

# Growth Group Bible Study at Immanuel

Immanuel United Reformed Church of Jordan



July 2024

## Background:

Over the last number of years, we have heard in various home visits a desire from many to join a small group Bible study organized within Immanuel.

Ultimately, this desire from members to study God's Word more led Consistory first to seek out information from other neighbouring Reformed churches about their small group studies. Subsequently, Consistory formed 2 groups totalling 11 couples and led them through a "Growth Group" leadership training which took place over the spring - in the hopes of starting small groups with the congregation this fall.

## Name and Purpose:

Though many refer to this type of Bible study as "small groups", our primary aim in starting these groups is our growth in Christ. Our training guide suggested the name "Growth Groups", and we have decided to use this name as well - which keeps the aim of our study in mind.

As we set out to begin Growth Groups, our desire is that these groups:

- encourage more personal reading and study of God's Word
- facilitate discussion, learning, and applying God's Word to our lives together
- give opportunity for times of personalized prayer together
- help us encourage each other with evangelism opportunities and challenges we have
- help us encourage each other to use our gifts in service to God within the church and community
- build and strengthen the relationships, including across generational lines, among members of the body here at Immanuel

## Growth Groups Implementation at Immanuel

Our intent is to begin Growth Group Bible study in September. These groups will replace the Tuesday and Saturday night Bible studies and run from September through May.

While registration is optional, all professing members and mature adults are encouraged to sign up. Once signup has closed, diverse groups of about 12 people will be formed by Consistory and assigned a leader who would have been part of the Growth Group training from this past spring. Each group would meet twice per month, and will decide amongst themselves when and where best to meet (they could cycle through various homes, perhaps with preference given to those with small kids, etc.)

All groups will be starting this fall with a study of Ephesians. The leader of each group will guide your Growth Group through Bible study and prayer. As preparation, participants can expect at minimum the need to read the passage they will be studying before they come to each meeting and perhaps having thought through a few questions their leader would use to start discussion. Certainly, more preparation is welcome and would help you engage in deeper discussion.

## **Registration**

A registration link will be sent out to the congregation via Church Social. There will also be a sign-up sheet placed on the table in the foyer of the church.

There will be some indications you can make when registering such as what nights do or don't work for you to meet.

## **Summary**

The Growth Group training book led us through a study of Colossians. In chapter 1:9-10 we read: "And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God"

We too pray that more opportunities to study God's Word and to be in prayer together will, by God's grace, cause us to not only grow in a greater knowledge of Him, but also to be better equipped to serve Him in love, bearing fruit, serving each other in love, and sharing His gospel with others he would place in our path.

## **Questions**

If there are any further questions you can direct them to your district elder.