

Small Group Vision

OF THE CALVARY CHAPEL FREIBURG

1. MEMBERSHIP

- Each small group member should be a member of the Calvary Chapel Freiburg, and each member of the Calvary Chapel should be a member of a small group.
- Each guest who is not yet a member of the Calvary Chapel should be encouraged to either become a church member or to seek a small group in their church where they feel at home. This is not about controlling people or shutting someone out, but rather strengthening the fellowship in all churches.
- Through small groups we can consciously carry the responsibility we have towards each other as members of Christ's church.
- Small groups should be a place where non-believers (as guests) can encounter God and see His love.

2. LEADERSHIP

- Each small group leader places themselves under the leadership of the pastors in the Calvary Chapel Freiburg and is officially blessed and supported by the pastors.
- Small group leaders should consciously build relationships with the pastors and other small group leaders so that we can all carry God's vision for our church together.
- The leaders' main responsibility is to create a space where healthy relationships and important steps of faith (prayer, confessing sin, battling doubt etc.) can take place safely and confidentially.
- In the case of differing opinions, the leaders carry the responsibility before God to make a decision, while the group members should respect this decision and follow the leaders.

3. FELLOWSHIP

- The main goal of each small group is to love each other and support each other's faith, so we can strengthen God's church and honor Him.
- Since fellowship can take many different forms, each small group will be unique and can develop individually.
- Small groups should not be islands but rather should strive to enjoy fellowship with every church member and support their faith.

4. TEACHING

- Small groups support the application of the teachings found in church service sermons.
- Bible work and discussion is always welcome in small groups, but the pastors carry the ultimate responsibility for teaching, not small group leaders.
- By questions or tough topics, small groups are encouraged to seek discussion with the pastors.

5. GROWTH

- Each small group should strive to grow in relationship with Jesus and better follow Him as a disciple.
- To love God and grow the church, each group should strive to invite non-believers to meetings.
- Each small group should recognize each member's spiritual gifts and use them. Those with the gift of leadership should be encouraged and challenged early to grow in this gift.
- When a small group has enough members (about 12), the small group should strive to split and plant a new small group, so more growth can occur and more church members can be part of a small group.
- If a small group has not experienced any growth for a time, they should discuss why this is the case, and consider disbanding in order to form new groups.

