

# Connect Group FAQ's

## **Why Should I Join A Connect Group?**

We're building a culture of discipleship at Mt. Hope where we can grow deeper in our love for God and one another. We're encouraging everyone to join a Connect Group as an application of *Love One Another* because we believe that connecting with one another authentically in biblical community helps us grow in spiritual maturity. Connect Groups allow us to form stronger relationships with fellow believers. We are encouraging three types of Connect Groups: (1) *Bible Study*; (2) *Topical Study*; and (3) *Care Group*. We also encourage other ways the Holy Spirit may creativity lead you to form a group.

## **How Can I Join A Connect Group?**

*Bible Study*- One will meet every week at the Church (Monday or Thursday) from 7:00-8:15 pm. Just show up! Taught primarily by Pastor John, this Bible study group is a great way to get connected and grow in your spiritual walk in an informal setting. A second Bible Study will meet on Sundays from 9:00-9:45am. This will be a great opportunity to gather to study the Word in a traditional Bible Study format. Again, just show up!

*Topical Study*- New Topical Studies will be announced a month ahead of each quarter (Q1-January, Q2-April, Q3-July, and Q4-October). If there is a Topical Study that interests you, you can sign up online or on the Connect Groups board in the church foyer. Topical Studies are typically limited to 10-12 people, so be sure to sign up right away. Check out what's available at [www.mthopebaptist.org](http://www.mthopebaptist.org).

You can also form your own Connect Group (see below)!

## **Can I Start A Connect Group? How Would I Do That?**

Yes! We encourage you to prayerfully consider whether God may be leading you to start a group. Please share your idea by filling out the *Connect Group Proposal* online or on the Connect Groups board in the church foyer. Once approved, all *Bible Study* and *Topical Study* Connect Groups will be advertised to the church and scheduled on Mt. Hope's calendar. *Care Groups* will not be advertised to the church since you will be asking a few others to form the group with you, and the group will collectively decide how best to cultivate more authentic relationships and care for one another in Christ.

## **How Can I Start a Care Group?**

Begin by praying about it. See who comes to mind that you'd like to intentionally schedule time with to get to know better. Ask them if they might be interested in starting a *Care Group* with you. It's that simple. If you all agree, talk about the best times and places to meet. If you'd like some ideas, please see any of our elders to get you started. When the quarter ends, be sensitive to God's leading and what He'd have you do next quarter.

## **How Is a Care Group Different Than Just Getting Together with Friends?**

While both can be intimate and relational, a *Care Group* intentionally commits to meet two or more times each month for a quarter whereas the other tends to be more spontaneous and sporadic. While a *Care Group* enjoys times of socializing, it is also purposeful about taking steps to learn about each other's relationship with God, too. A *Care Group* should not necessarily just be syncing up with your friends; it's an opportunity to get to know others in the church with whom you have a rapport and God has laid on your heart to get to know more.

## **How Often Do Connect Groups Meet?**

Connect Groups will typically meet weekly or every other week. The day, time, location, and frequency of each Connect Group will vary by group.

### **Are All Connect Groups Open To Everyone?**

Everyone is invited to the Bible Study groups- there is no limit.

New Topical Study groups are available each quarter. These groups are typically limited to 10-12 people, so they may reach capacity. When you see a topic of interest, be sure to sign up!

Care Groups are a little different. Because they are designed for deeper relational connections, they need more stability. Care Groups are formed by a small group of people on their own, and will not be promoted publicly for new people to join.

### **What if I have an idea for a topic, but don't feel comfortable leading a group?**

No problem! Go ahead and fill out a Connect Group proposal and include this in the "comments". There may be someone willing to lead on that topic, or we may be able to find a co-lead to help out. One goal of the Topical Groups is to meet the needs of people where they are, so we will do our best to find a solution.

### **What If I Love My Connect Group and Don't Want It To End at the End of the Quarter?**

You can stick together! The group can agree to continue into the next quarter. Just pick a new topic or focus and let the Connect Group Coordinator know. Any Bible Study or Topical Group should determine their next focus at least one month before the quarter ends so the group can be advertised to others in the Church who may wish to join.

### **Do I Need to Meet Certain Qualifications to Form a Connect Group?**

There are no set qualifications for leaders or formats for Connect Groups. We encourage everyone to think creatively about Connect Groups, so the group can be tailored to meet the needs of its members. The goal is to become connected as a body of believers and to encourage each other to grow in our faith.

While the format and logistics are flexible, all Connect Groups must:

1. Be in line with Mt. Hope's Articles of Faith (available at [www.mthopebaptist.org](http://www.mthopebaptist.org));
2. Include prayer as an essential element;
3. Be approved by the Mt. Hope elders team who will also touch base at the end of the quarter to learn how the group went.

### **Is There a Minimum or Maximum Size?**

The Bible Study groups have no size restrictions.

Typically, effective Topical Study groups should have 6-12 people.

Care Groups will generally be smaller.

### **What if I'm Not Ready for a Connect Group yet?**

That's ok. God is working in each of us, and we are all in different places in our journey with Him. Ultimately, God calls us to become a living and fruitful part of the church. He expects us to grow in our understanding of His love for us, by learning to love others. We encourage you to take steps of faith as God calls us to. Maybe start by reaching out to one friend and discuss the daily Bible readings or begin meeting intentionally to deepen your relationship through prayer and encouragement. God is there when two or more are gathered in His name.

### **More Questions?**

Please contact our Connect Group Coordinator, Marian Marino ([marianmarino777@gmail.com](mailto:marianmarino777@gmail.com)), who would be happy to help you learn more!