

CONNECT WITH OTHERS

03



A LETTER FROM PASTOR STU

"What is this faith journey all about? It's all about loving God and loving others. It's both. Your faith goes up and down and side to side. That's why the cross is such a powerful image for Christians. Jesus' very death is a picture of what's most important in our faith journey. It's vertical between us and God of course, but it's also horizontal between us and others. It's not one or the other, it's both, and that's why you need to connect with others."

- Pastor Stu Hodges

For a lot of us, taking this step won't come naturally. You may even wonder if it's really necessary for your spiritual growth and progress. But the reality is, it's way too easy to come to a church like ours and attend regularly but never really belong. We want more for you...we want you to belong to a family so you can connect, care, and grow. I'm excited for you to explore the content of Step 3 and more importantly, for you to experience the depth of relationship that you can have connecting with the amazing people of Waters Edge Church!

Welcome Home!

Pastor Stu

GROWTH TRACK STEP 3: CONNECT WITH OTHERS

There is _____

"Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity."

- Hebrews 6:1a NIV

"Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

- Matthew 22:37-39 NIV

_____ **Needs A Group!**

THREE THINGS GROUPS CAN HELP YOU WITH

1. CONNECT

"It's better to have a partner than go it alone. Share the work, share the wealth. And if one falls down, the other helps, but if there's no one to help, tough! Two in a bed warm each other. Alone, you shiver all night. By yourself, you're unprotected. With a friend you can face the worst."

- Ecclesiastes 4:9-12a MSG

2. CARE

"I knew the moment those doors opened that this had to be somebody from Waters Edge Church because your church always shows up with a crowd. Your church knows how to care for its people!"

Groups are our system for _____.

3. GROW

"As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend."

- Proverbs 27:17 NLT

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

- Hebrews 10:24-25 NIV





What is a Group?

A gathering of people who meet physically or virtually to Connect, Care, and Grow.

Types of Groups

Connect Groups

Small groups of individuals who share life and grow spiritually together for a year.

Care Groups

Groups that provide support and care for individuals going through a hard time.

Grow Groups

Opportunities for you to learn about a specific topic and grow in that area.

Common Interest Groups

Groups that build connection through an activity.

Groups FAQ's

When and where do Groups meet?

- Spring Semester
- Summer Semester
- Fall Semester
- In-Person Groups
 - Meet on campus or in homes locally
- Virtual Groups
 - Meet via zoom or other technology

How often do we meet?

Most Groups meet weekly, and bi-weekly, but some Groups meet once a month.

What will we talk about?

Some groups will kayak and talk about life. Other Groups might pick a Bible study or topic to walk through, while others discuss Sunday's message using our sermon based curriculum.

Is childcare provided?

We believe everybody needs a Group so much that we offer childcare reimbursement for all members during the Group Semester.

Once I pick a group, how long am I committed to it?

We want to be sure you find a group that you love and make it easy for you to find a group if your schedule or needs change. That's why we meet in semesters. Connect Groups generally meet for a year, while Care Groups are dependent on the curriculum they are utilizing. Grow and Common Interest Groups meet for around 12 weeks in the Spring and Fall and around 6 weeks in the Summer.



What Are My Next Steps?

1. Find A Group

We love our time together on Sundays, but we understand the need for more. What are you looking for? Visit our Groups page to find one that is right for you.

watersedgechurch.net/groups

2. Join A Group

3. Show Up

Interested in Leading a Group?

Now that you've taken your spiritual gifts assessment, let's learn how your gifts can best be used in our Groups Ministry.

You're probably wondering what goes into being a Group Leader at Waters Edge. The answer is simple. We want our Group Leaders to love God, love people, and love Waters Edge Church. We believe that leaders go first. So, as a Group Leader, you set the example for others by doing the following things:

- Actively attend Waters Edge Church services
- Own the vision of our church and Groups
- Be a positive role model
- Give regularly
- Pray for, celebrate, encourage, and care for your members
- Prioritize Group events
- Live a lifestyle that upholds the values and vision of Waters Edge Church



LEAD A GROUP

Your Campus Pastor cannot wait to help you discover how you might be able to live out your purpose in Groups. To find out more on leading a Group, scan the QR code.

 **WATERS EDGE**
students

We believe "Everybody Needs A Group," especially students! Our Student Groups are for students in 6th-12th grade and meet at campuses and in host homes across the Peninsula on Wednesday nights. This is a time to connect to other students, discuss topics relevant to life, and grow closer to God. New students can connect to a group at any time during the year.

At various times during the year, students from all across the Peninsula COLLIDE at our Yorktown campus (and online) for a night filled with tons of fun, high-energy worship, and an incredible message.

