



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS CITY GROUPS

Q1. Will the Sunday speaker spend more time on applying the sermon to our lives?

A1. *Not necessarily but the speakers do aim to include application in each sermon. If you would like to talk more about the Sunday sermon, how about chatting about it with someone in your City Group when you meet together? You could even start a City Group dedicated to following the sermon series.*

Q2. Some people are regularly away on business and benefit from the longevity of Growth Groups. How will they manage?

A2. *There are several options. They can join a City Group that is likely to continue meeting together each term and then, when they have a calmer period at work, they may opt to join a short-term City Group. As a wider church body, if we know people who may find the adjustment difficult, let's make sure we are providing community and support outside of City Groups.*

Q3. City Groups seem to work if people are good at making new friends. What about people who find this difficult?

A3. *There are several options. They can join a City Group that is likely to continue meeting together each term and provides more time to develop stable friendships. They can choose to sign up to a group with a friend or someone they do know well already. As a wider church body, if we know there are people who may find the adjustment difficult, let's make sure we are looking out for them. Like keeping a budget, making friends is a core life skill which comes easily to some and which others find more challenging. Joining a new City Group gives us the opportunity to develop those skills. Being disciples is all about helping one another grow where we're weak.*

Q4. Will each City Group have some dedicated 'spiritual' content?

A4. *Yes and no, depending on how you define 'spiritual'. Not every group will necessarily have a Bible study, a time for sung worship or prayer, though many will. However, each group will be a place where people are encouraged in their Christian faith. Will we take the initiative to encourage one another?*

Q5. What about pastoral care?

A5. *Please see the Pastoral Care 1 and 2 handouts.*

Q6. Are allowed to meet between the breaks?

A6. *Yes, of course. However, there is no expectation that a leader must continue to lead through the breaks. We still expect our church family to meet together informally outside of City Groups as we do now. A termly system helps facilitate new members joining a group more easily, and gives leaders a chance to rest. You don't need church permission to meet as a group of friends, with or without a leader.*

Q7. Can anyone lead a group?

A7. *No. Anyone can propose a group but each City Group application will be reviewed by a team of elders and coaches who will sign-off on each group. The team need to be confident that the City Group activity aligns with the church values and the leader has the competence and character to lead well.*

Q8. Do all City Groups require 12 people?

A8. *No. We are using the number 12 as a ballpark figure. Some groups, such as a sewing group, may need to be smaller due to the number of sewing machines available and the space needed.*

Q9. What if too many people sign up to a City Group?

A9. *Each group will have a maximum capacity. In principle, groups will operate on a first come, first served basis and once a group is full, sign-up to the group will close. If a group is full, you will be able to register interest so that we can get back to you if something changes. Each term we will have an opportunity to review the sign-up process and address any problems that may have arisen.*

Q10. Can you sign up to a City Group if they have already started?

A10. *Yes, but people will have enough time to sign up for a group prior to the term starting. If someone new joins the church, then we will try and get them involved in a suitable City Group as soon as possible.*

Q11. What if only three people sign up to a City Group?

A11. *This is a possibility. If the group leader is happy to lead with a smaller group then the group will go ahead. If the group does not go ahead, then the group members will need to sign up to another group with capacity. If there are no groups with capacity, then Poppy, our administrator, can deal with each case individually. Some City Groups might have to expand their capacity to accommodate one more person.*

Q12. Will there be budget for room hire?

A12. *There may be some funds available but you will need to mention this in your application. However, our hope is that City Groups, as a whole, will be self-funding.*

Q13. If a City Group plans on meeting long-term, do they have to submit a new group application for each term?

A13. *Yes. We need to make sure that all City Group information is accurate and up-to-date each term. We would also encourage different group members to take turns leading the group each term. Even long-term City Groups present an opportunity to develop new leaders.*

Q14. Will people be able to sign up without their own computer?

A14. *Yes. The online sign-up system is there to serve us as a family, and manual overrides should be possible. We will try to make provision for people to sign-up in person on a Sunday morning during the sign-up period. This will also help people who want to sign up together.*

Q15. What about students who don't arrive in Cambridge until after City Groups have started?

A15. *We always want to welcome students into small group life. For returning students, we'd encourage you to sign up online before you arrive and let the leader know when you'd like to start. For new students, we'll work to get them plugged into a City Group as soon as we can.*

Q16. I'd prefer to deal directly with a person. Why do we have to do this online?

A16. *If we only communicated with each other over the internet, that would be sad. However, as the church grows, we want everyone to be able to keep track of what's going on so that people can connect more effectively with the opportunities available. The online system should help us all to do that. But the system is there to serve the family, not the other way round. If in doubt, please talk to one of the leaders so we can review the process and make any necessary changes. ●*
