

STARTING POINT MINISTRY OVERVIEW

What is Starting Point?

Starting Point is a small group *conversational environment* where people can *explore faith* and *experience community*.

Who is Starting Point for?

There are three main types of people for whom Starting Point is designed:

- Seekers - those who are curious about God, Jesus, the Bible, or Christianity
- Starters - those who are new to a relationship with Jesus Christ
- Returners - those who have some church experience, but have been away for a while

What is the size of a typical group?

Starting Point groups are typically ten to twelve participants and two to four leaders (for a maximum of sixteen people). Each group has at least two leader units (one leader unit is one person or a married couple).

When and where do groups meet?

The entire Starting Point experience is ten weeks. Each group meeting lasts seventy-five minutes. Sometimes the discussion will go longer, but we strongly encourage leaders to end on time. Most groups meet on Sundays during worship service times at our church campuses. This allows us to provide children's environments for Starting Point group members who have children. Also, it can be less intimidating for seekers who already come to a Sunday morning service, but may be anxious about going to a stranger's house at a different time. However, we've also had success with groups that meet in homes on weeknights.

What do the materials include?

- Conversation Guide: a full-color guide divided into ten chapters with ten audio messages on five CDs
- The Starting Point Bible: a TNIV version of the Scriptures with custom-written book introductions and several Starting Point-specific articles for group members
- Leaders Notes: an essential resource to assist leaders in facilitating groups

Can long-term small groups use the Starting Point materials?

Yes, our campus churches have many long-term small groups that have utilized the Starting Point materials as one of their curriculum choices. Many community groups have seekers, starters, and/or returners involved, so Starting Point is a good choice, especially at the beginning of the life of the group. However, every group can benefit from using the Starting Point materials. Whether a new Christian or further along in the journey, everyone profits from spending time exploring the message of the Bible and finding his or her place in the story.