

SMALL



GROUPS



FALL '25



Following Jesus is best done with other people, and small groups are one of the main ways we practice this at Hillcrest.

A small group is simply 3–23 people who meet regularly to study Scripture, pray together, and serve alongside one another. Groups meet regularly and provide a space to grow closer to God, bring questions and doubts, share life’s joys and challenges, and grow in Christ-centered friendships.

In this catalog, you’ll find three ways to get connected:

- **Ongoing Small Groups:** These are our core groups that meet throughout the year. We want everyone to find the right ongoing small group for them!
- **Short-Term Small Groups:** These groups meet for a set period of time to explore a specific topic. They’re great for trying out small groups or learning something new.
- **Other Ways to Connect:** Near the end of the catalog, you’ll find additional opportunities to build relationships at Hillcrest, through things like our youth ministry, moms’ gatherings, walking clubs, pickleball meet-ups, and more.

If you’re ready to join a small group, see the next page for instructions on how to sign up. And if you’d like help finding the group that’s right for you, don’t hesitate to reach out. We would love to help you in your search for community at Hillcrest



Tim Knipp
Lead Pastor



Alex Allyne
*Associate Director
of Small Groups*

Sincerely,

Tim Knipp and Alex Allyne

HOW TO GET CONNECTED WITH A SMALL GROUP

1

Look through the groups in the catalog.
Find one or more you would like to check out.

2

Click the “Register” link to let the group’s leaders
know you want to learn more - you’ll just need to
enter your name and email address.

3

After signing up the leader will contact you -
visit a few times and see if it’s the right group for you!

If you like it, try out the group for a couple months.

When the next sign up time comes around
(in September and February), you are welcome to
step away for a season or try another group.

If you would like some help finding a group,
or if you have any questions at all,
email Alex at: SmallGroups@HCBellingham.com
or call her at 360-733-8400 ext. 208.

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SUNDAY ONGOING

LEADER: David and Lynn Gill

AREA OF TOWN: South Bellingham

LIFESTAGE: Any Adult

DESCRIPTION: We are a multigenerational group of singles, couples and families. We begin our meeting with a simple meal, study Scripture and pray for one another. We meet on Sunday nights from 6:00-8:00pm at or near Hillcrest.

[REGISTER](#)



MONDAY ONGOING

LEADER: Dan Herndon

AREA OF TOWN: South Bellingham

LIFESTAGE: Adult Men

DESCRIPTION: This is a men's Bible Study that will be studying the gospel of Luke or *the Chosen* season 4 this fall. We meet Monday evenings from 7:00-9:00pm. We'd love to have you join us!

[REGISTER](#)



“Community is so important! Knowing people makes church a much warmer and inclusive place. I know these people are here for me, and me for them.”
— small group participant

TUESDAY ONGOING

LEADER: Aaron and Leah Dutton

AREA OF TOWN: South Bellingham

LIFESTAGE: Any Adult

DESCRIPTION: We are a multigenerational group (40s-80s) learning from one another; whether we are new to following Jesus or have been at it for years. We pray for each other, discuss life, and follow the weekly sermon series. We meet Tuesdays at 7:00pm near Lake Padden, with dinner at 6:00pm once a month. Couples and singles welcome, no childcare provided.

[REGISTER](#)



GROUP: Estuary

AREA OF TOWN: South Bellingham

LIFESTAGE: Any Adult

DESCRIPTION: Estuary is a place for honest conversation: not ideological warfare, but mutually respectful dialogue that seeks to understand and appreciate different perspectives. It's where ideas meet, where we allow ourselves to be exposed to new ways of thinking, where listening is as important as speaking, and where openness to feedback helps us "hear ourselves think." Along the way, we hope to form new friendships, build a unique community, and that we may even learn to love one another in ways we didn't think possible. Led by Noah Martin, this group meets Tuesdays from 6:00-7:30pm at Hillcrest.

[REGISTER](#)



LEADER: Katie Kerin

AREA OF TOWN: North Bellingham

LIFESTAGE: Any Adult

DESCRIPTION: Many of us work in environments marked by darkness, stress, and trauma—places we step into out of love for people and for Jesus. Yet in those spaces, the Gospel can sometimes feel far away. This group is a space to honestly explore how to love and follow Jesus well when we work in hard places, to encourage one another, and to form deep relationships as we walk through all parts of life together. We'll seek to balance the demands of our work with the joy Christ provides through community. Led by Katie Kerin, meeting Tuesdays at 7:00pm (day and time flexible based on group needs).

[REGISTER](#)



WEDNESDAY ONGOING

LEADER: Evan Huegel

AREA OF TOWN: South Bellingham

LIFESTAGE: Any Adult

DESCRIPTION: Together our small group will cultivate a safe and dignifying space for those who have walked, or are walking, through seasons of doubt, wrestling with theology, experiences of church hurt, or are examining their assumptions about God or the Bible or the Church. Even in the midst of the often chaotic and barren seasons of our walk, we cling to a hope of Christian community often by just bravely showing up. In this group we will practice Christian community in an authentic, vulnerable, and faithful way, making mistakes along the way. Ultimately we want to partner in the hard work of the Holy Spirit to be one even as the Lord is One. We will meet and share food the first three Wednesdays of the month from 6:30-8:00pm.

[REGISTER](#)



LEADER: Galen Shea

AREA OF TOWN: North Bellingham

LIFESTAGE: 20's - 30's

DESCRIPTION: This small group is for anyone who seeks to build community with fellow believers. Whether you're new to the faith or a lifelong believer, we want to encourage each other to keep our eyes on Jesus as we seek to pursue His call in practical ways through our daily lives. We discuss our real lives, how Scripture can guide us through them, and how we can use them to serve the Kingdom. We also eat a meal together each week, and are planning some service opportunities this next year! We currently meet year-round at Galen's house on Monday nights, beginning with a meal at 7:30pm.

[REGISTER](#)



“Small group makes church feel like a family.”
— small group participant

WEDNESDAY ONGOING

LEADER: Kevin and Alissa Stock

AREA OF TOWN: South Bellingham

LIFESTAGE: Any Adult

DESCRIPTION: We are a new small group for families with children school-aged and younger. We will be following the weekly sermon series and supporting each other as we navigate life and parenting. We meet at a home on the South Hill on Wednesday evenings from 6:00-7:30pm.

[REGISTER](#)



LEADER: Dick and Linda Williams

AREA OF TOWN: South Bellingham

LIFESTAGE: Any Adult

DESCRIPTION: We are a small group of 50+ year olds (although younger members are welcome and encouraged to attend), meeting on Wednesday nights at 7:30pm in the South Bellingham area to study the Word following the Sunday sermon series, pray together, and support one another in word and deed.

[REGISTER](#)



THURSDAY ONGOING

GROUP: Men's Prayer Group

AREA OF TOWN: South Bellingham

LIFESTAGE: Adult Men

DESCRIPTION: We are a men's prayer group focused on Hillcrest and community-related prayer needs that meets Thursday morning from 6:30-7:30am. We currently have two groups, one meeting in person at the church and the other meeting on Zoom. If you'd like to join in person, just show up on a Thursday morning! If you prefer to join the Zoom group, or would like to learn more, register and a leader will get in touch with you.

[REGISTER](#)



THURSDAY ONGOING

LEADER: Guy Frederick

AREA OF TOWN: South Bellingham

LIFESTAGE: Adult Men

DESCRIPTION: We are a group of men that meets from 4:00-6:00pm. We meet in the Fireside Room at Hillcrest Church as we are able.

[REGISTER](#)



LEADER: Christian Trusedell

AREA OF TOWN: South Bellingham

LIFESTAGE: Young Adults

DESCRIPTION: This is a new small group for young adults in their early 20's focused on doing life and following Jesus together, while transitioning into the working world. This group will be at 7:00pm on Thursday nights; join us!

[REGISTER](#)



LEADER: Jim and Laura Carney

AREA OF TOWN: North Bellingham

LIFESTAGE: Any Adult

DESCRIPTION: This unique small group meets twice a month at the Willows, a local senior living community, with the purpose of building meaningful relationships and supporting a church service and bible study for residents. Whether you'd like to help lead a simple service, offer prayer, or simply show up to connect with seniors ages 65 to 102, this group is full of opportunities to grow in both faith and giftedness. We'll also take time to pray together, encourage one another, and explore creative ways to love and serve the residents, from hymn sings to shared meals, short term studies, and more. This group meets the second and fourth Thursdays from 9:30am to 12:00pm at the Willows.

[REGISTER](#)



SATURDAY ONGOING

LEADER: Guy Frederick

AREA OF TOWN: South Bellingham

LIFESTAGE: Any Adult

DESCRIPTION: Our Saturday prayer group will meet at 10:00am at the modular building at Hillcrest Church. We begin with a time of table fellowship. We then move to a time of reading and praying from Scripture. All are welcome to join us.

[**REGISTER**](#)



“Life is messy and confusing. Believers need to know they are not alone when they experience discouragement and spiritual weakness. We can all work out our faith together through small groups.”

— small group participant

“Small group has been a huge part of our lives and impacted us in such positive ways, especially through a strong sense of belonging and being known. 35 years and counting!”

— small group participant

“Want your life changed? Join a small group if you want transformation in your life.”

— small group participant

SHORT TERM GROUPS

Next Steps

LEADER: Hillcrest Staff

WHEN: Sunday at 12:30pm

WHERE: Fireside Cafe at Hillcrest

LIFESTAGE: Any Adult

DESCRIPTION: Are you new? This group is for you! A three-week small group to introduce you to the purpose, history, and vision for the future of Hillcrest Church. You'll meet the staff and hear about the programs offered, reasons behind what we do, and why we worship. You'll also get to meet other new people. The group will meet from 12:30-2:00pm for three weeks, starting Sunday, October 5th. Lunch and childcare will be provided at each gathering.

LEARN MORE: Email Connect@HCBellingham.com to learn more or sign up!



Alpha

LEADER: Bill Beer and Bryan Cartwright

WHEN: Thursday Evening

WHERE: Hillcrest Church

LIFESTAGE: Any Adult

DESCRIPTION: The Alpha course is a small group for anyone that would like to explore life's big questions. Many of us wonder: why do bad things happen to good people? What's the purpose of life? What's next? Join Alpha for a judgment-free, caring space to connect with others, discuss these types of questions, and share your opinion. Alpha is for people of all faith and belief backgrounds and will also unpack the basics of Christian faith; bring a friend that's interested in these conversations (they don't have to go to Hillcrest) and join us! Led by Bill Beer and Bryan Cartwright, this group will meet on Thursdays for dinner at 6:00pm, followed by discussion, for 8 weeks beginning on September 25.

[REGISTER](#)



SHORT TERM GROUPS

Healthy Rhythms for Personal Devotions and Prayer

LEADER: Paul Petersen

WHEN: Sunday Morning

WHERE: Hillcrest

LIFESTAGE: Any Adult

DESCRIPTION: “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”

Psalm 46:10 If you’ve followed Jesus for any period of time, you know there are benefits to a daily practice of bible reading and prayer. However, like any discipline, you have likely experienced a spectrum of challenges and successes in developing rhythms in your devotional life. In addition, adjustments are often needed during various life stages – whether single or married, developing a career, married with young children, empty nesters or retired. The goal of this four week group is to explore practical ways to find solitude, to listen and connect with the Triune God. We will be discussing principles and resources that have guided Christians throughout history, learning from each other and setting healthy goals for your present devotional life. Led by Paul Petersen, this group will meet on Sundays for four weeks beginning November 2, from 10:45am-12:00pm at Hillcrest.

[REGISTER](#)



Precept Study: Gospel of John - Part 1

LEADER: Gaye Fullner, Joy Hinds, Ruby Hinds, Jill Takemura

WHEN: Monday evening and Wednesday morning

WHERE: Hillcrest and Zoom (Monday only)

LIFESTAGE: Any Adult

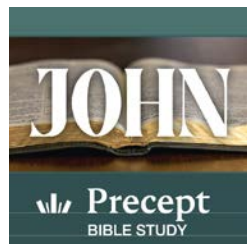
DESCRIPTION: From beginning to end, John’s Gospel reveals Jesus as the Son of God. In this 9-lesson study, you’ll explore

His miracles, teachings, and encounters with people like

Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman. The Monday evening class begins September 22 at 6:30pm and the Wednesday morning class begins September 24 at 9:15am.

Both meet every other week through early February. Each session includes a 1-hour discussion and a recorded lecture by Kay Arthur. Participants will order a workbook (\$25 plus shipping) and spend 3-5 hours in personal study during the two weeks between class sessions.

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER: for the [Monday evening group](#) or for the [Wednesday morning group](#).



SHORT TERM GROUPS

Money Matters: Faith and Finances

LEADER: Lindsey Maphumulo

WHEN: Monday Evening

WHERE: South Bellingham

LIFESTAGE: Any Adult

DESCRIPTION: This short term small group is all about learning how to handle money in a way that's practical, smart, and rooted in faith. Whether you're trying to budget better, get out of debt, or just make sense of your finances, this is a safe, no-pressure space to grow and thrive—together. Led by Lindsey Maphumulo, a Certified Financial Planner (CFP), this group will meet on Mondays at 7:00pm for 8 weeks, beginning October 6.

[REGISTER](#)



Practicing the Way

LEADER: Hannah and Dane Dreblow

WHEN: Wednesday Evening

WHERE: South Bellingham

LIFESTAGE: Any Adult

DESCRIPTION: This fall at Hillcrest, Pastor Hannah Dreblow and her husband, Dane, will be leading an eight week Practicing the Way course based on the book by John Mark Comer, about how disciples of Jesus should be with Him, become like Him, and do the things He did. This group will share a potluck meal, engage in meaningful spiritual practices, and grow together in community. Childcare will be provided with RSVP; come ready to eat, learn, and be formed in the way of Jesus. This group will meet on Wednesday evenings from 5:30-7:30pm.

[REGISTER](#)



Abuse Recovery - For Healing and for Helping Group

LEADER: Becca Johnson and Christa Shaw

WHEN: Tuesday Evening

WHERE: Hillcrest

LIFESTAGE: Any Adult

DESCRIPTION: A five-week group focused on healing from child abuse and learning how to support survivors. Whether you come for your own healing or to better walk alongside others, you are welcome. Began September 2.

[REGISTER](#)

ONGOING MINISTRIES

412 Middle and High School Students

DESCRIPTION: We have small groups for both middle and high school students, and we encourage students to connect with these groups! Our small groups meet during the week and aim to have fun, build authentic relationships, study the Bible, and have deep conversations.

LEARN MORE: Email our youth pastor, Casey Stringer, at Casey.S@HCBellingham.com



College Ministry

DESCRIPTION: Campus Christian Fellowship offers small groups for college students who take classes at Western Washington University, Whatcom Community College, and Skagit Valley College.

LEARN MORE: WWU: ccfministry.com

WCC: ccfwhatcom.com

SVC: ccfskagit.com Email: admin@ccfministry.com



Rooted

DESCRIPTION: Calling all young adults ages 18-35ish! Rooted is a Young Adult Ministry to gather in a welcoming community and find encouragement in your walk with Jesus. We get together for quarterly events and encourage anyone who's interested to come join!

LEARN MORE: Follow @hcrooted on Instagram or email Rooted@HCBellingham.com for information about the next group event.



FAMILY & COUPLES MINISTRIES

The Pre-Engagement Course

DESCRIPTION: Pre-E is for couples at a time in their relationship when they are starting to ask tough and important questions about their future together. Through readings, exercises, and discussions with their partner in a group setting led by a guiding couple, Pre-E seeks to engage, challenge, and encourage couples to seek God's wisdom and guidance for their relationship. This 10-week course covers many aspects of marriage including communication, family background, sexual intimacy, money, and more.

LEARN MORE: Contact Connect@HCBellingham.com for more information.



Hope Restored Support Group

DESCRIPTION: This group meets for dinner once a month to provide support, resources and conversations to those caring for kids from hard places. This group often includes foster and adoptive parents, as well as adults with adoption stories.

LEARN MORE: Contact HopeRestored@HCBellingham.com with questions.



Mom's Group

DESCRIPTION: Mom's Group is for any mom looking to connect with others in a similar season of life. We meet on Thursday mornings 9:00-11:00am every other week at Hillcrest for coffee, fellowship and occasional speakers. Childcare is provided. Begins October 9th.

LEARN MORE: Contact our new Children's Ministry Director Jennifer Garber at Jennifer.G@HCBellingham.com for more information.



SHARED INTEREST

Hillcrest Pickleball Group

DESCRIPTION: Hillcrest Pickleball Group exists to build community around Jesus, prayer and our common interest in pickleball. We hope to love, encourage and support our friends and neighbors on and off the court as the salt and light of King Jesus. We start with a devotional moment, sharing time, and prayer for our neighbors and pickleball community, followed by skill-based drilling and regular recreational games.

LEARN MORE: Contact Dan at herndondan@hotmail.com or a 360-510-3443 (call/text) to find out about the next meet up.



Pathways Walking Group

DESCRIPTION: Pathways is a once a month walking group (all abilities are welcome) that will walk at different places within the county each month. Pathways walking group will meet on the first Saturday of the month at 9:00am at a trail somewhere in the county. Upcoming walks include Whatcom Falls Park on October 4 and Hovander Park on November 1. After walking you are free to join us for coffee or tea somewhere nearby.

LEARN MORE: Contact Anna acbrim@gmail.com for meet up details and more information.



Walking Fellowship

DESCRIPTION: Weekly, one-hour walk at your own pace on the Railroad Grade trail near Barkley Village. Kids, dogs, and friends are welcome too. We meet every Friday rain or shine at the café inside the Barkley Village Haggen at 10:55am and begin our walk at 11:00am sharp. Dress for the weather. In truly nasty weather, we may just stay indoors and chat for the hour!

LEARN MORE: Contact Kathy Furtado at 206-455-1278 or Bekki Weston at 360-595-7441



LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Join our Foundations Intern Class this Fall & Winter

Our Foundations interns will be taking their core courses through Yellowstone Theological Institute this year — and you're invited to join them!

Classes run in 10 week sessions, and include a small fee.

REGISTER OR LEARN MORE: Contact Hannah at Hannah.D@HCbellingham.com.



Hermeneutics Foundations

DESCRIPTION: As human beings, we automatically interpret many things every moment of every day: gestures, news stories, speeches, actions, novels, music, weather, etc. in order to discover meaning. Hermeneutics is the study of interpretation. BIB 5302 answers the question, "how do we interpret properly?" This course is designed to give students the fundamental principles and processes of interpretation, and how they apply to interpreting the Bible, theology, philosophy, history and contemporary culture. This course will meet on Mondays from noon to 3:00pm, beginning September 8.

Biblical Foundations

DESCRIPTION: The Bible is holy scripture for the Christian and the theological guide for the church. Biblical Foundations is designed to give the student a fundamental understanding of the background, context, and overview of the biblical narrative, as well as basic interpretive skills in order to prepare the student for further study in particular areas of biblical and theological study. This course will meet on Mondays from noon to 3:00pm, beginning January 5, 2026.

Foundations for Culture and Mission

DESCRIPTION: This foundations course examines the nature of the church and its interaction with the world. The vocation of the church will be discussed, especially the mission of the church (*missio ecclesia*) in light of the mission of God (*missio Dei*), and the concepts of worldview and cultural hermeneutics will be introduced as means to help understand the culture in which we are immersed as well as the specific individuals around us. Throughout the course, the emphasis will be on how the church as the people of God can effectively engage and bring the life of Christ to bear on its community. This course will meet on Mondays from noon to 3:00pm, beginning March 24, 2026.



FOLLOWING JESUS TOGETHER



“ I wish every person in our faith community could experience the joy of sharing life with good friends that love Jesus and aren't afraid to be real (and sometimes corny!). ”

— small group participant



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