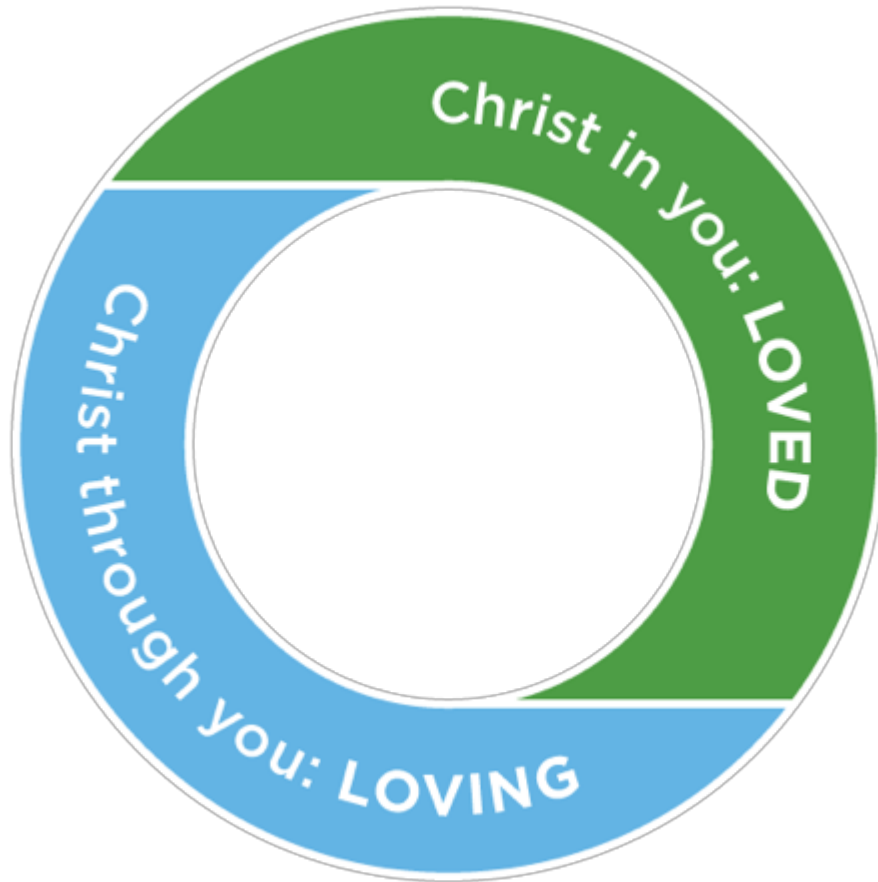


# 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter

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## 4th QUARTER

### **Service & Missions**

2 meetings; (Easter, Christmas, Summer Serve, Childcare event, etc)

### **Community & Evangelism**

1 meeting; Celebrate or mourn with group member (birthday, sickness, death, etc.)

*Total of 3 meetings*

## **Service & Missions**

As you plan your small group's calendar for the year using this one-year plan and resource track you will want to use these 2 suggested activities as occasions for your group to serve during special holidays together. The examples cited are during Christmas and Easter but there are many other opportunities for your group to raise the value of serving together in the Body of Christ. If you would like other examples to select from contact your community pastor and they will be able to give you a list of several opportunities. As was mentioned earlier, these serving opportunities should be done in lieu of your regularly scheduled group meeting and not added on top of it. Raising the value of serving one another in the Body of Christ is near and dear to the heart of God, so don't let these occasions come off as mere "busy work". The unity of the church is shown through mutually serving one another joyfully. This is an incredible witness showing the love of God at work through the Body of Christ!

## **Community & Evangelism**

While this is a floating event that is unpredictable and totally dependent on whatever is happening with your group members, we list this here for you as a group leader to see that it is just as much a part of making a disciple as any of the other areas. Celebrating, encouraging, walking along side of group members during their best and worst times is what shepherds and whole groups do for one another. So, if this requires that a "regular meeting" be set aside to serve a group member then don't view that as an interruption to your agenda but as an opportunity to model for the other group members the value of caring for one another and carrying each other's burdens.

Following are some New Testament Scriptures that highlight **God's compassion**:

**Galatians 6:2** (NIV)

*<sup>2</sup> Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ.*

**James 5:11** (NIV)

*<sup>11</sup> As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.*

**Colossians 3:12** (NIV)

*<sup>12</sup> Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.*

# After your Group Completes its First Phase (6 meetings), What's Next?

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After Your Group Completes its First Phase, connect with your assigned coach or community pastor and let them know what your group intends to do going forward. For example, if the groups initial commitment was only to meet for 6 weeks will it now renew for a new commitment to continue to meet going forward for a total of two years? Will you be stepping out as a leader and have someone else take your place leading the group? Will the group merge with another one?

## 1. If you intend to continue leading your small group for a total of 2 years:

- Bent Tree asks that you become a member of the church if you haven't done so already. Check <https://benttree.org/about/membership/> to complete your membership.
- Plan on attending New Leader Training Part II where you will learn more about Your Group's First Year plan!

## 2. Stay connected with Bent Tree through:

- All Small Group leader gatherings offered periodically by your Community Pastor!
- Your coach!
- Keeping your roster and your group profile updated on Ministry Platform using My Bent Tree online.
- Adult Ministry monthly email calendar of events and equipping videos!

## 3. Life Comes in Phases! Know Your Life *Group Phases*:

- 1<sup>st</sup> - This is a new group's first predetermined number of meetings (6 weeks, 1 semester, 6 months, or whatever the term is for a particular group).
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - For a group that has already completed its first term of meetings, this is the next time frame the group commits to meet with one another until it reaches 18 months to 2 years, completes apprenticing a new group leader, and launches another group from out of the original one.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - At this point the original group launches a new leader and group from out of itself and those remaining decide whether or not to renew for another cycle either with the original leader or a new one.