



OUR WAY OF LIFE

**MCBC
HANG-OUT GROUPS**

Here at MCBC we want to see every person connected as part of both BIG church (gathered on Sunday) and SMALL church (what happens in the week).

WHAT IS A HANGOUT GROUP?

A hang out group is really a group of a few people who are meeting during the week, coming together to encourage and do life together.

We have a few things that help us define a group as a "*HangOut Group*":

- Meeting regularly – ideally for the group to meet weekly
- Intentional – time for devotion or bible reading/study and prayer
- Jesus centred
- Open to expand – open to others coming along, they are non-exclusive and even willing to grow and split if they get too large
- Everyone Contributing – each person takes turns to contribute a devotion or lead the discussion

WHY A HANGOUT GROUP?

We have so much already in our diaries, why do we need anything else?

- Of all the things that consume our time there are few things that can empower us more than connecting with a small group of others to encourage and to help each other.
- We can never cater to everyone's spiritual needs on a Sunday and so it's important for us to meet together in a personal way during the week so that we can continue to grow in our Faith.
- Connection with others can be hard on a Sunday when there are so many people. Our conversations are often more surface level. We may feel overwhelmed and never get that intimacy of friendship and connection that we need.
- Jesus modelled the small he met with the 12 disciples, but also had 3 who he would connect with on another level.

WHAT A HANGOUT GROUP COULD LOOK LIKE?

Let's keep it simple:

- Keep it local – ideally no more than a 10min drive away.
- Meet regularly – weekly is ideal, fortnightly at the very least. Maybe even take a break during the school holidays.
- Anyone can run it – at the end of a Sunday service we will give you some discussion questions and Bible passages used in the message. You get to continue the discussion in your groups.
- Different people for different roles – a facilitator, a host, and an admin person.
- Agree on times – start, finish and leaving times.
- Shared leadership – using the resources we provide, take it in turns to lead the discussion.

Other useful things:

- Develop a Chat – the church app allows you to do this as a group
- Develop traditions – e.g. celebrating birthdays
- Have a Social night to break things up
- Think about how you can invite others to join and grow the group

WANT TO START A HANG OUT GROUP?

What you need to do:

1. Find a few people or families who are keen
2. Have a contact person and let us know who it is
3. Let us know where and when you are meeting
4. Email admin@citybaptist.org.nz or fill out the "[HangOuts form](#)" [online](#) or via the [Church Centre app](#)
5. Get into it and enjoy it!
6. Alternatively let us know what you are thinking so we can advertise to others who may be interested, or we can find people who live in your area.

What we will do:

- We will email the contact person each week – we want to resource you well so will give you some discussion questions based on the Sunday morning message
- Give you prayer pointers, challenges and thoughts for the week
- Give resources to help with different communication barriers
- Support you as a group

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions about anything in this 'Way of Life' or would like to discuss joining a HangOut Group, please contact one of the MCBC Pastors or the church office:
admin@citybaptist.org.nz | 09 278 8998
citybaptist.org.nz