

## **CORE Groups: Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What Is a CORE Group?**

CORE Groups are groups of 12-15 people who meet weekly around our community to spend time together discussing interesting and important questions related to the previous weekend's message, as well as building friendships, praying for one another, serving together, and having fun. Each week's meeting lasts 1½ hours. Our Winter semester CORE Groups will meet for 10 weeks, beginning the week of Monday, January 30.

### **Why Join a CORE Group?**

Here at ERBC, CORE Groups are the hub of our ministry. They're the place where the real ministry of the church takes place as we study God's Word, while supporting and sharing our lives with one another. CORE Groups are a great place for

- **CONNECTING WITH OTHERS** – Your group will be a great way to meet new people and build healthy relationships.
- **GROWING TOGETHER** – Through your group you can experience spiritual, emotional, professional and intellectual growth.
- **SERVING OTHERS** – Your group will be a rewarding place to discover your specific gifts and to use them in serving others through an outreach project.
- **PLAYING TOGETHER** – With a busy schedule, it can be hard to find time to just have fun. Your group will have this opportunity by doing a fun social event together.

### **When and Where Do They Meet?**

CORE Groups meet on various nights of the week, mostly in homes, throughout the surrounding community.

### **How Long Do They Last?**

Each CORE Group session/semester lasts about 10 weeks, give or take a week ;-). We have Fall, Winter & Spring sessions. At the end of each session, you will have the choice of staying in the same group, trying a new group or even taking a break. Most groups stay together throughout the entire year. CORE Groups do not meet during August and September.

### **What Is the Required Commitment?**

Joining a CORE Group requires a 10-week commitment to attend weekly meetings and do the homework ahead of time. Obviously, allowances are made for sickness, vacation, work conflicts and other special events, but not much more. This commitment is the key to a strong CORE Group. You have the first three weeks to attend the group to make sure it's a good fit for you.

### **What About Child Care?**

CORE Groups are for adults only. (Exceptions can be made for nursing newborns, up to six months.) We leave it up to each family to work out their own child care. Sometimes it works best for families to share a sitter or to swap child care with another family whose

CORE Group meets on a different evening. We have child care available at the church on Thursday and Friday nights (6:30-9:00 PM). The cost is \$15 per family.

### **What Will We Study?**

Most of the studies are based on the previous weekend's message. These "sermon-based" CORE Groups are built on what we call a "Lecture-Lab" model. Imagine the weekend message as a lecture on Christian living, and the CORE Group as a lab where you get to roll up your sleeves and discuss how the weekend's message works in real life. Each week there will be a series of Bible passages and questions on the back of the sermon note sheet to study before the meeting. It will usually take 20 to 40 minutes per week to complete the CORE Group Homework.

### **What Does It Cost?**

Few things in life are free and CORE Groups are no exception! The cost of CORE Groups is the cost of commitment. During the first meeting, each group will complete a "commitment" together. This simple form helps each group discuss their priorities and commitment. Part of that commitment is the promise to attend each week and to complete the homework, as well as to attend the social activity and do one service project for the semester. You have the first three weeks to decide if your group is a good fit for you. So, when you join a CORE Group, you're promising to attend and be prepared each week. It's this commitment that makes CORE Groups work. We realize it's a big commitment, but it only lasts for about 10 weeks. At the end of each semester, you have the choice of recommitting for another, trying a new group, or taking a break from CORE Groups altogether.

### **How Can I Join a CORE Group?**

Joining a CORE Group is as easy as 1-2-3:

1. Choose a group from the list of CORE Groups provided on our web site.
2. You can register for the group you've chosen either by filling out the on-line form or signing up in person at our weekend services using your connection card. During our sign-up weekends we have CORE Group leaders at the sign-up tables following the worship services to help you choose a group and answer any questions you might have.
3. After your leader contacts you, just come to the weekly meetings.

### **Are there CORE Groups for Teenagers?**

Yes, our Youth Ministry offers a CORE group for Middle and High School students. For more information about junior high or high school groups, please contact Andrew White, our Director of Youth Ministry (323) 255-4611 x 108.

If you have any questions (especially if you are new to ERBC), please don't hesitate to call the church, and we will gladly assist you. Keep in mind that it might take two or three groups before you find the perfect fit, but don't worry, you'll find it!