

# Kgroups



—believe—

—be loved—

—belong—

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## BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR K-GROUPS

K-groups are a vital part of our ministry at Beautiful Savior. We want to do more than be a friendly church. We want to be a church of friends. K-groups are where those friendships are made.

K-groups are the part of our ministry that is almost entirely led and conducted by the congregation. The pastors don't run the K-groups. The pastors don't even plan the K-groups. The pastors will provide a little training for K-group leaders. But for the most part, this is pure *member ministry*.

This pamphlet lays out our approach to K-groups at Beautiful Savior:

- ☞ what their purpose is
- ☞ what types of K-groups we want to offer
- ☞ how they are scheduled
- ☞ how you can plan to host a K-group

If you have any additional questions about K-groups not covered in this pamphlet, please don't hesitate to contact one of Beautiful Savior's pastors.

## WHAT IS A K-GROUP?

The “K” in K-group stands for *koinonia*, a Greek word found regularly in Scripture. *Koinonia* means “sharing.” When you share your life with a community of fellow believers, we call that “fellowship.” St. John writes, “We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship (*koinonia*) with us. And our fellowship (*koinonia*) is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.” (1 John 1:3). When believers are united to God, they are inevitably united to one another also.

This is necessary. God did not design human beings to face life on their own. Instead, he intended for believers to be woven together in a community so that they might encourage one another as together they walk the often difficult path of life. Consider these words of direction from the Scripture, intended for all Christians.



- ☞ Be devoted to one another in love. - Romans 12:10
- ☞ Encourage one another and build each other up. - 1 Thessalonians 5:11
- ☞ Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. - Hebrews 10:24
- ☞ Offer hospitality to one another. - 1 Peter 4:9

K-groups are the way Beautiful Savior carries out those Biblical directives. In summary...

**The purpose of Beautiful Savior’s K-groups is to enable Christians to share their lives, knitting them together as a family, for mutual encouragement and strengthening.**

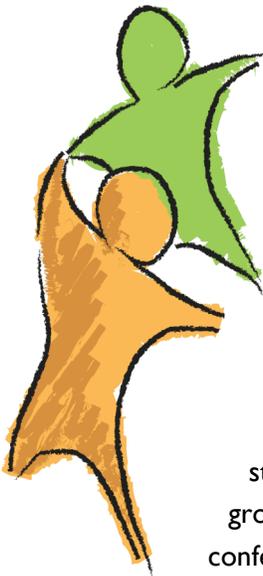
## THE THREE TYPES OF K-GROUPS

K-groups are *not* synonymous with Bible study. The main purpose of Bible-study is spiritual growth. The main purpose of K-groups is to knit the people of Beautiful Savior together so that they might share their lives as God's Word directs them to. Sharing of one's life *can* certainly happen in a Bible study. But it can happen in other ways as well. Thus, we have three types of K-groups.

### GROWTH GROUPS

Growth Groups *are* comprised of Christians who want to gather for the spiritual growth produced by Bible study and devotion. They take St. Peter's words to heart. "Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18).

These Bible studies differ from Sunday morning Bible study. They are more discussion oriented. Growth group members take portions of God's Word and apply them to their lives. There is no "teacher" in growth groups. There is a facilitator who keeps discussion moving and focused on the topic of the day.



A good example of a growth group would be our *Digging Deeper* K-group. Participants in *Digging Deeper* meet to discuss the previous week's worship message. They review the three Scripture lessons and the sermon, looking for guidance and strength for the coming week.

Other examples: a growth group for parents that studies the Biblical principles of raising children; a growth group that looks at some of the Lutheran confessions; a growth group that studies a book of the

Bible chapter by chapter.

Growth groups are the only of the three types of K-groups where the pastors help the leaders prepare. If you would like to be a growth group leader, the pastors will help you find appropriate and meaningful Bible study materials.

### **HELP GROUPS**

Help groups are comprised of Christians who want to serve either Beautiful Savior or the community in some way. They understand that faith-wrought service gives a type of testimony, just as Jesus said. *“Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven”* (Matthew 5:16). Help groups identify a way that they could serve the church in general, or serve specific people/groups within the church, or serve a segment of the community.

Some examples of help groups: a help group that meets at an assisted living center to socialize with the residents; a help group of young people that meet at elderly or sick members’ homes to do yard work; a help group that works at a local food pantry.

### **PLAY GROUPS**

Play groups are comprised of Christians who want to gather for some recreational fellowship. They understand that just as God rested from his labor (Genesis 2:2), so also man will rest from time to time. We *need* to rest and recharge intellectually and emotionally, so that after that rest we might resume serving our God with vigor.

Examples of play groups: a play group that gets together to play basketball at a local gym; a play group that discusses a book which the entire group has read; a play group that goes out to eat once a month at a variety of “exotic fare” restaurants.

## THE TRIMESTER SCHEDULE FOR K-GROUPS

There are three K-group trimesters each year. Thus, if someone joins a K-group, they are committing for approximately three months.

### THE START TIMES

The three trimesters are arranged around three logical times for people to jump into congregational life at Beautiful Savior:

- ✧ *Trimester One* begins right in mid-January. It's a new year, a time people think about changing an aspect of their lives. Plus, since it begins a few weeks after Christmas Eve, it invites us an opportunity to invite visitors who came to that special service to learn more about Beautiful Savior and make some new friends.
  
- ✧ *Trimester Two* begins in mid-May. Therefore, it occurs not too long after Easter. Some of our Easter visitors will be considering joining

	Groups planned	Groups promoted	Groups meet
January		Tri 1	
February			Tri 1
March			Tri 1
April	Tri 3		Tri 1
May		Tri 2	
June			Tri 2
July			Tri 2
August	Tri 3		Tri 2
September		Tri 3	
October			Tri 3
November			Tri 3
December	Tri 1		Tri 3
		Tri 1	

Beautiful Savior. This provides us an opportunity to those individuals to get to know some of the members of our church. The Growth Groups offered in this trimester also allow opportunity for Bible study at the time when adult Sunday Bible Class is on hiatus for the summer.

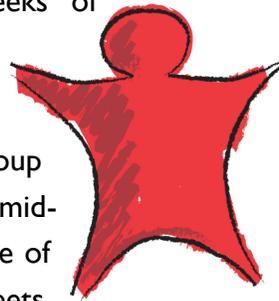
- ✧ *Trimester Three* begins mid-September. Summer is a time when people take vacations. Many relocate during these months. Fall, when school starts up and things settle down, provides a great opportunity for our final trimester.

### **PLANNING AND PROMOTION**

The trimesters are preceded by four weeks of promotion. Those are preceded by four weeks of planning.

For example, if you want to facilitate a K-group for *Trimester One*, your work begins mid-November. You start planning out what type of K-group it is, who it's for, how often it meets, where it meets, etc. You put this information on a K-group planning form, which you can find [HERE](#). (If you are reading a print pamphlet, go to [www.ourbeautifulsavior.com](http://www.ourbeautifulsavior.com).) You will need to have that form submitted by the due-date, which will be in mid-December. A precise due-date will be posted both in *The Bulletin* and online.

The information for your and all the other *Trimester One* K-groups will be published mid-December through mid-January, both in print and online. People will enroll by contacting you, the group facilitator.



## PLANNING A K-GROUP

If you want to form a K-Group, here are the things you need to consider before we can promote it.

**Are you going to facilitate a Growth Group, a Help Group or a Play Group?** If you want to plan a Help Group or a Play Group, you can plan that on your own. If it's a Growth Group (small group Bible Study), the pastors can help you locate good Bible study material. One simple option for Growth Groups is to do a *Digging Deeper* group. *Digging Deeper* groups study the sermon and lessons from the previous week. Sunday afternoon a study with answer guide is made available by the pastor who gave that week's message. The group then meets at their convenience to discuss it.



**How often is the K-group going to meet?** K-groups run approximately 12 to 13 weeks. (You can find the exact span on the church calendar at [www.ourbeautifulsavior.com](http://www.ourbeautifulsavior.com).) We want K-groups to meet a minimum of three times, i.e. monthly meetings. They could meet as much as weekly. You will need to list every meeting date and time on the K-group planning form.

**When is the K-group going to meet?** Say you determine your K-group is going to meet six times throughout the trimester. You now need to pick when that will be. Evenings or mornings? Weekend or weekday? It is entirely up to you. It is advisable to keep the day of the week and time consistent.

**For how long will your K-group meet when it assembles?** If it's a Play Group that is meeting for game night which begins at 7PM on Fridays, does that night end at 9PM or midnight? People need to know exactly

what they are committing to.

**Where is the K-group going to meet?** K-groups might meet at multiple locations. For example, a monthly golf K-group might meet at three different courses. But many K-groups, particular Growth Groups, will meet in the same location each time. The ideal place for this is in your home. Studies of church small groups have consistently shown that if the goal of the group is to knit Christian's together in family, meeting in the facilitator's home is ideal. "Practice hospitality" (Romans 12:13).

Another possibility is to meet somewhere in the community. For example, A Growth Group of six meeting at a coffee shop for Bible study can give public testimony to the community of the importance of being in the Word.

If meeting in-home or off-site is simply not feasible, it is possible to have a K-group meet at church. That will be coordinated with the property manager.

**For whom is the K-group intended?** There is nothing wrong with creating K-groups for a certain demographic. Examples: a senior's K-group that visits various historic sites, a women's K-group book club, a single's K-group. You limit the number of possible participants, but that's OK. K-groups shouldn't be more than 12 people anyways.

**What are the costs (or potential costs) of participation in the K-group?** It is not wise for there to be surprise expenses for K-group participants. Thus, if participants need to purchase materials, please list those costs on the K-group planning form.

**What is it called?** *Digging Deeper* is the name for our sermon-based Growth Group. For others, you need to come up with a name. The catchier, the better!

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q: I've never run a small group. How will I know what to do?**

A: We will provide you with a short manual that lays out how to plan for a K-group. No matter what type of group you would run — Growth, Help or Play — it's not hard!

**Q: Are K-groups just for Beautiful Savior members, or may non-members attend?**

A: Of course non-members may attend! That would be encouraged. Some churches even use K-groups as their primary avenue of outreach, encouraging groups to “grow and divide.” We do not do that at Beautiful Savior. Our primary purpose is simply to knit people together into a true Christian family. But by all means, invite unchurched friends and family.

**Q: Why don't K-groups run year round? Why break them up into trimesters?**

A: There are three compelling reasons to break groups up that are provided by most experts on running small groups in the church.

1. Without a definite begin date, people assume they are “jumping in the middle” of something, even if you tell them it's a week-by-week Bible study. People don't want to jump into the middle of something.
2. Without a definite end date, people assume they are supposed to continue in the group indefinitely. People tend to *not* commit to something that is open ended.
3. If people stay in classes that go on indefinitely, they only get to know those who are in their group. If the primary purpose of K-groups is to knit together a body of believers, having individuals stay in a group with the same people indefinitely goes counter to that purpose.

The same group may be scheduled for every trimester. That group may even meet in the off month between trimesters. But it will be promoted as three distinct trimesters, for the reasons listed above.



**Q: Why have identical K-groups on the same topic? For example, why would we have three *Digging Deeper* groups? Why not combine them into one?**

Remember that the primary goal of K-groups is *koinonia*, the sharing of lives. Small group experts will say that is harder to do when you get above a dozen people. In a larger group, people can “hide,” not participate. When there’s four to eight, everyone participates.

In addition, having a variety of groups helps with schedules. One group means one meeting time. That might not fit everyone.

**Q: What if I plan to host a K-group and no one signs up?**

A: Small group experts will tell you that is likely to happen every time a church begins a K-group series. At least one “fizzles.” Some thoughts on this.

First of all, be careful how you define “no one.” If you have one person sign up, you have a group. Those same small group experts will tell you that meeting in a group of two or three is a very powerful way for Christians to grow together.

Secondly, if zero sign up, realize it demonstrates either a lack of interest in your suggested topic or that your topic was of lower interest than the others promoted that trimester. It’s not a lack of interest in you! Everyone who has hosted K-groups has it happen that, from time to time, that one of their K-groups generates no interest. So give it a try! Don’t be afraid.



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