

FAQs

updated 08.2022

How do I join a group?

Text **GROUP** to 88877 today and follow the prompts

AND/OR

Scan QR Code with phone camera and fill in our Small Group Inquiry Form

Scan QR Code with phone camera and contact leader directly



Scan QR code with your phone's camera to find a small group

Am I equipped to host a group? Yes!

We will give you everything you need to start a group and walk alongside you as you do. If you have 2-4 friends that are willing to go on a spiritual journey with you to learn through our video curriculum and conversation guide, you are called and God will equip you!

Do you . . .

Have a heart for others?

Open up your place or an online space like Zoom?

Send an email once a week?

Type churchnativity.com/watch?

If you answered yes to these, we'd love to help you start a group right now! Jesus called people in Matthew 4 by saying, "Follow me." If you're willing to follow our lead, as we follow Jesus, we'll help you on this journey!

Lead as a Group - Introducing our Group Roles Model:

We believe that balanced, healthy groups grow in the 5 biblical purposes that our Nativity STEPS are modeled from: Fellowship, Ministry, Worship, Discipleship, Evangelization. Each group member was designed by God to play a valuable role in the life of your Group and beyond that in the Body of Christ. Invite members to support the group weekly for the series in the following ways:

- 1 - Host Member (in home or online)
- 2 - Communication Member (forward Nativity pre-meeting email and text weekly meeting time/place)
- 3 - Discussion Member (rotate each meeting)
- 4 - Prayer Member (Open/Close in prayer)



How do I start a group?

We would love for you to start a group! You can start your group by visiting www.churchnativity.com/lead or text **LEAD** to 88877 and follow prompts. You can do that today or stop at Next Steps Kiosk during one of the weekend services and we can help. Please note we do comply with the background check process for all of the Archdiocese of Baltimore and will require you to provide references and complete the video training curriculum prior to serving.

The best way is to actually start a small group. If you have two friends, we can help you with everything you need to get started. Or if you'd prefer to join a group, though, go to churchnativity.com/groupfinder to access our group finder tool. If you'd rather do this in person, go to the Next Steps Kiosk and we can help you get plugged in. Keep in mind that if your first group is not a good fit, we'd be happy to help you get connected into another one. We are here for you so email smallgroups@churchnativity.com anytime!



Whom will support me once I start leading?

God uses every effort and human interaction for His good and we're thrilled you're taking this step. We have a ministry leadership team designed to care for and resource all of our small group leaders this season. Our Group Life Team consists of Group Life Directors for each of the Life Stage segments. Peer to peer support is also a huge part of our strategy since we're better together. No question or scenario is too trivial for discussion when dealing with people and personalities. We are here to walk with you! Email smallgroups@churchnativity.com if you request to meet with one of us or have a question.



Do you have groups for children, junior high, senior high, and/or college age?

Yes, we absolutely do have groups for all ages!

College Age adults are invited to our Small Group University groups. Contact smallgroups@churchnativity.com

Before College: Connect with the NEXT GEN Team for more information, or let's walk to the Children's area so you can see where they meet. churchnativity.com/NextGen

To sign up for either of those groups, visit their websites:
churchnativity.com/registration



I've tried signing up online, but I still haven't gotten connected. Can you help?

YYes! Thank you for not giving up during this process. We're sorry it's been difficult. Let me show you the groups we have available right now. (Pull up the [Group Finder tool](#) to find specific groups.) Fill in our Inquiry Form if no group aligns to current schedule and needs.

After you find potential groups for them to join, give them the group leader information. Just name and email. Ask them to text **GROUP** to 88877 so we never lose their inquiry.

Next, write their contact information down, and the contact information of the Leader, for your records. Contact both during the following week, to ensure this person doesn't fall through the cracks. Finally, give them Susan Aldridge's contact information. saldridge@churchnativity.com 410-703-9242



I live outside of the area. Can I lead a group?

Of course! We'd love to help you do that.

If you live outside of this area completely, we can direct you to our online campus to start a group in your area.

Our online connections coordinator would love to connect with you. Her name is Allie Wade, and her email is awade@churchnativity.com



What curriculum will our small group study next?

New groups follow the message series schedule we offer during mass on the weekend. The next series begins on September 10th on the subject of expectations. You can find the videos and conversation guide online here:

[WATCH - SMALL GROUP MESSAGES](#)

Try meeting once before and get to know each other before you start the study or connect on the weekend in the cafe after mass.



Where can I find someone to pray with me?

No need to find a priest. YOU, the Leader, are qualified! Take a step of daring faith and let God use you in the moment He's designed. If you need additional Member Care Support, contact our healing prayer team at:

www.churchnativity.com/membercare

Icebreaker Questions

1. Light, Get to Know You Questions

What is your favorite movie and why?

If you could vacation anywhere, where would you go?

What was your first job?

What snack food do you crave when you travel?

If you could go to any sporting event, which one would you choose?

What's the best meal you have ever eaten?

What is your favorite song?

If you had to give up one of the 5 senses, which one would you choose?

2. Who Are You Questions

As a child what did you want to be when you grew up?

What does a perfect weekend look like to you?

What makes you laugh? Are you funny or do you not enjoy humor?

What books have influenced you the most?

What drives you crazy?

Which of your accomplishments are you most proud of?

Would you describe yourself as laid back or intense?

What topic are you currently most interested in?

What is your favorite month of the year?

3. Going Deeper

What stresses you out?

What's the best advice you've ever given?

Do you care about pleasing people or speaking the truth? Explain.

What lasting lesson did you learn from your parents?

What is your favorite organization to contribute to (time or money)?

What is one of your strengths?

What is one of your favorite memories as a child?

What is one of your goals for the future?

Next Steps for Leaders

Next Steps to Growing Disciples

The heart of our church is to become growing disciples, who are giving the whole of our lives to God, not merely checking off boxes or going through the motions. So we are always challenging and encouraging the members of our church to take the next step that is the next step for them.

SERVE

We have been given unique gifts and talents by God. Using our gifts to serve in **Ministry** and **Missions** creates environments for others to experience God's presence on campus bringing God's love to other communities locally, nationally and internationally.

TITHE

We seek to honor God in all areas of life, and this includes our finances. As stewards, not owners, of the resources God has given us, we are called to **sacrificial giving**, which means percentage, progressive giving to the local church and the poor.

ENGAGE

We believe faith grows in a circle. In **Small Groups**, we grow in fellowship and relationship with one another, God, and in ways we cannot grow on our own. Small Groups are where our big church gets small.

PRACTICE

We know God wants us to live lives of integrity and virtue that stem from our personal relationship with Christ. We strive to practice **daily prayer**, **Scripture reading**, and full participation in the **Sacraments** to receive grace for our faith growth.

SHARE

We want others to experience the life-changing message of the Gospel. Our strategy is to "**Invest and Invite**." That simply means we invest in the relationships we have with people in our lives, and when the time comes, invite them to church with us.



Scan the QR Code
to join Nativity

Sample Invitations to Small Group

What are some ways we can invite those in our church community and those outside of our church community to check out small groups? Our approach to sharing our faith is simple:

1. **Connect** with the person you hope to invite to your small group.
2. **Invest** time and attention into this person, let them know they're loved.
3. **Invite** when the time is right.

Depending on who you want to invite, you can approach it differently based on their relationship with Nativity and church in general. This one pager will give you some helpful tips and sample invitation scripts.

To those in church, but not connected in Small Groups:

Every Tuesday, I spend about an hour with a group of people to talk about life, our challenges, and how our faith applies to our daily lives. It offers a new perspective on things and is so different from any other club or affiliation I've had before. We have members from all over now that online groups have grown popular on Zoom. You don't necessarily have to come to Nativity to be engaged in Nativity small groups. Would you be opposed to trying one week?

To friends and family not involved in churchworld:

Topic/Series Invite

I think Joe Flacco feels a lot of pressure to live up to his reputation on the Jets. It's tough to do your job when the expectations are so high. I was actually just talking about this phenomenon in my small group, because we are discussing a message series based on expectations. This message is about to wrap up, the next one will start next Tuesday. We have a couple seats open, good food and good conversation. How's your schedule on Tuesday?

Do you have any issue at work or home with people setting ridiculous expectations? My church teaches in what we call 'message series' where we talk about a topic for 4-6 weeks or so. It's been really cool to think about things in that intentional way. They also have pretty cool trailer videos and series name so the next one has car graphics in the look and called Redirecting Route. You should watch it online or come grab coffee with me and we can hang. The atmosphere there is super welcoming and clean!

Let's Just Hang

Every Tuesday, I grab coffee with a group of friends I met at church. We talk about our life and challenges. It's cool because they provide these videos to get our conversation started. I know you are not usually involved in church world but it can still be valuable to discuss life and challenges with good people. We meet at (meeting time). Why don't you stop by?