

Thriving Together Small Groups

Welcome

Points to Remember

- **After logging in to Zoom, please rename yourself with your First Name and Last Name**
 - This helps us assign and identify participants to breakout rooms
- **Please mute yourself when you are not speaking to the group**
- **Use the “raise hand” feature in Zoom when asking questions**

Authorship & Context

- ▶ Scriptural: Author asserts that he along with others were eyewitnesses to the life and ministry of Jesus
- ▶ Historical: Based on the opening statement by the author as well as Polycarp, 2nd-century bishop – support of Apostle John as the author who knew John personally
- ▶ Historical: the early church considered 1st John as valid and authoritative by the early church, with no controversies around authorship
- ▶ The recipients were already followers of Jesus and living in communities connected by their faith in Jesus – Evident throughout this letter.
- ▶ Writing indicates that John/author was reminding, warning, encouraging the believers about what they were encountering in the society where they lived.
- ▶ Reveals God's desire for His people, His children to live out our identity and trust

Thriving Together

Exploring Scripture – Discovering Truth – Knowing Jesus – Living Connected

➤ 1st John

- Straightforward
 - Uncomplicated
 - Simple
 - Foundational
-
- **Purpose of this first letter** to the early church – Stated 3 times:
 - ❖ “so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ” (1 John 1:3)
 - ❖ “so that you may not sin” (1 John 2:1)
 - ❖ “so that you may know that you have eternal life” (1 John 5:13)

Flow and Format of Small Groups

- ▶ 7:10 - 7:45 pm: Small Group Discussion (**35 minutes**) Based on 1 John 1:1 - 2:11.
 - ▶ Each group will have a facilitator who will guide you through the discussion questions.
 - ▶ The facilitator will keep each group on track to address the various questions and encourage participation. We will follow standard group norms to allow everyone the opportunity to speak and ask questions.
 - ▶ **From Scripture:** Review to discover who Jesus is as described in Scripture; Explore and examine who we are as children of God and what God desires for us to be
 - ▶ Each week, we would like one person to write down/capture the questions that emerged in your SG discussion. Also, if any one has an insight or observation that captures your attention, we would like that to be captured as well. After we dismiss, please send them to your facilitator. These will be shared with me and the Pastor so we can be sure to get responses back to everyone.
- ▶ 7:45 pm - Everyone will be brought back to the larger group. We will provide updates or share here (if we have time, no more than 2 mins from 1 group)
- ▶ 8:00 pm - we will close with prayer and end the call.



BREAKOUT GROUPS

Thriving Together Connection Tool: **DISCORD**

- **PURPOSE:** To facilitate connections with your group specifically and/or the larger group.
- **OBJECTIVE:**
 - Enables any participant to share questions about the topic(s) discussed during the small group.
 - Allows group interaction and encourages others to engage in that topic as well as raise new comments/questions to be addressed after the small group meetings.
- **HOW WILL THIS HAPPEN?** Technology Platform: DISCORD
- **WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO? (See next page)**
- **Aim to create the account **by Saturday, Sept. 13.****

CREATE AN ACCOUNT ON DISCORD

- ▶ Create a Discord account using either:
 - ▶ phone or tablet (requires downloading the app) OR
 - ▶ computer/laptop (requires using a specific link)
- ▶ Steps for each of these ways to sign up will be provided in the following slides/pages.
- ▶ If you have trouble getting through the steps or have questions, please reach out to Irene Prabhu Das at peace918@gmail.com or text or call her at 301-448-2625.
 - ▶ We will set up a time to assist.

How to create a Discord account using a mobile/ cell phone or tablet

1. Install the app

- a. iPhone/iPad: Open the App Store → search **Discord** → **Get**.
- b. Android: Open Google Play → search **Discord** → **Install**.

2. Open Discord → tap **Register** (or **Create an account**).

3. Enter your details

- a. **Email or phone number** (you'll verify this).
- b. **Username** (you can change it later).
- c. **Password** (use a strong one)

4. **Date of birth** (must meet your country's minimum age—typically 13+).

How to create a Discord account using a mobile/ cell phone or tablet (Cont'd)

5. Agree to the Terms → tap **Continue**.

* If prompted, complete a quick human/robot check.

6. Verify your account

➤ **Email:** Open the message from Discord and tap **Verify Email**.

➤ **Phone:** Enter the code sent by SMS.

7. Log in (if the app doesn't take you in automatically).

➤ **Additional Resource: Watch the You Tube Video:** <https://youtu.be/QnrQKo9bs0Q>

➤ **If that doesn't help, reach out to Irene at peace918@gmail.com and we will set up a time to assist you.**

How to create a Discord account using a computer/laptop

- Copy this link in your internet browser: to <https://discord.com>
- Click “**Open Discord in your browser**” (or click **Download** to install the desktop app).
- Click **Register** (or **Create an account**).
- **Fill in:** Email, Username, Password, Date of Birth → **Continue**.
- **Verify your email** (click the **Verify Email** button in the message from Discord).
- **Sign in** (browser or desktop app).

Additional Resource: Youtube Video: [How To Make Discord Account On PC & Laptop - Full Guide](#)

First-time setup: Optional but recommended

Once have created your account, it is recommended that you do the following:

1. Set your profile

- Click/tap **User Settings** (⚙️ next to your name) → **User Profile**.
- Add a **profile picture**, **display name**, and short **bio**.

2. Enable security (2FA)

- **Go to: User Settings → My Account → Password & Authentication → Enable Two-Factor Authentication(2FA).**
- Scan the QR code with an authenticator app (e.g., Google Authenticator, Authy).
- **Save your backup codes** somewhere safe.

First-time setup: Optional but recommended (cont'd)

3. Tune privacy & safety

a. User Settings → Privacy & Safety:

- **Safe Direct Messaging:** choose a scan level for DMs.
- **Who can message/friend you:** adjust friend request sources (Everyone / Friends of Friends / Server Members).
- Consider **disabling DMs from server members** for extra privacy.

4. Notifications

- ### a. User Settings → Notifications:
- Pick desktop push, mobile push, and sounds you want.



We are glad that you participated today!

An email will be sent with next week's passage and questions, on Friday, Sept. 12th.

Material for next week's session will also be on cumc.org under September 15.

Questions/Suggestions: Email Irene Prabhu Das at peace918@gmail.com