



*We exist as a community of humble learners,
who love Christ, and labor to engage the city
with the gospel.*

Engage Group Targets & Expectations

Our Engage Groups (EGs) prayerfully come together to fulfill the following six objectives within their unique cultural contexts:

*Word & Worship [Learning]
Care & Community [Loving]
Mission & Multiplication [Loboring]*

Our EGs will not differ much in *objective* from our Sunday worship gatherings. However, they will differ drastically in their *methods*. Primarily, our EGs serve as the church “scattered,” and while our Sunday morning “gatherings” may, at times, allow anonymity, our EGs are built to avoid this. In other words, there is more dialogue and one-on-one discipleship in EGs than is possible in Sunday morning gatherings.

***Learn* through Word & Worship
[doctrine—head]**

We are an unashamedly Bible-driven Church. Unless God speaks and reveals his will to us, we are prone to build things in our own distorted image. As such, we give the Word of God primacy at Engage. Additionally, God's desire is for people to be in community and relationship with each other ([Gen. 2:18](#), [1 Cor. 12:12-27](#)). Our resolve is to engage in the life of the EG through reading God's Word and entering into relationship with his people.

A proper grasp of the Word of God should lead to a posture of worship. As such, our hope is not to simply grow in knowledge which puffs up ([1 Cor. 8:1](#)), but to be humble learners who build up each other in Christ. While we want to learn deep truths about God, we want to embrace the deep mysteries of God by bowing in worship. This may take the form of musical worship in some EGs (when resources avail), but even where musical talent lacks, all EGs should be marked by a dependence upon God displayed in prayer and reverence.

***Love* through Care & Community** **[doxology—heart]**

Growing in knowledge of God's Word and his holiness, should necessarily result in increased love for others, especially fellow believers ([Gal. 6:10](#)). For this reason, we shy away from using the term "Bible study." EGs are certainly not less than Bible studies, but the desire is that they will be *more* than Bible studies as true community is fostered. As such, the DNA of our EGs is to foster an environment in which they are the primary place to fulfill the "one anothers" of Scripture (see below graphic) and share in bearing burdens.

resolve is to live as missionaries in the city where we live, labor, and leisure by proclaiming the gospel in word and deed to our neighbors ([Matt. 28:18-20](#), [Col. 3:17](#)). This is the “missional” practice of having “scattered” EGs with low walls. We mean that, each group should prayerfully and intentionally seek opportunities to invite in those who are not yet believers in order to share the gospel with them.

As groups grow in numbers (usually by the time a group exceeds 12 and hopefully before they reach 20 people), they should begin praying and training up potential leader(s) in order to birth additional groups. As we live on mission, disciples should be multiplied. A necessary outcome of missional living is the birth of new Engage Groups.

Now What?

Hopefully, this short paper helps give a strategic framework to assist those attending EGs in understanding the purpose and intent of them and give them a clear vision for how they can participate. It should also serve to help the leaders of said groups have measurable objectives by which to lead and guide their EG. Experience says that it is difficult to “fire on all cylinders” in each of these six categories. We recognize this reality and do not wish here to create new “laws” by which to burden people with, but instead to celebrate the glorious grace of Christ who fulfilled all of the law on our behalf and died as our substitute. It is a glorious mission he has called us to, and we always have room for growth. As such, you may find in different seasons and with different groups you excel in different categories, celebrate them, thank God for them, and ask him to do even

more than you could hope or imagine ([Eph. 3:20](#)), but be free and rest in his grace and not in your accomplishments on his behalf.