

### **Family Groups: a basic guide to meeting together**

As well as our large family meeting on Sunday morning, we meet together in small groups during the week as the early church did (see Acts 2:42-47). In addition to the pattern of interactive bible studies, church meetings, prayer meetings and socials which we do all together at the church; we meet as family groups usually in people's homes to eat together, break bread, pray for each other and seek God together. More recently we have decided to try meeting more often in family groups and to offer bible study and reflection resources.

Most meet on Tuesday nights, but there is no reason that your group should not find another time to meet. Marilyn Smith, one of our Elders, is responsible for placing people into groups.

### **Eating together**

Jesus seems to have made eating together an important focus for many of his significant moments leading right up to the meal on the night before he died. Even the last story in John's gospel where Peter is reinstated as leader of the early church is done over breakfast. The description of the church in Acts 2 of small groups meeting in homes also has a focus on eating together. It does not have to be a lavish meal, you are allowed to order take away or sometimes just have pudding.

### **Breaking bread**

Share bread and wine together in the way Jesus told us to and remember him. It is up to you how you do this, and please feel confident to vary how you do it. Some starting points:

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 is the passage that you will have heard at Communion services in church and often called the "words of institution".

Mark 14:12-26/Matthew 26:17-30/Luke 7:7-38 tell the story of the Last Supper in the gospels.

John 13:1-17 is set in the upper room but instead tells the story of washing his disciple's feet. Also see John 15:1-17/John 6:25-59 where Jesus does talk about bread and wine.

You could also look at the accounts of Jesus' death, passages which remind you about God's love, mercy, forgiveness, grace and life. Or tell some stories of when God has demonstrated how much he loves you.

### **Prayer**

Remember to thank God for prayers he has already answered. Pray for each other's every-day lives and the way we live all of our lives as followers of Jesus Christ. Pray for Ozzy Road Church, and its various ministries.

You may want to ask somebody in the group to bring a Psalm or other bible reading which will inspire you to pray, or take each line from a Psalm and ask people to expand on what each line says or put it into our own words. Or you could take the structure of the Lords Prayer and expand on each line.

### **Bible Study and Reflection**

If somebody has a bible verse/passage that has inspired them than give space for them to share with the group.

There are bible studies available in the blog section on the front page of the website ([www.ozzyroad.com](http://www.ozzyroad.com)) as well as some short video reflections sometimes with a set of simple questions to consider at the end.