

# FAQs

updated 08.2023

## 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 qualified 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 . . .

**H**ave a heart for others?

**O**pen up your place or an online space like Zoom?

**S**end an email once a week?

**T**ype [churchnativity.com/groups](http://churchnativity.com/groups)?

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 (Email and/or text weekly meeting time/place)
- 3 - Facilitation Training Video #2 (Rotate who facilitates the discussion)
- 4 - Prayer Member (Open/Close in prayer)

love God love others make disciples

Church of the Nativity | 20 E. Ridgley Road | Timonium, MD 21093

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## 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](http://www.churchnativity.com/lead) - complete the application. 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. If you'd prefer to join a group, though, go to [churchnativity.com/groupfinder](http://churchnativity.com/groupfinder) to access our group finder tool. If you'd rather do this in person, go to the Next Steps Kiosk on the weekend 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](mailto: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](mailto:smallgroups@churchnativity.com) if you'd like to 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 Emily: [eissing@churchnativity.com](mailto:eissing@churchnativity.com)

**Before College:** Connect with the NEXTGEN Team for more information, or let's walk to the Children's area so you can see where they meet. [www.churchnativity.com/NextGen](http://www.churchnativity.com/NextGen)

To sign up for either of those groups, visit their websites:  
[www.churchnativity.com/registration](http://www.churchnativity.com/registration)

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

Yes! 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 your current schedule and needs. Write down the name of the group leader.

For help now, email [smallgroups@churchnativity.com](mailto:smallgroups@churchnativity.com).



## 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](mailto: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. To find the current series or what's next, go to [churchnativity.com/series](http://churchnativity.com/series).

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](http://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?

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?

# 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:

The best time to invite someone to church is at the beginning of a series which feels relevant to you and to someone's life.

Find series summaries here and use the short description to invite: [churchnativity.com/series](http://churchnativity.com/series).

# 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 and by 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