

## Bonnyville Baptist Church | Small Groups pamphlet

- ❖ **What are small groups?** a small group is a community of from 4-10 or 12 people who regularly meet to support one another in their growth in Christ. The Small Groups Ministry is one of the efforts at BBC to fulfill our “inward” purpose to grow in fellowship and discipleship. **It is not a class in which you are taught, nor a mission field in which you are to serve**, but it is a secure and caring environment where brothers and sisters in Christ can learn from one another, help one another in times of need, and pray for one another. *It is a small group of people committed to meeting once a week in the home(s) of the group members, usually centered around bible study.*
- ❖ **How do small groups fit into BBC?** Small groups is a ministry area in our church just as Christian education or Worship Ministry are. Being in a small group at BBC doesn't mean you can't take part in the other ministries. Its role for the church as a whole is to provide a friendly personal connection that is impossible to provide at Sunday worship services alone.
- ❖ *Small groups of fellow believers can help the mission of our church by providing a stable base for immediate Christian growth to a new attendee of the church.* We hope that for some, this will be the foundation they need to help them grow roots and then branch out into other parts of the church in which they can continue to learn and grow and start to serve through their own God-given talents.
- ❖ **Who are small groups for?** Although we believe being in a small group would be good for anyone, SGs are especially important for those who feel they'd like not only to grow in Christ, but to do so along side other believers – to be able to have immediate access to people you know and can trust when you have a question or just need someone to talk to.
- ❖ **How do I join a small group?** Talk to Dave Parker or Pastor Harald. We'll try to connect you with a current group. As we're just starting we may need to start up a new one when we get enough people interested.
- ❖ **What are the commitments in joining a SG?** You'll be committed to one night a week. *Babysitting can be arranged as needed. Usually group members rotate bringing snacks or drinks for after the study. Often the groups pause for the summer months and Christmas holidays.* Different groups will have different emphasis on what's expected as far as “doing homework” ahead of time for the studies (some don't require any preparation at all).
- ❖ **Does SGs encourage “cliques” in the church?** Yes in the good sense and not in the bad sense. Yes, it is intended that SGs will provide a group you can “click” with. There is a built in guard against the exclusive club mentality in two ways: 1<sup>st</sup> its function is to provide a base from which you will expand into other ministry areas. 2<sup>nd</sup>, there is always to be an “open chair” at your meetings in that you're willing to accept new members to the point of needing to occasionally split into two groups when growth reaches 12 or more consistent attendees