



# Small Groups Newsletter



## THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHTS

- january group launch
- mark series
- facilitator brunch
- ifi group serve
- 7 day bible art challenge

"I wish, my brothers and sisters, that during this year you may live nearer to CHRIST than you have ever done before. depend upon it, it is when we think much of CHRIST that we think little of ourselves, little of our troubles, and little of the doubts and fears that surround us."

**charles spurgeon**



## january small group launch



Twice a year, in September and January, we offer a church-wide invitation to join a small group. As facilitators, you know as well as anyone what an essential role small groups play in the relational life of our church and in our own lifelong journey deeper into discipleship.

Our winter small group launch campaign will take place the weeks

of January 14th and 21st. In these weeks I encourage you to be bold about inviting people into your small group. Be they neighbors, co-workers, family members, or the people you find yourself sitting next to at worship, there is nothing lost--and potentially so much to gain--by inviting someone into your group!

As we prepare for this launch, if your group is open to people seeking belonging in our church, please make sure your group information is published and up-to-date on our [ONLINE CATALOGUE](#). If you'd like help editing the group info, or if you would like to add your group, you can do so by responding to this email.

This is our opportunity to invite our whole church to join a small group, and for us to begin enough new groups to accommodate them. If there is someone in your group that you think may be called to launch a group, prayerfully encourage them to do so. Or, if you think you might be called to begin a new group, let us know and we'd be happy to help you discern that.

## mark - small group series

Have you ever experienced something so remarkable that you just had to tell someone the story? If so, you might understand where the Gospel of Mark came from. The people who knew Jesus experienced something previously unimaginable, and they passed down the stories for us. In this series we will explore how the beginning of the good news of Jesus from long ago continues to be good news for us now.

The Mark series Facilitator Guide will be available Saturday, January 6th at [ualc.org/smallgroups](http://ualc.org/smallgroups)





# facilitator brunch



**SATURDAY, JANUARY 27**

**11:00 AM - 12:30 PM - MILL RUN**

Join your fellow small group facilitators for a community brunch Saturday, January 27th. This event is for all facilitators, group core teams, and Bible study leaders.

We will spend time catching up with each other, sharing stories about our groups, and praying over one another. Family and children are welcome to this event. Please RSVP through the evite to let us know if you can make it. If you did not receive an evite, please respond to this email.



International Friendships, Inc (IFI) is a Christian community organization that works in partnership with universities and Christian volunteers to promote friendship and hospitality for international students, scholars, and their families. IFI also partners with internationals through on-campus student organizations.

**LUNAR NEW YEAR DINNER**  
**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16**  
**6:00 - 9:00 pm**

UALC has partnered with IFI in many ways over the years including financial support, volunteers, hosting Bible studies and more. Consider inviting your group to serve with IFI. Volunteers are needed to serve food and make traditional Chinese dishes for their Lunar New Year Dinner Party on Friday, February, 6:00 - 9:00 pm.

You can find more information on IFI at [ualc.org/ifi](http://ualc.org/ifi), and you can register to serve an IFI small group at [ifipartners.org/small-groups](http://ifipartners.org/small-groups).



**registration due  
february 11**

A friendly, creative challenge for aspiring artists. The 7 Day Bible Art Challenge is a one-week competition that appeals to

amateur and professional artists alike to explore the biblical truth of scripture while they practice their craft. Share with your group members and encourage them to participate or invite the artists in their lives.

Youth and adult artists have one week to create an artwork based on a passage from the Bible. Artwork is juried and cash prizes are awarded.

Registration deadline is February. 11, 2024.

Competition begins February 14 and ends February 21, 2024.

[Find details and registration here.](#)