

Triads

What are they?

3 men or 3 women who meet regularly (once a week to twice a month) for up to an hour to encourage each other in the faith. Variations are legal: people could form a quad, or form a triad or quad of households/couples.

Why now?

The pandemic makes larger gatherings and forming new small groups difficult—especially where childcare is an issue.

Who forms them?

Staff will share this idea with individuals, link two people who know each other and want to try this, and encourage them to invite a third to join them--someone in our church family, or an unchurched neighbor (Ginny or Lynette can provide ideas if requested).

Where would they meet?

Wherever they want to--in person at an agreed upon meeting place (home, a park, restaurant, church), on Zoom, or....

How often?

Once a month or every other week or once a week or....It's up to the group. In between, checking in with a text or email might be a plus for some.

How might a meeting go?

--Catch up--general chit chat, with coffee or food if that's in the picture

--Open with a brief prayer

--Discuss whatever content they've chosen (some options below)

--Prayer. Possible topics include: matters related to the discussion, family/marriage relationships, work/school/home life, friends, neighbors and outreach, ways you've seen God at work in your life, issues in your walk with God, emotional and physical health, challenges ahead, anxieties, joys....

Options for discussion:

--Use the resources provided at www.crcna.org/FaithFormation/practices to discuss and share experiences with faith practices such as sabbath, gratitude, generosity, hospitality.

--Read verses from the Bible that have been personally meaningful since the previous meeting. This is a way to encourage each other to regularly meditate on Scripture and also benefit from each other's insights. A variation on this would be to agree to read the same section of the Bible between meetings.

--Worship together by using the week's online service and discuss the sermon after, using the sermon discussion questions if useful.

--Discuss the from the previous week's message; could ask for a manuscript of the message and/or use the discussion questions if useful.

--Agree to use the same devotional book, like Tim Keller's *Wisdom for Life* (Proverbs) or the *Today* Devotional and come prepared to describe how one of them was especially meaningful.

--Between meeting read a section of a faith-building book of interest to all, e.g, *You Are What You Love* by James Smith, Tim Keller's *Counterfeit Gods: the Empty Promises of Money, Sex, and Power*, *Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis.

--Other...

Other options

--A triad could focus on doing some sort of service together, or kids activities, or....