

Give: As we **grow**, Jesus calls us to fellowship with other Christians to serve each other, support, care for and nurture one another. In a home group, this is summarised by the word **give**. On Sunday morning, this can be difficult. But in a home group we get to know people with whom we share and learn, serve and laugh. To **give** is to share that with which God has gifted us.

Go: As we **grow** and **give**, Jesus calls us to **go**. The last thing Jesus said to His disciples was to **go**. The Christian life is about **growing** and **giving**, but we are called to share it with others; to **go!** Jesus wants us to take His message to others. This can be something as simple as taking someone a hot meal or baby-sitting their children. There are so many different ways to '**go**'.

At the centre of a home group are the '**3 Gs**': **Grow, Give, Go**.

So where do you go from here?

If you're interested in joining a home group or if you're wanting to take the next step and become a home group host/co-ordinator please contact Charis Enga or visit the welcome desk in the Polygon. Contact details are below:

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Home Groups



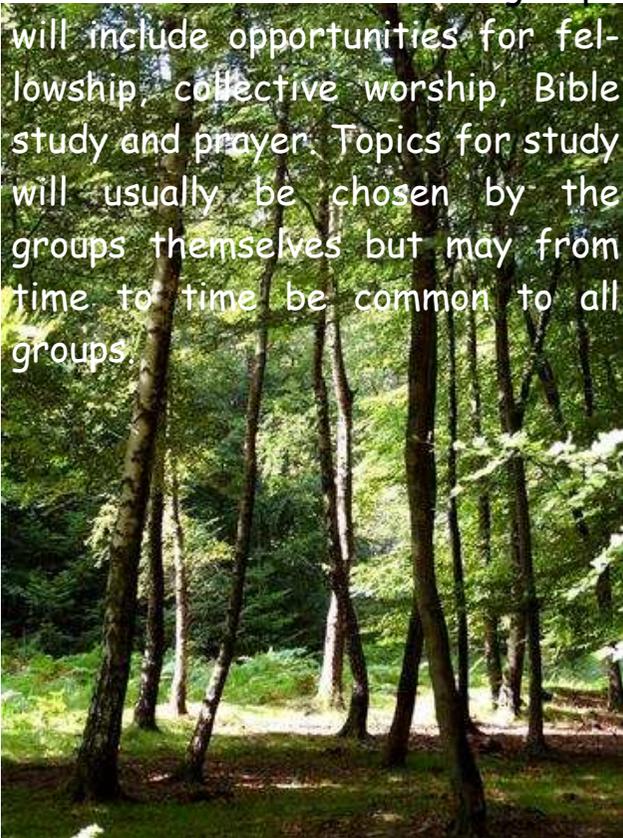
at St Mary's

At the heart of our relationship with Jesus is a desire for us to know Him better and for Him to know us more intimately. In all we do, say and think, this is our ultimate goal— to become more like Jesus Christ, to become the Body of Christ.

What is a Home Group?

The format of an individual home group will in many ways be a reflection of the character of its membership. The congregation of St Mary's Church is a richly diverse community. However, whilst the exact format of any particular home group will reflect to some extent the needs of those within that group, there are also some common elements. Home groups

will include opportunities for fellowship, collective worship, Bible study and prayer. Topics for study will usually be chosen by the groups themselves but may from time to time be common to all groups.



Why get involved in a home group?

Home groups mean different things to different people: they are places of fellowship for Christians in good times and bad; they are opportunities to reflect and to consider what it means to follow Jesus; they are occasions for prayer and praise; they allow individuals to study God's Word in a group and to apply the message of Scripture to their daily lives.

Home groups help us to build a relationship with God and others, showing us how to live out our faith in Jesus.

At St. Mary's, we've come up with a way to remember what a home group is meant to be: 'Grow, Give and Go'.

"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." (Acts 2:42)

Grow: From the moment we're born we're **growing**, not just physically but spiritually and emotionally as well. Like a seedling, we need cultivation, nurture and care. The same applies to our spiritual life. In a home group, the way we do this is through study of the Bible, prayer, and worship. David in Psalm 1 notes that those who seek to know God through His word are like strong trees planted by the water. Their roots go deep and they will **grow**.

