

Reflections on Covenant Groups
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My story about joining a covenant group makes the old adage of If at first you don't succeed, try, try again, ring true. My first two experiences didn't work too well for me. I was like Goldilocks—the first group was too big and the second group was all younger women. I decided Covenant groups were not for me until a special friend invited me to join her small diverse group of men and women of different ages and life styles. Knowing that I wasn't keen on driving at night, she and her husband offered to pick me up and return me home after the meeting. This made a big difference and now that I have moved to Heritage Heights, another members made a similar offer I can't refuse.

We have moved our monthly meeting place from the home of our oldest members to a nearby larger room in their new community. This attitude of flexibility and accommodation has been important to me.

The format of our group is relaxed and comfortable. It allows for some conversation in the beginning...checking in... which allows us to find out how each member is doing personally and to share any important events or changes. After lighting a candle and opening words, we focus on the subject to be discussed. We have a cute little pink pig which is held by the person speaking without interruption until he or she is finished. At this time, Miss Piggy is passed whoever indicates a willingness to continue. Sometimes people do not feel like speaking and just pass. That is OK too. In the beginning, not all of the members of the group attended church regularly. Now most do and are more active in church affairs.

We conclude by holding hands and singing our familiar church closing, "From You I Receive, to You I Give".

I am glad that I decided to try again. It has been a wonderful experience of learning, growing with some happiness and some sadness and a real sense of closeness. I urge any of you who haven't, to try a group and those who weren't satisfied, to try again.