

Northwest Small Group Philosophy

Better Together by Growing in Christ

God created us for community. We need others to encourage, challenge, inspire, and know us. We are better off when we are together. In small groups, we enter into relationships with other Jesus-followers. We seek Jesus together and He changes us into His likeness. *We are only better together when we are growing in Christ.*

Here at Northwest, Jesus has shaped our hearts with **4 Core Values**:

**God's Truth
Over Our
Opinion**

**God's People
Over Our
Programs**

**God's Healing
Over Our
Hiding**

**God's Mission
Over Our
Comfort**

These values are the avenue by which we experience unexpected joy in desperate dependence on Jesus. We want our groups to be a place where we live out, where we practice, where we wrestle with these values. Living out these values in our groups helps us grow in Christ.

Here at Northwest, we ask each other **4 Core Questions**:

**When have you
taken a risk
because of
Jesus?**

**Where are you
desperately
dependent on
Jesus?**

**How are you
experiencing
"unexpected
joy" from
Jesus?**

**Who are you
inviting into
conversations
about Jesus?**

We believe Jesus' story intersects our stories, and the measure of how we're growing in Christ is best reflected through the stories of our lives. We ask each other these questions to reveal the heart of how Jesus is working in our lives.

In groups, we want every member to experience **Truth, People, Healing & Mission.**

TRUTH

God is Truth. We know His Truth Through His Word. In groups, together we:

- **Study God's Word**
- **Wrestle with how God's Truth shapes our hearts & lives**
- **Point each other toward Truth**

We risk to stand on God's Truth when we struggle to believe it, when it opposes our culture and when it causes tension in our relationships. We are better together as we risk to love each other with Truth. To help us grow in this value, we ask: *When have you taken a risk because of Jesus?*

PEOPLE

God created us with an inherent need for relationship. In groups, together we:

- **Prioritize each other**
- **Pray for & support one another**
- **Commit to resolving conflict**
- **Care for & meet each other's needs**
- **Grow in Jesus' love for one another**

In a culture that values independence, we believe God often uses His people to show us the beauty of dependence on Jesus. We are better together as we grow in dependence on Jesus and each other. To help us grow in this value, we ask: *Where are you desperately dependent on Jesus?*

HEALING

Life is messy and we bring all our brokenness to relationships. In groups, together we:

- **Allow other to see our true selves**
- **Realize we are not the only broken people in need of grace**
- **Admit our struggles, doubts, lies we believe**
- **Point each other to Jesus' grace, mercy and healing**
- **Pray for and champion each other's healing journey**
- **Bring our brokenness out of hiding and into the light**

We are better together when we find freedom and joy in an unexpected place—vulnerability. To help us grow in this value, we ask: *How are you experiencing "unexpected joy" from Jesus?*

MISSION

Our personal comfort is not our highest good. In groups, together we:

- **Discover our gifts and serve**
- **Pray for each other's conversations about Jesus**
- **Encourage each other and debrief our conversations about Jesus**

We grow when we talk about what Jesus has done in our lives. We are better together because we are united in purpose. To help us grow in this value, we ask: *Who are you inviting into conversations about Jesus?*