

# Berean Small Groups Ministry



When we consider all the “one another” passages of the Bible, it becomes clear that we do indeed have a responsibility to each other. Therefore, we must be intentional about our efforts and involvement with one another. In light of this truth, the elders encourage all Bereans to gather regularly through the Small Group ministry.

Becoming more like Christ is central to our gatherings; it shapes our Bible study, focuses our prayers, and grounds our worship. And, God-willing, sanctifying relationships spring forth – all part of our church-wide goal of “making disciples that make disciples.”

As small group leaders, we have seen God use this ministry to cultivate lasting Christian fellowship and continuing spiritual growth for us and for those within our small groups. We have also watched many Bereans more readily navigate their way into the mainstream of church life through these relationships.

We strongly recommend that you prayerfully consider joining a small group. We hope that the following information will help you make an informed decision.

## What is a small group?

- A group of committed believers seeking to establish sanctifying relationships through mutual encouragement, accountability, and the building up of one another in Christ and His Word
- They normally meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> weeks of the month during the school year and once a month during the summer
- Either in the homes of small group members or at the church

## What is involved in small group participation?

Participation assumes your regular attendance, a willingness to develop new friendships, and a desire to grow spiritually. It also assumes participation in group discussion, prayer, and personal interaction with other group members.

## What are meetings like?

Though each group develops its own personality and flavor, three essential elements form the core of each small group:

- A time of fellowship and sharing
- A time of spiritual instruction
- A time of prayer

*The Small Group Ministry of Berean Baptist Church exists to bring glory and pleasure to God by helping one another make progress in becoming Christ-like according to God's Word through an intimate fellowship of faith.*

## Is childcare provided?

There will always be a place for children in small groups ministry, yet each group's dynamic may be different. Some groups will have members who have many small children, some with no small children at all. Each group determines its own childcare needs and how to satisfy those needs. Some groups collectively hire babysitters for their group meetings. Others share responsibility by having group members take turns watching kids while meetings take place. Regardless, childcare should not prohibit anyone from being involved in a small group.

## Do I have to be a member of Berean to join a small group?

A small group is usually composed of Berean members, though non-members are welcome to join.

## How long will I be in the same small group?

While we hope friendships built in your small group will last a lifetime, our objective is not a lifetime commitment to a single group. Why? We expect to see this ministry continue to grow over time, and this means that groups “birth” new groups to facilitate the inclusion new people. Additionally, as ministry dynamics and needs change, this will be reflected in a Small Group's makeup.

See flip side for more information!

How can I join a small group?

You may join a small group at any time! You can either contact Pastor Brad to help you find a group that is a good fit or speak with a small group leader and attend their meetings. It is as simple as that!

Meeting information

The Church generally reserves the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> weeks on the Berean calendar for small group ministry, but individual groups set their own schedules.

Go to <https://www.bereanlife.org/small-group-ministries/> for additional information for each group and leader.

Matt Molnar  
Livonia  
Sunday Evenings

Bobby Unis  
Livonia @ BBC  
Friday Evenings

Aaron Hensler and Ryan Potocsky  
Northville  
Sunday Evenings

Dan Knapp  
Brighton  
Monday Evenings

Rich Cork  
Livonia @ BBC  
Sunday Evenings

Jason Cassar  
Canton  
Friday Evenings

Elias Musallam  
Westland  
Sunday Evenings

Brad Sechrist  
Novi  
Monday Evenings

Chris Winegarden  
Southfield  
Sunday Evenings

Dave Shapleigh  
Livonia  
Sunday Afternoons

David Dalfino  
Canton  
Sunday Evenings

Ben Bartlett  
Farmington Hills  
Friday Evenings

Please take some time to consider and pray about your need to grow as a follower of Christ... and how joining a small group might help accomplish this. Any small group leader would welcome an opportunity to speak with you, but you are welcome to contact me any time with any additional questions you may have.

*Pastor Brad Sechrist*

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*Hope to hear from you soon!*