**Small Group Guidelines**

Sharing with others and praying together can be an enriching experience as long as each member of the group feels safe and is respected and valued by the others. Here are some guidelines to help make your small group sharing time effective and uplifting to all.

***Prioritize:*** Prioritize your small group meetings and fellowship times. Let your shepherd/co-shepherd know in advance if you must miss a meeting or will be late. Come prepared with your homework done. Attend small group fellowship meetings to strengthen the bonds of friendship and love within your group.

***Participate:*** Everyone should contribute to the group discussion but no one should dominate. If you have “the gift of gab”, monitor yourself to make sure you are not talking too much. If you are shy or unsure of your answers, share anyway. The vitality of the group depends upon each member participating, and learning from each other.

***Respect:*** Respect those from other backgrounds who think differently than you do. Refrain from arguing theology, correcting others, or giving unsolicited advice. All questions are encouraged and respected.

***Keep Confidences:*** Anything of a sensitive or personal nature that is shared in your group should not be repeated outside of the group. No gossip please!

***Support:*** Avoid “cliquishness”. Be welcoming to new people who join your group. Pray for each other throughout the week and call upon each other in time of need. Be affectionate and encouraging.

***Share:*** Share your gifts with others by serving. Volunteer to help in your area of interest or giftedness, or areas of need. Spread the word

about Bible study and invite your friends to join us.

***Enjoy!*** This Bible study is designed to build you up, enrich your life, and help you grow in your relationship with God.