

side by side^{GROUPS}

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a Side by Side Group?

A Side by Side Group is a Grace Group built around a shared experience of suffering, not a life stage or shared interest. Grief, chronic illness, a hard marriage, addiction, anxiety, the weight of parenting: these are the kinds of things that bring people into these groups. The core message is simple: you are not alone in what you're facing. We're launching 14 Side by Side Groups this year, each built around a different area of struggle.

How is a Side by Side Group different from other Grace Groups?

A Side by Side Group is a new type of Grace Group we're starting this year, and it won't always look like a typical one. There's no set roster or weekly meeting requirement. Some groups gather monthly. Some exist mainly as a single point of contact, someone you can reach out to who's walked a similar road and can sit with you in it. The form follows the need. What stays the same is the goal: connecting you with someone who understands, and pointing you toward good resources.

Can I join a Side by Side Group anytime, or do I have to sign up now?

Most Side by Side Groups have open enrollment. You can join in October or January just as easily as you can join in August. For some groups, joining might mean showing up to a monthly gathering. For others, it might mean sending an email and starting a conversation with your group's contact person. Either way, the door stays open.

Will people know I'm in this group?

Not necessarily. For some groups, the leader will be listed. For others it will remain anonymous. The group is identified by its purpose, not by who's involved. If privacy is a concern, reach out to Martin Wagner before you sign up.

Is this counseling, or is it led by a professional?

No. Side by Side Groups aren't group counseling, a 12-step program, or a substitute for pastoral care from your elders. A leader's role isn't to diagnose, fix, or act as your therapist. It's to be a first point of contact, someone who can say "I've been there" and help connect you to others walking the same road, and to good outside resources.

What if I need more help than a group can give me?

Every Side by Side Group keeps an recommend list of outside resources: books, counselors, referrals, other ministries. If a leader senses you need more than the group can offer, they'll help point you there. Joining a group doesn't mean you're on your own if things get heavier than peer support can carry.

How is registration different for a Side by Side Group?

You won't get a confirmation with a meeting time and location like other Grace Groups. Instead, you'll get an email with resources for your topic, and your group's leader will be notified that you've registered. From there, they'll reach out to you directly. That first contact might lead to a monthly gathering, a coffee, or an ongoing email connection, depending on the group.

side by side ^{GROUPS}

TYPES OF GROUPS

This is an initial list of groups that we are offering starting this fall, and it will continue to expand throughout the year as needs arise. If you have an idea for a group or questions, please reach out to Martin Wagner.

Moms of Wayward Children

A group for moms grieving a child who has walked away from the faith, offering honest lament, biblical hope, and companionship with others who understand.

Parents of Children with Special Needs

A group for parents raising a child with special needs, sharing the exhaustion and the joy, and finding rest, friendship, and hope together in Christ.

Divorce Recovery — Women

A group for women navigating separation or divorce, offering steady support, biblical counsel, and friendship.

Divorce Recovery — Men

A group for men navigating separation or divorce, offering steady support, biblical counsel, and friendship.

Betrayal — Women

A group for women walking through the pain of a husband's affair, pornography use, or hidden sin; learning to grieve honestly, find hope, and receive support as you navigate the path forward.

Infertility and Infant Loss – Women

Hope Group is for women grieving infertility, miscarriage, or the loss of a baby, and offers a safe place to mourn and find hope in Christ.

Infertility and/or Miscarriage – Couples

A group for couples grieving infertility and/or miscarriage, offering a safe place to mourn and find hope in Christ.

Abortion Recovery – Women

A group for women carrying grief or shame from a past abortion, offering a safe, confidential space to receive God's forgiveness and healing.

Sex/Porn Addiction – Men

A group for men seeking freedom from unwanted sexual behavior. Building safety, honesty, and hope with other men pursuing sobriety and lasting change in Christ.

Addiction (Alcohol, Gambling, Narcotics, etc.) – Coed

A group for those fighting addiction to alcohol, drugs, gambling, or other habits, offering honest accountability and a path toward lasting freedom in Christ.

Wives Supporting Recovery

A group for women whose lives have been shaped by a loved one's addiction—including alcohol, pornography, and other destructive behaviors—offering a safe place to heal and rebuild hope.

Widows – Joy Sisters

A group for women walking through the pain of a husband's affair, pornography use, or hidden sin; learning to grieve honestly, find hope, and receive support as you navigate the path forward.

Grief — Coed

A group for adult men and women grieving the death of a loved one, offering encouragement and friendship through one of life's hardest seasons.

Adoption and Foster Care - Women

A group for those who have or are adopting or fostering, and those exploring it, offering honest community for the grief, joy, and complexity of building a family this way.