

The Church at Viera – Group Guidelines

As members of this group, we commit to the following values and practices so that we may grow together in Christ and experience authentic biblical community:

1. Be Considerate and Concise

We commit to sharing our thoughts respectfully and giving everyone space to be heard. We will avoid dominating conversation and practice self-control for the sake of unity and growth.

"Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry." – James 1:19

2. Keep Stories Confidential

We create a safe place by keeping personal stories and prayer requests within the group. Trust is essential for spiritual transformation and accountability.

"Love... always protects, always trusts." – 1 Corinthians 13:6-7

3. Rely on Scripture, Not Personal Opinion or Counsel

We will turn first to God's Word for truth, wisdom, and direction—not just human advice. Leaders and members will avoid stepping into counseling roles and instead encourage one another to seek guidance from Scripture and, when needed, from trusted pastoral or professional sources.

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." – 2 Timothy 3:16

4. Encourage One Another in Love

We will speak words that build up, not tear down, and challenge one another to pursue Christlikeness with humility and grace.

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." – John 13:34

"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble...think about such things." – Philippians 4:8

5. Pursue Peace and Unity

We will strive to maintain a spirit of peace, even in disagreement. We will not gossip or sow division, but will work to resolve conflict biblically and quickly.

"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." – Romans 12:18

"Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." – Ephesians 4:3

6. Be Faithful in Participation

We will prioritize attending and actively engaging in group gatherings, knowing that consistency helps build connections and deepen growth. We will come prepared and on time, valuing each person's contribution and presence.

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together..." – Hebrews 10:24-25

7. Pray for One Another

We will commit to praying for each other regularly, believing that God moves in response to the prayers of His people.

"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed."
– James 5:16

Important Note on Safety and Responsibility

While we commit to confidentiality, we also affirm that **we are obligated to seek outside help** if a group member expresses intent to harm themselves, harm another person, or reveals that a child may be in danger in any way. In such situations, we will immediately involve pastoral leadership and, if necessary, the appropriate authorities.