Belong



HEALING
GROUPS
SERVING
PARTNER

CONNECTING IN COMMUNITY

Relationships are not peripheral to growing in your faith in God; they are central to it. Through Jesus, we are adopted by our heavenly Father into His family. In His community, we practice living in compassion, truthfulness, and vulnerability. That takes time and commitment. God desires us to experience the joy and benefits of His presence in healthy and life-giving relationships.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How did you find out about Petra Church? Do you know anyone here?
2. Do you have any spiritual community in your life, such as a mentor or small group? Or is that something you're looking for?

THE FIRST CHURCH COMMUNITY

Based on these scriptures, what happens in community?

HEBREWS 10:24–25

ACTS 2:42

EPHESIANS 4:11–16

CORE VALUE: LIVING IN COMMUNITY

We express loving relationships as a church family by connecting, caring, serving, growing, and leading in healthy groups and teams.

Scan QR Codes throughout the packet to see a core value discussion between Lead Pastor Brian Coles and Equipping Pastor Brian Flewelling.

NOTES

PETRA GROUPS AND START DATES

SEMESTERS

- September and January are the signup months to join or start a group
- Groups meet for 6, 8, or even 12 weeks

VARIETY OF GROUPS

We have different types of groups that meet a variety of needs and interests.

- Men, Women, Senior, & Student groups
- Recovery groups
- Sermon series discussion groups
- FREEDOM groups

WHAT HAPPENS IN GROUPS?

- Connecting relationally
- Reading and applying God's word
- Praying together
- Discussing and applying life truths

GROUPS THAT INTEREST YOU

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You can't have relationships with a crowd. ***Petra Groups*** are a primary way the church progresses from a Sunday congregation to a family of relationships, growing toward God, and caring for each other.

It does take courage and initiative to introduce yourself to others or to join a group.

www.petra.church/groups

Scan to see current groups!



DISCUSSION QUESTION

1. Describe a time you experienced nourishing spiritual relationships. What made them impactful?

YOUR FIRST GROUP AT PETRA CHURCH

FREEDOM

Whether you are a new believer or have been a Christian for forty years, the truths you apply, the relationships you form, and the freedom you experience in the FREEDOM group will be impactful and essential to your partnership with the Petra Community. See the "HEALING" packet for more details about the content.

SIGN-UP:

Visit **petra.church/freedom**

FREEDOM groups start in September and February.

The workbook costs $12.

CORE VALUE: COMMITMENT TO SCRIPTURE, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER

We prioritize the authority of God's Word in our lives and cultivate habits of worship and prayer, both personally and in communal gatherings. These are essential to our connecting to God's presence and Lordship.

NOTES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you have a favorite Scripture verse that has personal meaning to you? Why?
2. Do you have any special ways that you connect with God in worship or prayer? For example, in nature, listening to worship music in the car, praying with other believers, etc.

A LIFESTYLE OF SCRIPTURE, WORSHIP, & PRAYER

These God-focused habits connect us to God and transform our thoughts, lifestyles, and character to match his. We need to practice these privately, as well as in our Sunday services, small groups, and mentoring relationships.

READING & STUDYING YOUR BIBLE

1. Describe one thing we learn from each verse. Why is the Word important?
    - 2 Timothy 3:16–17
    - Titus 1:9
    - Matthew 4:4
    - Hebrews 4:12
    - Psalms 19:7–9

Practice: Read the Bible daily from the Petra App or join a Bible study group.

HABIT OF WORSHIPING WHOLEHEARTEDLY

Worship is the passionate expression of love and devotion to God for who He is and all He has done. God's ultimate desire, and life's ultimate aim, is for us to love Him (God) with all of our heart, mind, breath, and strength. Ways we see people express worship in the Bible are singing, shouting, clapping, kneeling, standing, lifting hands, bowing, sacrificing, a lifestyle of obedience, meditation, and tithing. Mark 12:30; Romans 12:1–2; Psalm 47.

Practice: Join us at a Deeper Night worship event.

PRAYING REGULARLY

1. Prayer is the act of heartfelt communication with God, and our personal relationship with God is developed through consistent prayer. Different types of prayer include: relationship, adoration, confession, requests, intercession, and thanksgiving on behalf of yourself and others. 1 Thessalonians 5:17–18; Luke 11:1–13; John 15:4–9.
2. When we pray with other believers, the Church releases God's power and authority into our communities, and we see transformation. Matthew 18:18–20; Acts 4:31; Ezekiel 22:30; Isaiah 56:7; Ephesians 6:12.

Practice: Find a consistent time and place to pray daily and find a prayer partner to pray with weekly.