



HILLSIDE JOURNEY GROUPS

Thank you for expressing interest in Journey Groups at Hillside Fellowship. Below you will find all the information about our next Journey Group session. Please review everything completely, commit your steps to prayer, and if you feel led, complete the application by clicking on the link located in this document. Feel free to also email teri@hillsidefellowship.org with any additional questions you may have.

WHAT ARE JOURNEY GROUPS ALL ABOUT?

- Trials and suffering are common to the human condition. Christians are not exempt. There are times in our lives when trials and suffering seem to dominate our existence. Through these trials, God wants to transform our lives to see him and to worship him to a greater extent. The purpose of Journey Groups is to refocus our worship of God as we invite the truth of the gospel into our past, present and future and learn to walk faithfully with our identity founded in Jesus alone.
- Journey Groups are small groups that dig into difficult trials and suffering circumstances in light of God's story (defines our lives), our identity as worshippers (misplaced worship is at the core of our problems) and God's redemptive purpose in Jesus. Those who struggle or have struggled with habitual sin issues, abuse, sexual assault or other traumatic experiences are encouraged to pray about and consider Journey Groups. The fundamental truths taught in Journey Groups, however, are valuable for anyone as we are all in need of ongoing redemption.
- Participants will meet with a small group each week, but these are unlike Community Groups in that they are only for a short period of time - a "rest stop." Once a group concludes, participants will go back to their ongoing community, taking a foundation of gospel-centered heart change into their existing relationships.

IT ALL BEGINS WITH THE ORIENTATION & INTENSIVE!

- Journey Groups begin with an Orientation on Tuesday, January 26 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. The Orientation will introduce you to the Journey Group leaders, familiarize you with The Journey Begins workbook, and prepare you for the Intensive the following Saturday (January 30).
- Journey Groups begin with an 'Intensive' that includes teaching and your first group meetings. The Intensive is scheduled from 9am to 3pm on Saturday, January 30.
- It is imperative that you attend the intensive if you are placed in a Journey Group for this upcoming session.
- Please let us know on the registration form if you will need childcare for the Intensive.

THE GROUPS

- Following the Intensive we will be meeting every Tuesday for a time of teaching and group participation.
- The groups are divided by gender, but not by "issue." This reflects our conviction that much of the sin and suffering we experience is common. People in these groups are struggling with a wide range of issues. Therefore, by working out our salvation in this way, we have the opportunity to see the same gospel applied in the deepest caverns of human experience, though our particulars differ dramatically.
- You will need to commit to attending the Journey Group meetings for 12 Tuesdays beginning January 26 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm until the completion of this session on April 20.

- Please note, childcare will not be available for the Tuesday evening sessions.

THE COMMITMENT

- By signing up for a Journey Group, you are committing to attend all groups and participate in an active and heartfelt way by interacting, opening up (vulnerability with those in your group is key to life transformation), sharing and responding to the leaders and participants in your group.
- Outside of group nights, participants are expected to complete the reading and homework assignments, and pursue an ongoing, deeper relationship with Jesus.

READING, MATERIALS, AND FEE

- There will be weekly reading and journaling in The Journey Begins workbook for the Intensive and ongoing group nights. You will receive this book before the start of the Intensive.
- We ask for a materials fee of \$20 that will cover your lunch and refreshments at the Intensive, *The Journey Begins* workbook, and other materials needed to make Journey Group meetings run smoothly.

Please do not allow cost to be a prohibiting factor in your decision to participate. Complete the application below, and a scholarship can be discussed if you are placed in a group for the upcoming session.

PRAYER AND CONSIDERATION

- Please spend considerable time in prayer to discern if this is the right time for you to join Journey Groups.
- We ask that you also pray through and consider the group requirements and commitment to determine if you are able to fulfill those at this time.
- If you would like to have someone give you more information and/or pray with you about this decision, please respond to this email.

NEXT STEPS: APPLICATION

- Confirm your willingness and ability to participate in a Journey Group by filling out the online application found on the Journey Groups “tile” on the Hillside App or on the website.

Thanks in advance for your help in completing the application.

Membership at Hillside Fellowship is not required to participate in a Journey Group. Yet if you are not a member but call Hillside Fellowship home, we would encourage you to start the Membership process by completing the Membership Application found under the Next Steps tab on the Hillside app or on our website.

PLEASE NOTE: Submitting an application does not automatically place you into a Journey Group. We have a limited number of openings, so we encourage you to send in your completed application as soon as you can and no later than January 19. We plan to communicate placement into Journey Groups by Friday, January 22.