



Facts about HUGGs

Revised: January 14, 2012

Why Home Unity Growth Groups (HUGGs) at Ecclesia?

- HUGGs help Ecclesia accomplish the vision of “creating authentic Christians” because small groups change lives better than any other ministry in the church.
- HUGGs help Ecclesia fulfill the mission of “picking up the broken pieces in the lives of people” because small groups are the largest pastoral care machine in existence.
- HUGGs simplify ministry at Ecclesia. The three top priorities at Ecclesia are:
 - **CONNECT** - Connecting with God through regular worship attendance and connecting with Ecclesia through the My Connection process
 - **HUGG** - Connecting with others through regular participation in Home Unity Growth Groups
 - **SERVE** - Serving God through an Ecclesia ministry
- HUGGs enhance our ability to apply the Word of God. The sermon is our preparation. The sermon-based HUGGs give us application.
- HUGGs increase our capacity for COMMITTING, CONNECTING, CARING, CHANGING and CULTIVATING.

How are HUGGs different from a typical Bible study?

HUGGs emphasize “relationship.” Re-studying the sermon helps members understand and apply God’s Word. Each member hears the sermon on Sunday and then spends time studying the sermon passages from the HUGG Study Guide before coming to HUGG. When the HUGG meets, everyone “discusses” the sermon passages using the HUGG Study Guide. Study, discussion, sharing and prayer result in clear practical application of the sermon. Pastor Beckley says, “The victory is where? In my life as I APPLY the Word!”

How can I get the weekly HUGG Study Guide or hear the sermon if I am not at church on a Sunday?

Log on to www.ecclesiachurch.com. Weekly sermons & study guides will be available under the HUGG menu. Printed Study Guides are also available in the church lobby and the Frazier building for those without computer access.

What will happen to Sunday School and Teleios classes?

- Children and youth Sunday School activities will continue on Sunday and Wednesday.
- Adult Sunday School classes will continue with their curriculum as they consistently have for years.
- Other classes, such as Men’s Bible Study, Young Adults, and Thursday Women’s Study have become HUGGs that continue to meet on Ecclesia’s campus.

Will HUGGs take the place of Wednesday night Sermon Notes Bible Study?

All members are strongly encouraged to participate in a HUGG as top priority. HUGGs have a starting/ending time. Sermon Notes, which is now conducted in the same format as a HUGG, will continue on Wednesday night for those who are waiting for the next HUGG sign-up period.

When will the HUGGs meet?

HUGG meets for 1.5 hours for 8 consecutive weeks. Each host/facilitator team decides the day, time, and location of its meeting between Monday and Saturday. Members CHOOSE by signing up for the day, time, location that works for them.

What takes place during a HUGG?

HUGGs open with worship. Everyone participates in a time of prayer. Facilitator leads through discussion questions from HUGG Study Guide. Group members end the evening with “getting to know you” relationship building.

Who can become a member of a HUGG?

ANYONE who is willing to make an 8-week commitment, listen to weekly sermon and study the HUGG Study Guide.

NOTE: All Ecclesia members are encouraged to first complete the My Connection process before joining a HUGG.

Who can lead a HUGG?

Any Ecclesia member is eligible to facilitate or host a HUGG. The Holy Spirit is the true teacher. Learning to apply the Word (sermon) and building stronger relationships are the goals. Potential leaders must be committed to Jesus Christ and Ecclesia, must have completed My Connection (or Equippers I), must have participated in a HUGG, and attended training.

How are HUGGs Facilitators and Hosts equipped?

All FACILITATORS and HOSTS must attend Ecclesia’s one four-hour training to equip him/her for the unique responsibilities in facilitating/hosting a group.

How long will a Facilitator or Host have to commit to lead group?

The commitment is only 8 weeks at a time. Then they decide if they want to commit for another 8 weeks.

Will there be rules to keep order in HUGGs?

All HUGGs will live by the HUGG Ten Commandments. The facilitator/host team will create a positive atmosphere for spiritual growth and relationship building.

How will conflict be handled if there is a personality “clash” in the group?

Facilitator’s training teaches the process for relationship building. The HUGG Ten Commandments will foster a cordial sharing atmosphere and minimize “clashes.” If a person is simply “disruptive” and the facilitator needs assistance in managing the group, call Minister Robert Strong at 951-347-9861.

Who will follow-up after HUGGs?

Minister Robert Strong, the HUGG Leadership team and the Edification staff will follow-up after HUGGs. Ecclesia’s new database system will greatly enhance our ability to track, evaluate, and repair trouble areas.

How will HUGGs be monitored for growth promotion and making disciples?

Consistency in attendance, relationship building, and studying through the HUGG Study Guide WILL make disciples. Each group member will be asked to complete a pre- and post- HUGG survey to provide valuable information regarding his or her spiritual growth. The host will submit group attendance weekly.

What will happen when a group gets large?

Each host decides the number of group members (between 8 and 12) before sign-ups. Group registration will not allow groups to grow larger than the target number. As more facilitators/hosts are trained, more HUGGs can be established. A large, group should develop new leaders who will then establish another group. This is how the kingdom of God expands.

HUGGs cultivate authentic Christianity within the group, but what about the community where the group meets?

Each HUGG performs at least one service project within the 8 weeks. A group can serve its community as the Lord leads.

What if there is not a HUGG in my neighborhood?

If two people in your neighborhood meet the requirements, attend the HUGG training and commit to serve as a facilitator and host team, a HUGG can be started in your neighborhood.

Is childcare provided?

HUGG members are required to make individual arrangements and are discouraged from bringing children to the HUGG.