

# COVENANT GROUPS

## Building Lasting God-Relationships w/Peers & Mentors

### What's Different?

- Students must register/commit to the process before being placed in a group.
- Some of the people that used to be in your CG will not be in your small group moving forward.

### What's Staying the Same?

- The Goal: provide every teen with lasting God-connections to peers and mentors.

- Groups will be of the same gender/grade.

- Every group will be led by at least 2 committed & spiritually mature adult leaders.

Meetings are twice/monthly on 2nd & 4th Sunday nights.

- Meetings will occur primarily in host homes.

- Bible reading & Prayer will be central to the curriculum.

### How Do I Get Started?

- Simply click [HERE](#)...or follow the link at [www.ocyg.org](http://www.ocyg.org).



## Understanding the Process

After 11 years, the small group ministry of the OCYG is changing. In the past, everyone of the same grade/gender was in one group. In recent years, however, as our youth group has increased in number, these groups (some in the high 20's) have **really** struggled to function as small groups. This year, we're making changes designed to help this ministry recapture the power of small groups.

### Step 1: Communication Between Parents & Students

Sit down pray/talk together. Does your family's schedule allow for this year-long commitment? How important is geography in your family's CG transportation equation? Got any suggestions for additional CG Leaders? Are you "Ok" with these changes?

### Step 2: Student Commitments/Information Gathering

Before groups can form, students must commit. An online registration will be used to gather commitments as well as critical information that will help us form amazing groups. Simply follow the link in the box at the left & follow the prompts.



## I've Still Got Questions...

**-If my son doesn't commit now, does he have to wait until next Fall to join a group?** No. Just as we will always make room for a new visitor to plug in, your son can plug in when he's ready to commit. (Note: This process *COULD* take weeks.)

**-So...how WILL you add visitors & others who want to join mid-year?** Intentionally and carefully. Several factors may combine to determine whether the visitor is added to an existing group (& which one), a new group is formed...or whether we split one of the existing groups.

**-So...my daughter's group may split AGAIN?** Maybe. **A.** Let's remember that teens "out there" seeing God at work in the OCYG is beautiful thing. **B.** This is one reason to begin with groups of five or six instead of groups of nine or ten. **C.** The plan is to encode this "splitting" into the DNA of this ministry...so that, when it happens, teens see this as a cool blessing & not a devastating blow.

**-Will my "old CG" ever get together?** YES!! Grade/Gender "big group" gatherings will DEFINITELY be built into the calendar & it'll be SO MUCH FUN!

## Step 3: Data Gathering & Group Formation

The OCYG Ministry Team will combine the data collected from student registrations with additional information (conversations with CG Leaders, etc.) for the purpose of organizing students & leaders into this year's Covenant Groups.

## Step 4: Communication

Once groups are formed, this information will be communicated to CG leaders first...then to students & parents.

## Step 5: First Meeting - September 14, 2014

This is an ambitious goal. This process may take a little longer than expected and, of course, there is the critical matter of finding the right leaders. BUT. The plan, as of now, is to kickoff a new year in host homes with our new groups on the 2nd Sunday in September.

## Finally...A Word to Parents:

Thanks so much for your support. Change can be a difficult thing & the ability to navigate it effectively is a valuable skill for your teen to possess. Your own ability to imagine what all God can do may be a key to unlocking your teen's imagination as well! We need you!

