

How to Form an MWPC Small Group

As part of the WORSHIP+ 2 program at MWPC, we want people to grow in their spiritual development and love for one another. Small Groups are one of the best ways to do both!

Most Small Groups come together around something the group members hold in common. It might be their age and stage of life, gender, discipleship goals, or a common interest. Groups form when 1-2 people organize a group and invite others to join them. Anyone can convene a small group!

SOME THINGS TO CONSIDER:

1. **Group membership:** Who do you wish to invite into your small group? How many people do you want to be part of the group? 6-8 people are an ideal size for small groups. Groups can be made up of couples, singles, or a mix. Who is in the group and how it is configured is up to the people arranging it!
2. **When and where to meet:** As the group is getting started, it is good to be clear about how often people want to meet. Some groups meet weekly, and others meet every other week. It is up to the group to decide. Most small groups find it challenging to get to know and support one another if they meet monthly. The important thing is to get consensus from the group and secure a commitment to attend the gatherings.
3. **How many weeks to meet:** Some groups will meet for a short season, for example, meeting for the 6 weeks of Lent. Other groups may choose to meet for a year or more. Of course, you can always start a group dedicated to a short season and then later explore the option to extend the commitment. Many people find that being part of a small group is more meaningful when they meet over an extended period.
4. **Topic and purpose:** The subject matter for Small Groups can shift and change over time. You might start with a bible study or sermon study. You might read a book together or choose to pray for your family, the community, or the world. Many groups choose to engage in periodic service projects together. We encourage all types of groups!

MWPC is in the process of building a library of resources for small groups to use. Currently, Pastor Debbie writes small group questions for every sermon series. These and other resources can be found on the MWPC webpage.

5. **Introductory Curriculum:** We highly recommend starting your small group with the "[Shema](#)" series that Pastor Debbie wrote. It helps the groups bond and have spiritual conversations. However, this study requires internet access to watch a short video together.

STEPS TO FORM A SMALL GROUP

- 1) Watch video: [Small Group Facilitator Training Video](#) (1 hour). Also, download the [handout for Small Group Facilitators](#).
- 2) Invite people to join you. Be clear about expectations.
"I'm starting a six-week small group using Pastor Debbie's "Shema" Small Group series. It will be held every Wednesday evening from 7-8:30 pm at my home starting on this date. I would love for you to join us!"
- 3) Once the group convenes, set up group rules for confidentiality, group values, and logistics.
- 4) Watch God start working in your group as you get closer to each other and grow in your faith!