3303 or email him at brentkall1@mac.com. We are always looking for ways to expand the amount of GROUPS we have in order to get more people connected in community here at Olive Knolls.