

RedMountainChurch

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA



>> Community Building

“They broke bread in each other’s homes with glad and sincere hearts...and the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” (Acts 2)

“God places the lonely in families.” (Psalm 68)

It is our hope as a church not only to strengthen individual households, but to become a family as well. We believe everyone needs a close circle of relationships within the Christian community in which they can grow (and struggle) in their relationship with Christ, and where they can begin to love and serve others. This church is committed to growing through relationships rather than by simply creating programs.

We’ve put it this way: “We will grow organically rather than programmatically, becoming a community within a community. Growth should come because our people are growing spiritually (glorying in the Gospel), growing in our love for one another, and growing in our love for Birmingham. We want to love being together and gathering others into our fellowship. Every member should begin to discover their God-given gifts and apply them to the life of the church and to the extension of the kingdom of God.” We believe that a relationship with the church is not a relationship with a building or with programs. It is a relationship with God’s people.

The primary way in which Red Mountain Church will exercise pastoral care and build relationships is through Community Groups. We are not a church that “has” community groups, but a church that “is” community groups. The purpose of these individual groups will be to develop a primary Christian community where Jesus Christ is experienced in his presence and power, and where lives are transformed by the Gospel through loving and serving one another. (Community groups will also be open for those who are merely surveying the landscape (“flirting”) and wondering about becoming a part of the life of the church.)

Each group will first of all provide opportunities for meaningful friendships. Along with that, times of worship, prayer, service, and leadership development. While study and learning may be a component of these groups, they are not primarily bible studies. (We will have other opportunities for teaching.) Community Groups will be the first avenue for ministries of mercy at Red Mountain.

What a Community Group is not:

> A Bible Study > An “accountability group” > A closed group

What a Community Group is:

The primary place in which “members” learn and put into practice the greatest commandment: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” (Luke 10:27)

Community Groups are the primary place in which people learn to live outwardly facing lives...

- > Toward God: growing in grace and holiness
- > Toward each other: pastoral care, giving, serving
- > Toward the ‘unconvinced, the friendless, the sorrowing, and the poor’: gathering bringing, justice and mercy