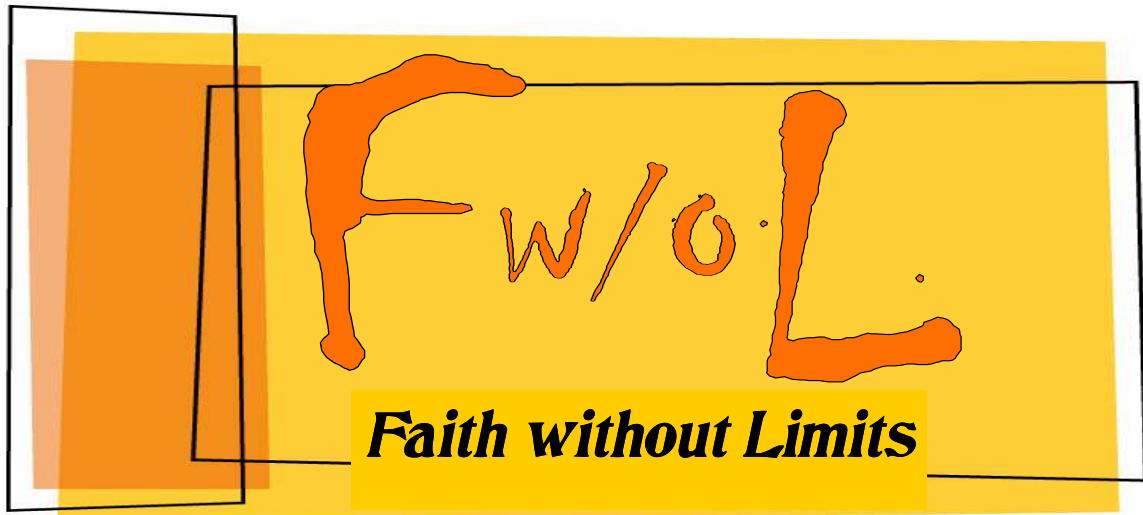


Small Groups

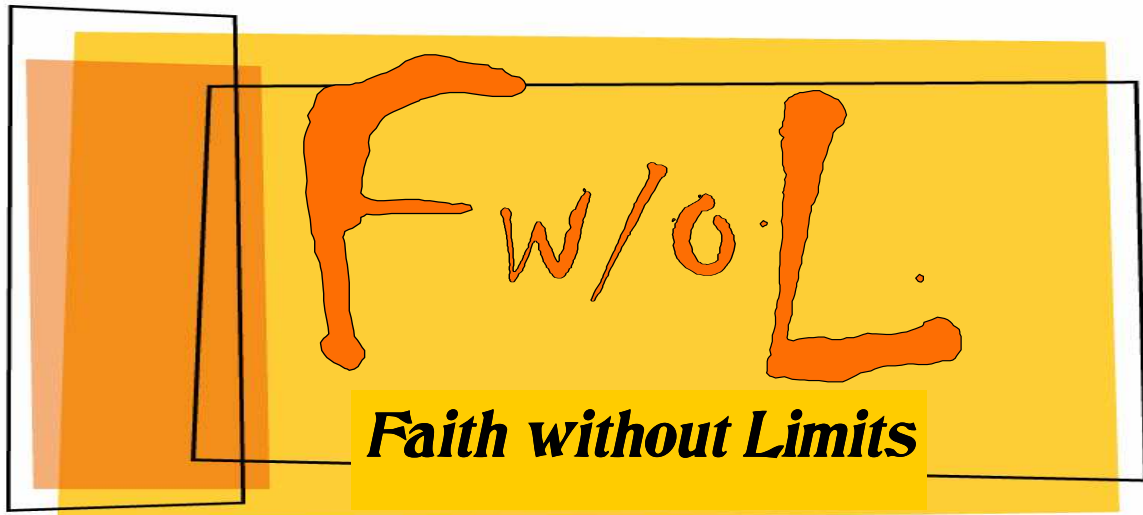
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**“Faith without
Limits”**



So often in our lives we are expected to fit into a certain mold. As Christians this can be even more difficult. We are torn because the world, our friends, our family and even our church is telling us to conform to their way. Most of the time we don't know which way to turn. Not wanting to be rejected from any of these groups we decide to try and please everyone. It is as though we are living in two, three or maybe even four different worlds.

Jesus isn't calling us to live our lives in this manner. Christ wants us to be free from the world of sin and to be living our lives honestly and completely for Him. He wants us to live a ***Faith without Limits***. A Faith without Limits is scary. It means that you are not in control, but that God is. It means that you have given up control so the Spirit can shape and form your life. This type of faith in Christ is where questions can be asked, doubts can be expressed and no restrictions placed upon it. Without this open and honest relationship with our Savior how are we to ever trust, rely and live for Him?!



Who does the world say you are?

Our theme verse for the this first series of small groups will be John 8:11. This verse ends the story where Jesus saves the woman caught in adultery from being stoned by the large crowd. He tells her, "Then neither do I condemn you. Go now and leave your life of sin." In doing this the woman became released from her life of sin and entered into a life of freedom in Jesus Christ. For her the guilt of a previous life had been washed away.

This is the life Jesus wants us to live. Christ wants to tell you, as he told this woman, to leave your life of sin. She had been identified by her sin, was consumed by that sin and had accepted who others said she had become. However, Jesus changed her entire mindset. In these words she was free from who the world had told her she had become and became capable of accepting who she was in the light of God. It was in that moment she was able to begin living a Faith without Limits.

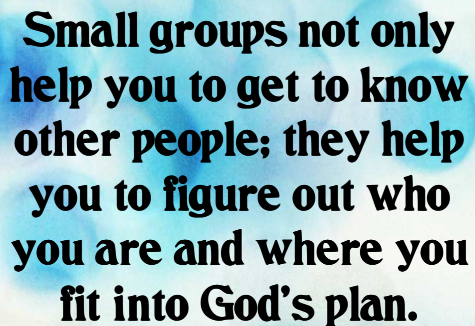
Have you had that moment yet?



What are Small Groups?

Small groups are going to be clusters of 3-7 youth with an adult leader. Groups will be formed based off the information you provide on the registration form. Youth with similar interests, stages of life and of the same gender will be placed in groups together.

You will meet with your small group at CLC approx. twice a month on Small Group night. Other than that it is up to you, your group and your leader how active your small group is! Figure out what common interests you all have and plan activities around those commonalities.



Small groups not only help you to get to know other people; they help you to figure out who you are and where you fit into God's plan.

Small groups are designed to make friends and to focus on your relationship with Jesus Christ. You will probably share some laughs, have some fun, and also have intentional faith talks. You will be challenged and encouraged to deepen your faith journey by your leader and other group members.



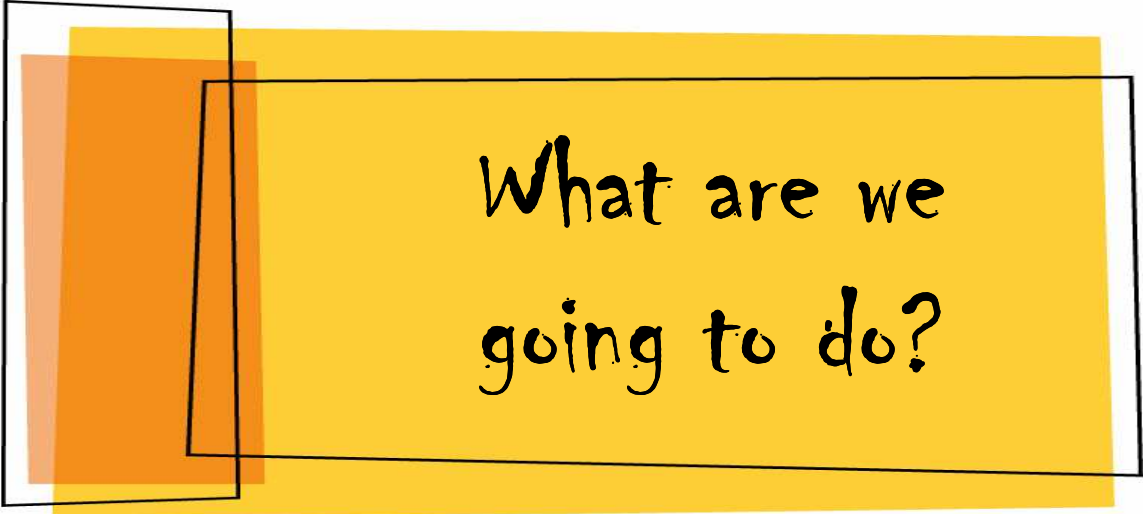
Why Small Groups?

One of the big “whys” of small groups is to let each of you know that you are an important and significant member of the group. There will be an adult and group of peers who care that you are there. Think about it... if there are 5 people in your group and you are not there 20% of the group is missing!

Another one of the big “whys” is because of how faith is nurtured. People can come to church every week, attend worship, attend Bible studies, attend fellowship, but never really take the opportunity to nurture their faith. Small Groups will give you the opportunity to nurture your faith in an intentional community where it is safe to struggle with questions and be heard.

Have you ever walked into a room full of people and felt completely alone? It appears everyone has a friend and is having a good time....well...everyone but you. Believe me, I have and I know what that feels like. That is why small groups are so awesome. There is always a group of people there just for you!

The final of the big “whys” is that your group can help encourage and support each other. The closer your group becomes the more you will feel comfortable sharing frustrations about life as a teenager, the joys that accompany your life and what is really going on. Your small group will be a confidential place to have others build you up as brothers or sisters in Christ while you do the same for them.



What are we going to do?

Small Group Night at CLC is going to begin with activities, music and worship. There will be “hangout” time with everyone before and after your small groups meet. Your small group will be a consistent place every week your group will meet at. This might be on a couch in the gathering space, sitting behind the altar in the sanctuary, in Keith’s office, in the youth room, on the stage or anywhere else your group decides you are most comfortable.

Small groups are all about relationships! What you do in your small group time is decided by the group. There will always be a *FAITH TIME*. This will either be a devotion or Bible Study. Other than that your time can be spent discussing issues that are relevant in your lives, playing games, planning Small Group outings, etc.

YOUR SMALL GROUP IS JUST THAT.....IT IS YOURS!



Here is sample schedule for Small Group nights:

- 6:30 pm—Arrival with activities**
- 6:45 pm—Introductions, announcements and worship**
- 7:15 pm—Small Groups break off**
- 8:15 pm—Snacks and fellowship**



But what if.....

....I want to invite a friend to church? Can they join my small group?

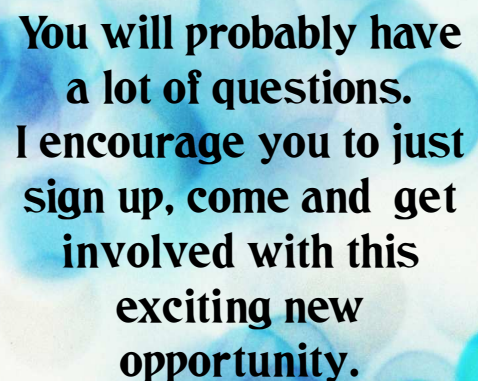
All small groups are open to new members. If you invite a friend they are more than welcome to join your group. The benefit of that is if it a small group becomes too large (10+) we will expand the one group into two small groups! In the case of inviting a friend of the opposite sex, they will have to join a small group of the same gender. This will be an opportunity for you to connect a friend with other people from church. And don't worry....there will be plenty of time before and after small groups meet for you spend time together!

....I don't like the people in my small group?

Small groups are designed to be a place where you are strengthened and challenged. I would never want a person to be in an environment that is not beneficial for their personal and spiritual growth. However, it is important to remember that community takes time. You might not know the people in your small group or you might have a preconceived idea of who they are. I encourage you to be open to the people you will be grouped with. God has a purpose for you and each person in the group. Be willing to be open and receptive to the group you are with.

....I don't know if I can come all the time?

That is not ideal, but I understand that you have other things going on in your life. Sign up and be apart of a group. Since small groups are not limited to the specific meeting times at CLE I am sure you can still be apart of the group through outings and other plans that will work around your schedule.



You will probably have a lot of questions. I encourage you to just sign up, come and get involved with this exciting new opportunity.



Registration

Name: _____

Grade and age: _____ School: _____

Email: _____

Choose 3 words to describe your faith in Jesus Christ. Explain why you chose those words:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Sports, hobbies and other extracurricular activities: _____

One person you would like to be in your small group:



Return this form to Keith by January 15th.

Small Groups will begin Sunday January 22nd.

**YOUTH MINISTRY EXISTS AT CLE
TO PROVIDE YOUTH THE
OPPORTUNITY TO:**

**Connect with their family, their friends
and their church for lifelong relationships.**

Have a place in which they belong.

Reach out to others.

**Interact with the Scriptures as to nurture
a life of prayer, worship and faith in
Jesus Christ.**

**Serve our church, our community
and our world.**

**Train and develop as mature
Christian leaders.**