



CREATING A COVENANT FOR THE MICROCHURCH

Microchurches, like any community, need some sort of social contract. Based out of Scripture, we like to call social contracts in microchurches, “covenants.” These are not contracts, where we legalistically call people to hold up their end of the bargain. Instead, they are guardrails where we create a safe space and clarity for everyone involved, and provide grace no matter where people are. Reminder - God makes covenant with us and keeps His covenant with us even when we fall short.

STEP ONE - COLLECTIVE BRAINSTORM

Grab a whiteboard or a large piece of paper (and tape it to the wall). Spend 20-30 minutes wrestling with these questions - What do I want from this group? What things would be deal breakers for me with this group? (Please note - everyone needs to feel comfortable contributing)

STEP TWO - EVALUATE

Spend some time looking back at what has been stated. First, ask, “what gives you fear and what gives you reassurance?”

Second, use the *O.S.V.C. tool*, and make sure all are thought through.

1. *Oriented* - is there a clear orientation for the group? Is there clarity or will it be easy for people to feel lost?

2. *Safety* - is the language and values being stated providing safety (physically, spiritually, emotionally, socially or psychologically)? Will the safety allow for people to feel bravery in their faith?

3. *Valued* - will our stated principles help everyone feel valued?

4. *Challenged* (based out of the first three) - will our stated principles and values create a space that feels challenged to take steps toward Jesus, others, and mission?

Based on your answers - does anything need to be reevaluated?

STEP THREE - SIMPLIFY AND TYPE OUT

Take some time to boil answers down into some buckets (10-12 max). Are there some themes that emerge? How can you provide some simplicity to the language that was used?

Take some time to forge a shared document for the group. Allow everyone to give feedback.

STEP FOUR - SPEND TIME IN PRAYER/CELEBRATION

Host a prayer and party night. First, spend some time praying over all that has been captured and contributed. Pray for one another and for the group as a whole. Second, have a huge party to celebrate your love and commitment to one another. Use the space below to brainstorm ideas for what the party could look like.