

Fall 2026 Small Group Guide

This semester we are asking our small groups to do 3 things: Reach up (study the word), reach in (fellowship), and reach out (serve our community and share Jesus). Below you'll find an example small group schedule for the fall. Our semester will run from August 23rd to December 6th. This incorporates 7 lessons, 3 fellowship activities, 2 service projects, and two flex weeks to be used however the group sees fit.

While some weeks are set in stone (see bolded events), the rest can be arranged in the way that works best for your group. Below you will see an example schedule for the fall. The following page provides a blank schedule that can be filled in by each group. We encourage each group to spend the 1st week (August 23) meeting each other, brainstorming fellowship/service ideas, and beginning to fill out your schedule.

Example Fall Schedule

August 23	Kickoff Sunday (Meet and Plan)
August 30	Lesson (1)
Sept. 6 (Labor Day Weekend)	Lesson (2)
Sept. 13	Fellowship (1)
Sept. 20	Lesson (3)
Sept. 27	Service (1)
Oct. 4	Lesson (4)
Oct. 11 (Fall Break Begins)	Off
Oct. 18 (Fall Break Ends)	Fellowship (2)
Oct. 25	Singing Night
Nov. 1	Lesson (5)
Nov. 8	Lesson (6)
Nov. 15	Service (2)
Nov. 22	Lesson (7)
Nov. 29 (Thanksgiving Weekend)	Off
Dec. 6	Fellowship and/or Service (3)

Build Your Small Group Schedule: (Fall 2026)

August 23	Kickoff Sunday (Group Planning)
August 30	
Sept. 6 (Labor Day Weekend)	
Sept. 13	
Sept. 20	
Sept. 27	
Oct. 4	
Oct. 11 (Fall Break Begins)	
Oct. 18 (Fall Break Ends)	
Oct. 25	Singing Night
Nov. 1	
Nov. 8	
Nov. 15	
Nov. 22	
Nov. 29 (Thanksgiving Weekend)	
Dec. 6	

Fill in:

- 7 Lessons
- 3 Fellowship Gatherings
- 2 Service Projects
- 2 Flex Weeks (Take off, add a fellowship event, or add a service project)

Small Group Study: Life of Joseph

This semester our groups will be studying differently. Rather than basing our study on a topic or our sermon series we're going to study through the major events in the life of Joseph. And rather than base our discussions around lesson specific questions, we're going to utilize a set template, inspired by popular study methods like the Swedish Method and Discovery Bible Study, to guide us through each study (See the next page). Our hope is this will benefit us in two ways. (1) It will hopefully provide for more free discussion as we each share the insights we gained in our personal study. (2) It will hopefully re-enforce a way of studying that is more well designed for one on one situations, either with other Christians or in evangelistic contexts.

Life of Joseph (And his brothers) Study:

Lesson 1: From Favorite to Slave (Genesis 37)

Lesson 2: Falsely Accused and Tempted (Genesis 39)

Lesson 3: A Witness for God; Redemption (Genesis 40-41)

Lesson 4: The Sin and Humbling of Judah (Genesis 38)

Lesson 5: Testing and Transformation (Genesis 42-44)

Lesson 6: Forgiveness, Provision and Reunion (Genesis 45; 46:28-34; 47:1-12)

Lesson 7: A Faithful End + Reflection (49:28-50:26)

Instructions:

This form of study requires each member to take their own notes, using the set prompts/questions as a guide. This can be done by taking a few minutes at the beginning of each meeting for each member to read and reflect on this story. But groups will probably find it more beneficial if each member takes the time to do this before the group meets (particularly with longer sections).

One To One Bible Reading

Text:

Instructions: Read the text and write at least one thing under each section. When done, discuss with your group and pray to God about what you discovered.



Summary: (What happens or is said in the text? What background might be helpful?)



Insights: (What stands out to you as interesting or important in the text?)



Questions: (What is hard to understand in the text? What questions do you want answered?)



Heart: (What are the main idea(s) in the text? What does it teach about God and people? How does it point/connect to Jesus and His gospel?)



Connect/Apply: (How does this text connect to your life? How does it encourage or challenge you to think/live differently? How could I obey this teaching this week?)

Group Brainstorming

Q. What ideas do you have for serving in our community? (Consider Alexian, Signal Mountain Social Services, or other opportunities)

Q. What ideas do you have for evangelistic outreach?

Q. What ideas do you have for serving our church?

Q. What ideas do you have for fellowship opportunities with your group? (And would you be willing to host a meeting in your home?)