

SMALL GROUP PHILOSOPHY

The purpose of small groups at Crossroads Church of Denver is to provide a milieu for connection, community, curriculum and change.

The **milieu** is defined as the setting or environment of the small group.

It can be complex and require considerable planning and preparation or simply be a room with chairs again depending on the desired purpose.

Connection is all about building relationships. This includes an environment where people feel safe, comfortable, and have the opportunity to socialize with others. Attention is given to levels of communication and opportunities to move in and out of those levels.

Community is multifaceted. The community that is created by connecting is the foundation of a healthy small group. That community will impact the church community and the community that we live in.

Curriculum serves the needs of the group. Curriculum can provide a mode of existence but will only be effective when there is a foundation of community and connection. Curriculum should always be driven by the needs of the group and is used as a mechanism for change.

Change is the result of an effective small group. By connecting and creating community, an environment is cultivated where curriculum can grow and blossom into change. This includes change in the person, family, church and the world.

This purpose provides a healthy framework for all small groups in the church. It is imperative that each group maintains some mechanism for careful evaluation and that its existence is rooted within this stated purpose. Each leader should carefully take into account this purpose as their group is formed, as it functions, and even when it ends.