

The New Salem Purpose-Driven CARE Group Model



CARE Groups at New Salem should follow the Purpose Driven model and encompass the five purposes as it functions. Each group should integrate worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry to one another, and missions into the life of the group. It is critical to balance the five purposes within every CARE Group.

This does not mean that every CARE Group performs a mandatory 15 minutes on each purpose at its meetings. However, over the course of six months the group should evaluate itself according to how much time it collectively spends on each purpose. If it's not balanced, then as a group, it should make a concerted effort to make adjustments that will balance the purposes of worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry and missions.



The 5 Purposes in the Life of a CARE Group

Fellowship (Membership):

A CARE Group helps people connect, moving its members from merely fellowship and refreshments to true community. An ideal state is one in which members don't have to ask for prayer requests, because they already know the important details of one another's' lives. This type of CARE Group fellowship encourages healthy transparency and authenticity.

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Discipleship (Maturity):

A CARE Group helps people grow. Everyone is on a spiritual path full of twists and turns, forks in the road, dead ends, and pitfalls. CARE Group life should help its members in their spiritual journey and support them as they navigate the path of their spiritual walk. When the path is smooth the CARE Group can rejoice. On the other hand, if a member finds themselves off-course with their Christian commitments, the group should help guide them back.

Service (Ministry) - Internal

A CARE Group should help members discover their spiritual gifts, allowing them to discover their SHAPE and to get involved in the types of ministries God designed them for. However service/ministry should also be a group effort as it collectively as a group, serves the people of New Salem.

Evangelism (Missions) - External

A CARE Group should help its members learn to share their faith. We encourage every CARE Group at New Salem to be involved in local missions as well as world missions. For instance, CARE Groups are a great way to encourage people to pray for their neighbors, and then through the CARE Group, plan activities designed for fellowship with those neighbors and the community.

Worship (Magnification)

CARE Groups must help people to surrender their lives to God, and continually remind the membership of New Salem that worship is more than just music or communion. New Salem wants its members to embody Romans 12:1, as living sacrifices, fully surrendered to Christ. In addition, CARE Group life should enable its members to be transparent and real, providing them with the support need to walk out their commitment to Christ. One element of worship is praise, but life as a part of a CARE Group should also teach that worship involves daily action.

CARE Groups help real life change (transformation) happen!



"Iron sharpens iron, So one man sharpens another." ~ Proverbs 27:17