



Facts about HUGGs

Revised: 7-19-2012

Why HUGGs at Ecclesia?

- HUGGs will help Ecclesia fulfill the vision of “creating authentic Christians” because small groups change lives better than any other ministry in the church.
- HUGGs will 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 Loving God through Worship and Loving Others through HUGGs and serving in a 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
 - CULTIVATING

When will the HUGGs meet?

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

What takes place during a HUGG?

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.

Can one become a part of a HUGG at any time and stop at any time?

HUGGs require an 8 week commitment. Sign-up is required. Once sign-ups are closed, HUGGs are closed until next sign-up period.

How are HUGGs Facilitators and Hosts selected and prepared?

Any member of Ecclesia is eligible to facilitate or host a HUGG. The Holy Spirit, through the HUGG Study Guide, is the teacher. Learning to apply the Word (sermon) and building stronger relationships are the goals. ALL FACILITATORS and HOSTS must attend Ecclesia’s one-day training to equip him/her for the unique responsibilities in leading/hosting a group. Qualifications are:

- ✓ Committed to Jesus Christ
- ✓ Committed to Ecclesia
- ✓ Completion of My Connection (formerly Equippers 1)
- ✓ Ability to facilitate (not necessarily teach) or desire to host
- ✓ Ability and willingness to train and develop new leaders
- ✓ Prior participation in a HUGG group
- ✓ Completion of Facilitator & Host Training

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

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

Are HUGGs merely a Bible study? If not, how are they different from a Bible study?

The emphasis of HUGGs is “relationship.” The re-study of the sermon will help members grow in understanding and application of God’s Word. Each member hears the sermon on Sunday, studies the sermon passages from the HUGG Study Guide before coming to HUGG, then HUGG meets to “discuss,” using the HUGG Study Guide. Prior study, discussion, sharing and prayer result in clear practical application of the sermon that was heard. Pastor Beckley says, “The victory is where? In my life as I APPLY the Word!”

How can I get the weekly HUGG Study Guide?

Log on to www.ecclesiachurch.com. Study Guides will be available under the HUGG menu.

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

Our 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.

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 will become HUGGs that continue to meet on Ecclesia’s campus.

Will HUGGs take the place of Wednesday night Sermon Notes?

All members are strongly encouraged to participate in a HUGG as top priority. HUGGs have a starting/ending time. Sermon Notes will continue on Wednesday night for those who are waiting for next HUGG sign-up time.

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. Weekly attendance and reporting will be received from each group.

When a group gets too large, how will you go about splitting the group?

Our group registration process will not allow groups to grow larger than our target of 8-12 people. Our desire is to train more and more facilitators and hosts so we can establish more and more HUGGs. We can expand the kingdom of God more and more.

HUGGs help cultivate an authentic Christian life within the group, but what about the community where the group is held?

Each group will be responsible for one ministry/service project within the 8 week time. A group can minister to its community as the Lord leads.

What if there is not a HUGG in my neighborhood?

If two people in your neighborhood 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.