

# SMALL GROUP COVENANT EXAMPLES

Signing a covenant is not a requirement for Pennington Park Small Groups. However, using a covenant like the ones sampled below may be a beneficial step to take as a group in order to assist in discipleship, increase commitment, and bring clarity to the group's purpose and expectations.

Both a short- and long-form covenant are provided below as examples, but if you decide to utilize a covenant in your Small Group, feel free to create one that best suits its specific culture.

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## SHORT-FORM COVENANT

### Our Small Group will:

1. Meet every week on Wednesday evening from 7:00 p.m. to about 9:30 p.m.
2. Be hospitable to any visitors of our group.
3. Commit itself to studying God's Word as a community.
4. Study God's Word in order to transform our hearts, not just fill our heads.
5. Pray with one another during every Small Group meeting.
6. Use our gifts in order to build up the church and contribute to the health of Pennington Park.
7. Have fun together!

### I will:

1. Make Small Group meetings a priority and, if running late, let someone from the group know.
2. Be prepared and willing to discuss that week's Scripture passage, sermon, etc.
3. Maintain confidentiality within the group unless obligated biblically or legally to share outside of the group.
4. Foster an atmosphere of trust within the group where others can share honestly without fear of condemnation or inappropriate harshness.
5. Be transparent and accountable to the group concerning my spiritual health and maturity.
6. Pray regularly for my fellow Small Group members.
7. Pray regularly for the Pastors and Elders of Pennington Park Church.
8. Commit myself to this group for one year and communicate honestly if intending to step out of the group after my commitment is fulfilled.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## LONG-FORM COVENANT

*As we enter into this year as a Small Group at Pennington Park Church, we agree to abide by the following covenant to assist us in achieving our mission and guide us in our mutual commitment to one another as brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ:*

As a Small Group, we will seek to gather each Sunday at Pennington Park for the corporate worship of our Lord with the saints, to hear the authoritative Word of God preached, to remember the beauty of the gospel by participating in the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper together, and to demonstrate our dependence upon God's sovereign power through prayer.

As a Small Group, we will gather together throughout the week in order to further be transformed into the image of Christ by...

- Studying and applying God's Word to our lives (truth-centered)
- Demonstrating godly patience and humility in our relationships (grace-saturated)
- Finding our unity and identity in Christ and his gospel alone (Spirit-empowered)
- Doing life together beyond the formal small group meetings (community-forming)

As we collectively pursue Pennington Park's mission of knowing Jesus and making him known, we also will strive to accomplish the following group goals:

- Be open and honest with one another.
- Serve regularly together and build up the church with our God-given gifts.
- Admit our weaknesses and confess our sins to one another.
- Pursue reconciliation, forgiveness, and accountability with one another.
- Be kind to one another even in the midst of disagreement.
- Have fun together and prioritize one another in our lives.
- Participate in evangelism and fulfilling the Great Commission in our community.

When gathering together for formal Small Group meetings, we commit ourselves to...

- Meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- Making Small Group gatherings a priority and communicating to the group if running late.
- Being hospitable to guests and visitors of our group.
- Committing ourselves to studying God's Word in order to transform our hearts, not just fill our heads.
- Being prepared to discuss the Scripture passage, sermon, or relevant content each week.
- Sharing our burdens with and praying for one another.
- Maintaining confidentiality in the group unless biblically or legally obligated to tell someone outside of the group.
- Being honest with one another regarding our spiritual and relational health.
- Committing ourselves to the Small Group for one year and communicating honestly if we intend to step out of the group after that commitment is fulfilled.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

