

EVERY STUDENT SHOULD JOIN A STUDENT GROUP

Throughout the school year, Groups are a place where students have fun discovering their faith with a circle of friends.

STUDENT GROUPS ARE FOR EVERY STUDENT

Groups meet on the night of the week that works best for them. Groups can meet at a Hillside Campus, in homes, or online. Our team does our best to ensure that students involved in other activities have multiple options for participating in Student Groups at Hillside, so there is a Group for every student!

STUDENT GROUPS ARE LED BY ADULTS & DRIVEN BY STUDENTS

Every Group is led by a team of incredible Adult Leaders who help guide students through the Bible and allow space for great discussions. Students make their Group grow by investing relationally in their friends and inviting them to join. At Group, students are noticed and listened to, which creates a sense of belonging and a trusted space for spiritual growth.

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STUDENT GROUPS GROW A STUDENT'S FAITH.

We know students are both incredibly busy and have tremendous potential to make an impact on the world around them. Students are continually taking on more ownership at home, at school, in activities, and we believe students can take more ownership of their faith as well. Groups create a space for students to explore and grow their faith in a safe place. Groups engage students to find trusted friends, clarify their values, make a difference, and navigate life well.

Our Student Team has seen the incredible life change that can happen in Groups! Whenever students gather to read the Bible, life-change happens. That's why we're so passionate about all students getting to experience group life. We believe that Groups are the best way to accomplish Hillside's mission *to love God as we lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.*

JOIN A STUDENT GROUP →

Join a Student Group at ***hillsideonline.com/students***

WHAT DO STUDENTS EXPERIENCE AT STUDENT GROUP

STUDENT GROUPS ARE CONSISTENT

The first part of Group is for catching up, hanging out, and having fun. Next, everyone gathers together for biblical teaching. Then, students discuss the Bible. Most discussions end with a time for prayer, and then students head home! Groups also gather for worship nights, fun events, summer camp, mission trips, and local serving opportunities.

While every Group is slightly different, there are many things they all experience. Groups typically meet for an hour and half. Most Group environments are mixed gender and mixed grade, and break out into smaller groups by grade and gender for discussion. We want students to be able to invite their friends to their Group.




WHAT DO STUDENTS EXPERIENCE AT STUDENT GROUP

WHAT DO STUDENTS LEARN IN STUDENT GROUPS?

During their time together, students will engage in a short teaching by our Student Team and read directly from the Bible to discover truths about these important topics:

Authentic Faith 

Serving Others 

Moral Boundaries 

Spiritual Disciplines 

Healthy Relationships 

Ultimate Authority 

Wise Choices 

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ADULTS SERVING IN STUDENT GROUPS

We believe that an Adult Leader is the primary catalyst for disciple-making. Adult Leaders walk alongside students as they develop their personal relationship with Jesus Christ and encourage them to put their faith into action.

EXPECTATIONS OF ADULT LEADERS

Adult Leaders are expected to consistently attend their Group, invest in students, and model how to navigate discussions. We require all Adult Leaders to submit an application, pass a background check, complete a sexual abuse awareness training, participate in Leader evaluations, and attend regular volunteer trainings.

HOW TO START SERVING

Once the Student Team knows you are interested, the following steps must take place before you are able to serve:

1. Submit a Serving Application.
2. Pass a Background Check.
3. Meet with a Student Team member for an interview.
4. Complete Ministry Safe Training & read Child Safety Guidelines.
5. Observe a Group before jumping in.

I'M INTERESTED IN SERVING →

Visit **hillsideonline.com/serve** and select “Students” to get started.

STUDENTS SERVING IN STUDENT GROUPS

The most critical role in Groups are Student Drivers. Student Drivers are students who are willing to use their influence to invest in their circle of friends and invite them to Group. That's why we believe that Student Drivers are the primary catalyst for evangelism.

STUDENT DRIVERS NEVER SERVE ALONE

Student Drivers work together with the Student Team Staff, Adult Leaders, and other Student Drivers to consistently invite new friends to Group, plan fun activities, and help lead spiritual discussions with their peers.

STUDENT DRIVERS RAISE THE BAR

Student Drivers are vitally important to the spiritual health and growth of their Group. Student Drivers follow a set of expectations that challenges them to grow in their faith as they spiritually influence their friends.



STUDENTS SERVING IN STUDENT GROUPS

EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENT DRIVERS:

- Has accepted Christ as Lord and Savior and has been baptized by immersion.
- Regularly attend Sunday morning worship services.
- Be approved by Hillside Student Team Staff.
- Be a spiritual influencer and be pursuing a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Be confident in leading spiritual moments and discussions.
- Drive engagement and participation in Group by investing in and inviting friends, classmates, and peers.
- Regularly attend Student Driver events and trainings.
- Meet regularly with a spiritual mentor.

I'M INTERESTED IN BEING A STUDENT DRIVER →

Visit ***hillsideonline.com/serve*** and select “Students” to get started.

LAUNCHING A STUDENT GROUP FROM SCRATCH

Most students jump into pre-existing Groups, but occasionally there is a need to launch a new Group (like incoming freshmen or a new school). If so, our Student Team is here to help! While there are many small details that go into starting a Group, it really boils down to four main things: **The Purpose, The People, The Place, and The Plan!**

THE PURPOSE IS TO MULTIPLY

Student Groups exist to make disciples who make disciples. To accomplish this goal, some Groups will eventually need to multiply. When a growing Group needs to multiply, a handful of Student Drivers will lead out and launch a new Group as a way to reach more students. This does not affect every Group, but it's a great goal to have in mind as a new Group starts!

THE PEOPLE ARE STUDENT DRIVERS & ADULT LEADERS

A Student Group needs the right people to launch! The best people to start with are Student Drivers. Student Drivers are students who love Jesus and want to use the influence they already have to further His Kingdom. It's great when a new Group has Student Drivers that are already friends before launching, but it's not necessary.

Another vital part of every Group is the Adult Leaders! Adult Leaders love God, love students, and love seeing life-change. They invest in students, help navigate discussion, and keep the Group on track.

LAUNCHING A STUDENT GROUP FROM SCRATCH

THE PLACE IS UP TO YOU

Every Student Group needs a place to meet! Groups can meet at church, in homes, or online! Host homes are friendly, inviting, spacious, and hospitable. Host families may or may not have their own children in the Group or even be Group Leaders. They just need a willingness to open their doors to students! The Student Team will work with Student Drivers and Adult Leaders to find the best place for each Group.

THE PLAN STARTS WITH DRAFT NIGHT & LAUNCH NIGHT

Once the purpose, people and place are established, it's time to form the plan! The Group's plan will unfold during its *Draft Night*, which happens before the Group "officially" launches. The Student Team, Adult Leaders and Student Drivers will all meet together to decide the day and time the Group will meet, review the semester schedule, and help Student Drivers invite their friends to the first night of Group. The first night of Group is called *Launch Night*, where students and Adult Leaders hang out, have fun, and get excited for the semester ahead!

I'M INTERESTED IN STARTING A GROUP →

Join a Student Group at ***hillsideonline.com/students***.