

F A Q 'S

Frequently Asked Questions

We hope that this series of informational brochures about the Almont Vineyard Church enriches your knowledge about us and deepens your personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

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It's not what you've done in the past, but what you're going to do in the future.

F A Q 'S

What are Small Groups?

What is a Small Group?

Our Small Groups are a great place to get connected... Connected to God, to each other, and to our community. It's how we get to know each other, care for each other, and connect with Jesus.

...why should I go?

Every person has been created for community with God and with others. But in our high-tech commuter culture, genuine high-*touch* community is difficult to find. Healthy, loving relationships—though vitally important—seem rare these days, even though everyone recognizes that it is not good to be alone. Our need for connection is a need that God created within us.

The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."
(Genesis 2:18)

People of all ages report that their greatest struggle is with loneliness, a feeling of being disconnected, isolated. A faceless, electronic "virtual community" of disembodied words and spiritless images just won't satisfy our God-given need to know others and be known face to face. That's why Small Groups are important—they help you grow in three relationships:

with God, with others, and with yourself.

"And you also are among those who are called to belong to Jesus Christ."
(Romans 1:6)

...what do I need to know?

Don't worry, you don't have to be a Bible scholar to attend! Small group involvement is a great way to grow spiritually— in knowledge and understanding.

"Show me your ways, O LORD, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me"
(Psalm 25:4-5a)

...what should I expect?

Each Small Group has a lengthy initiation ritual, a secret handshake, and a special entry code that you will have to learn... just kidding! People that go to Small Groups are those who, just like you, are trying to overcome the challenges of daily life. We are all looking for a safe environment to build lasting relationships with others in our community.

The average Small Group meeting lasts about two hours. Each meeting usually involves prayer, bible study, discussions, and most of all being real. The rest of the time is spent in building friendships over coffee, snacks and conversation.

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."
(Hebrews 10: 24-25)

...what if I just show up?

You will be warmly welcomed and invited to participate to the degree you feel comfortable. You are free to visit as many groups as you like, and to attend a group for as short or long a period of time as you want. You do not have to be a member of our church to attend a Small Group, as a matter of fact, it is a great way to get to know more about the people who attend the Almont Vineyard.

"Now about brotherly love we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other." (1 Thessalonians 4:9)

...can I bring my kids?

Supervision for children is provided on a group by group basis, it is best to check in advance by calling the leader or host of the group you are interested in.

The acrostic **CLUSTER** describes the heart of a Small Group:

- ⌘ **C**ommunication with God -prayer and worship
- ⌘ **L**oving and building relationships with others
- ⌘ **U**nderstanding and encouraging one another
- ⌘ **S**piritual growth thru studying God's word
- ⌘ **T**rainning and equipping in the Holy Spirit
- ⌘ **E**vangelising others by sharing the Good News
- ⌘ **R**elationships and recreation that refresh lives

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer... Every day they continued to meet together... They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God..."
(Acts 2:42-47)

Our high priority of *community* pushes against the isolating pressures of our culture's flawed mold, usually referred to as rugged individualism. We invite you to a Small Group and come...

break the mold with us!

Please contact the Almont Vineyard if you have any other questions or concerns about Small Groups.

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