

# THE ELEMENTS OF OUR STRATEGY

*Intimacy* with God

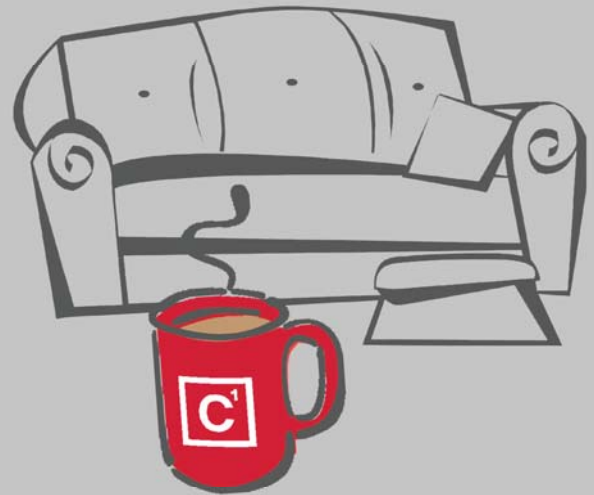
*Community* with Insiders

*Influence* with Outsiders

**c<sup>1</sup>onechurch**  
exit one baptist church  
[www.exitonechurch.org](http://www.exitonechurch.org)

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Come...  
Do life Together



Your Guide to Community Groups  
at oneChurch

# Learning the Lingo

## FAQ

*"I love my Community Group. GroupLink got us connected, and now we're going through Starting Point." "I went through Commune last week." Huh? What is Commune? How does GroupLink work? You hear this insider lingo, but what does it mean? If you are new to small groups, this connection guide it for you. Let's start with some of the lingo.*

**COMMUNITY GROUP:** Small groups of seven to eight married couples or twelve to fourteen individuals who meet in someone's home for fellowship, Bible Study, prayer and accountability. They are closed groups with a commitment to meet together for 12-18 months.

**GROUP LEADERS:** Volunteers responsible for providing their groups with vision, direction and support. They facilitate the actual group meeting and act as the liaisons to the church.

**MULTIPLICATION:** At the end of a 12-18 month commitment, a small group multiplies to form two or more groups by adding new group members.

**COMMUNE:** Our membership class at oneChurch. Commune is a one time, 3 hour class where you learn how your spiritual gifts and personality fit into the church. Taught by the staff, this class will answer your questions about all things oneChurch.

### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF A COMMUNITY GROUP?

To provide a comfortable caring environment where participants experience two things: authentic community and spiritual growth. We define authentic community using the ABC's of group life: Accountability, Belonging, and Care. By spiritual growth, we mean Intimacy with God, Community with Insiders, and Influence with Outsiders.

### WHY PARTICIPATE IN A COMMUNITY GROUP?

- To create meaningful friendships
- To encourage each other
- To pray for one another
- To care and be cared for
- To become more like Christ

### WHAT ABOUT CHILDCARE?

Each group or individual family is responsible for their own childcare. Some may co-op together and share the expense. We encourage groups to be as creative as possible. OneChurch will reimburse parents for child care when necessary. For the reimbursement form, please go to [www.exitonechurch.org](http://www.exitonechurch.org).

So...

1. Select Your Group
2. Find People
3. Customize Your Experience
4. Choose a Role

## Do Life Together

Now that you know what you're looking for, take the first step and connect into group life. We think your group experience will be more valuable than you ever imagined. We hope you will find – as so many others have – that a small group is something you won't ever want to live without.

**STARTER GROUPS:** An introductory step into group life that lasts eight weeks. At the end of eight weeks, the group members can decide to continue as a small group and extend their commitment or dissolve and find other group members.

**STARTING POINT:** A 10 week conversational environment on Sunday mornings where people can explore faith and experience community. Starting Point happens at the oneChurch offices during the Worship service.

**Group Director:** A church staff person responsible for training, leading, and developing group leaders.

**GroupLink:** An event where people meet and connect with others in order to start a community group.

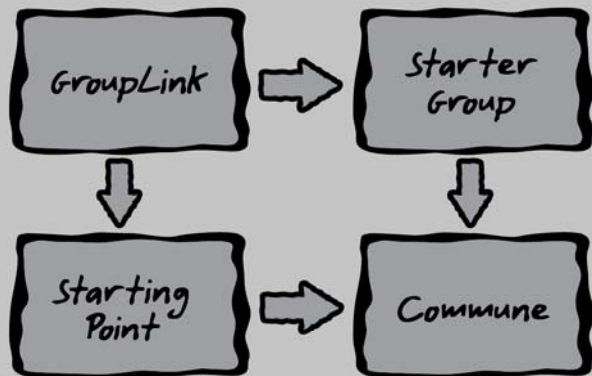
**Financial Peace:** A Community Group study providing a biblical perspective for handling money.



# How Do You Want to Connect??

How do you want to connect to Community Groups? Think about your schedule, season of life, geographic area, or study preferences.

Once you know what you're looking for, we can help you find a great group environment. You have lots of choices.



# Choose Your Role

When you join a small group, you become a group member. When you are ready, step up your involvement in group life by serving in an official capacity. There are several roles to choose from.

## GROUP LEADER

Small group leaders are responsible for providing their group with vision, direction and support. They facilitate the actual group meeting and act as the liaison with the church. Group leaders receive regular training and guidance from our staff.

## INTENTIONAL APPRENTICING

If you are not ready to be a small group leader, we encourage you to become an apprentice—people who have the potential and passion to lead and shepherd small groups themselves but just need more time or experience. We believe apprenticing is the most effective way to train new small group leaders. Let your group leader know if you are interested in apprenticing.

# Customize Your Experience

There are lots of fun ways to make your group your own. Here are some ideas to get you started.

## COVENANT

Each small group is given a covenant to manage and establish expectations. Group members determine when and where they meet, how long they meet, and what curriculum they will study.

## CURRICULUM

The curriculum you select during the life of a group should address each of our three vital relationships: intimacy with God, community with insiders and influence with outsiders. A curriculum guide is available to help you choose a study that's right for your group: [www.groupcurriculum.org](http://www.groupcurriculum.org). Your group has lots of options.

## PLANNED INTERRUPTIONS

We think that the best way to get to know the people in your group is to get away and do something together. We call these socials or planned interruptions. It may be as brief as a one day adopt-a-project, a weekend away, or a short-term mission trip. It's something that takes you out of your routine and gives your group a chance to build deeper relationships. We strongly encourage you to organize a social or planned interruption within the first six months.

# There Are Four Main Ways to Make It YOUR Group

1. Select Your Group
2. Find your People
3. Customize Your Experience
4. Choose Your Role

## Select Your Group

We start at the heart of your small group experience - your choice of group type. We have several options defined by the people involved and topic of discussion.

### COMMUNITY GROUP

A small group of seven to eight couples, twelve to fourteen individuals, or individuals of the same gender meets in someone's home for fellowship, Bible study, prayer and accountability. Small groups are closed groups with a commitment to meet together for 12-18 months.

### STARTING POINT

Starting Point is a 10 week conversational environment where people can explore faith and experience community. It is an ideal environment for those with questions about faith and those who want to learn about the Bible and Christianity.

### COMMUNE

Commune is the 3 hour membership class at oneChurch. You learn about your SERVE - your Spiritual Gifts, Experience, Relational Style, Vocational Skills, and Enthusiasm fits with the strategy and beliefs of oneChurch. "What are your beliefs? How do I get involved? How can I share my story? What about missions?" These are some of the questions that will be answered.

### FINANCIAL PEACE

Financial Peace is a small group environment where you'll take an in-depth look at what the Bible says about financial issues like money, debt, work, giving, and investing. After completing Financial Peace, your group will have the option to continue together as a community group.

## Find Your People

Now it's time to find people for your small group. Ask some people you already know. Friends and neighbors are a great place to start. Most small groups are comprised of people in the same geographic area, stage of life or circle of influence.

Go to [www.exitonechurch.org/smallgroups](http://www.exitonechurch.org/smallgroups) for more information on the process of becoming an official small group.

### ATTEND A GROUPLINK

Attend a GroupLink and meet some new people. There you will meet and connect with others who are looking to start a community group in your area. Go to [www.exitonechurch.org](http://www.exitonechurch.org) to find out more about our upcoming GroupLinks.

### VISIT A LIVING ROOM ENVIRONMENT

Show up at a living room environment like Commune, Starting Point, or The Rec Room (out recreation ministry) by signing up on Sunday Mornings at our resource table. Make some friends and when you're ready, take it to the next level: Community Group. Check out our website, [www.exitonechurch.org](http://www.exitonechurch.org), for more details on upcoming living room environments.