

# WESTCITY CHURCH

Love God | Love People | Follow Jesus

## Community Life Groups at Westicity

- *What to think about if you would like to start a new Home Church, Connect Group or Pop-Up Group*
- *And next steps, for getting it started*

Hi there! So, you're thinking of starting a group at Westicity, yay. We hope the following information will give you all you need to take the next steps in this exciting journey of following Jesus together.

## Three types of Community Life groups at Westicity

We recognise that we all connect with others for different reasons and in different seasons. Some people just enjoy attending on a Sunday and we celebrate that. But often there is a time where we want to connect with others more.

There are many reasons for connecting, such as to;

- learn more about following Jesus together on pilgrimage
- share common interests
- come together over a passion or topic we want to explore.
- build relationships with others in our church community, to support each other in our lives and faith journeys

In order to reflect this, we have identified three different types of Westicity Community Life groups.

### 1. Home church

Coming together weekly or fortnightly to do some of the following:

- Open up the scriptures
- Share a meal
- Hear each other's stories
- Support and care for one another on the journey
- Pray together

### 2. Connect groups

Gathering together weekly, fortnightly or monthly over a common interest. The skies the limit, whether that's:

- walking

- prayer
- pottery, painting or something else creative
- gardening
- playing sport
- advocating for a social justice cause
- volunteering together or 'Going out' in other ways, to live out our weekly benediction

It's up to you!

### 3. Pop up groups

Short term groups of 4-8 weeks where we gather, learn and grow together.

Whether that's a:

- Book study
- Bible study
- Couples' dinner
- Discussion group around a specific topic or cause

Once you've worked out what type of group you'd like to run, please work through the following questions, in order to get ready for the next steps.

### Why, What & Who

Write down a short spiel about what the group is about, who it is for, who its targeting (who you would like to come/invite), and why it's running.

**Note:** We encourage groups to be open and multigenerational but understand that some groups may not be able to do this. You can chat more about this with the Community Life team when you meet, at next steps.

#### **When:**

Work out a start date and how often you'll meet and what time you'll start and finish.

#### **Where:**

Find your venue or meeting place.

### Teams of 3

Doing something together is always more fun, so see if there's anyone who would like to facilitate the group with you.

We love the idea of 'teams of 3' at Westcity. Where we share the leadership of the groups with others. We suggest that in the team you have a care person (support and pastoral care), a host and an organisational person. Don't worry if you don't find 'three', you can still start a group and develop this part as you go.

## Final steps

Contact the Community Life team and we can support and onboard you.

- Phil Stevenson phil.westcitychurch@gmail.com
- Josh Fernandes
- Bec Ng

We'll then pass on the relevant information to our Communications team so we can add your group info to socials, our website and other relevant platforms. You can then start inviting people yourself, in preparation for the group starting.

Please also think about how you would like to communicate with your group along the way. Slack is our preferred church communication platform, but you can chat with us about using email or a What's app group (or something similar).

## Pop Up Group Examples

### **Example 1:**

*Lamb Power Biblical Literacy Discussion Group - The Book of Revelation*

*Peter Llewellyn will lead us in an intensive five week study on The Book of Revelation.*

*Where: Peter & Kerry's house in Craigie. Peter will email you his address the week before the first session.*

*When: Tuesdays @ 7.30pm - 9pm*

*For 5 sessions, August 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2022.*

*Cost: Free*

*Registrations: open now, via the Eventbrite link on our website westcitychurch.com.au. Registrations close July 26. There are 12 places available. If all places are full or you can't attend these dates but would be interested in similar or repeat sessions in the future, please email westcitychurch@gmail.com*

### **Example 2:**

*Westcity Spiritual Book Club (SBC)*

*What: Alongside the liturgical year and related themes, we are planning a monthly spiritual book club (Feb-Nov, nine sessions), on a Wednesday @7.30pm, led by Chiz. The book to take us through 2022 will be 'The Sacred Journey', by Charles Foster.*

*Where: Dave will be hosting a majority of the sessions at his house in Subiaco (Chiz will email you the address and more details a few days before the first session).*

*When: Wednesdays @ 7.30pm - 9pm*

*Dates for the 9 sessions, in 2022:*

*Feb 9, March 16, April 20, May 11, June 15, July 20, Sept 21, Oct 19, Nov 23*

*Who: Adults (18 years or older).*

*Cost: Free*

*Registrations: open on Dec 11, 2021, via the Eventbrite link on our website [westcitychurch.com.au](http://westcitychurch.com.au). They close on Feb 1, 2022. We have 10-20 limited places, so please register early to avoid disappointment. If you miss out and are very interested, please email [neilchiz@me.com](mailto:neilchiz@me.com) and we may be able to consider putting on extra sessions.*

*What to bring: The book: 'The Sacred Journey', by Charles Foster (and if you feel like it, a plate of snacks to share).*

*Updates: If you have registered, Chiz will send you email updates throughout the year about confirmed meet up times/dates and any other important info. You can reach him on [neilchiz@me.com](mailto:neilchiz@me.com)*

### **Example 3:**

*How to read the bible- 21 & 28 May, 4 & 11 June, 2021*

*7pm – 8.30pm at Westcity Church*

*For most Christians, the Bible is the central axis around which our faith organises itself. But how do we make sense of this confusing library of ancient texts?*

*This is a 4-week course looking at some of the basics of reading the bible including:*

- the reliability of scripture*
- historical/cultural/literary context*
- bring it to life in the modern world*

*Come and learn some skills that will begin your journey of interpreting the Bible in a more holistic way, so that you can go deeper in your understanding of faith and life.*