

# The Fellowship Funnel Strategy of The Connection Church

When it comes to helping those who attend The Connection Church grow in their fellowship with one another, the strategy used is called the “Fellowship Funnel.”

The “Fellowship Funnel” consists of three types of groupings: Large Groups, Mid-Sized Groups, and Small Groups.

The mission of The Connection Church is to Connect with God, Connect with People, and Connect People with God. We believe that helping people meaningfully connect with the people of God is the key to achieving this three-fold mission.



## 1. Our Large Group Gatherings.

In our large group gatherings, people can **make acquaintances** with one another. These large group gatherings would be our Weekend Celebration services and Nights of Worship, which happen on the first Wednesday of every month. But it is difficult for people to connect at a deeper level if all they do is sit in rows, facing the stage, and looking at the backs of each other’s heads. To go deeper in fellowship, they must participate in smaller group gatherings as well.

## 2. Our Mid-Sized Group Gatherings.

In our mid-sized group gatherings, people can **develop friendships**. Examples of these mid-sized group gatherings would be Men of Steel, Soul Sisters, Girltime events, Genesis Recovery, 1830, and YNG. Notice that each of these groupings is based on commonality. Men of Steel is for men. Soul Sisters and Girltime events are for ladies. Genesis Recovery is for people struggling with hurts, habits or hang-ups. 1030 is for young adults. YNG is for teenagers. Because these mid-sized groups are built around common needs and interests, these are a natural “open door” through which one can develop friendships with others with whom they share things in common.

## 3. Our Small Group Gatherings.

These are our connection groups. In our Connection Groups, one can **experience the church as family**. However, for this to happen, the group needs to understand that they will have some people who are at the acquaintance level with each other, or the friendship level. To be helped to experience the church as family in their Connection Group, certain things need to happen and the leader needs to be intentional about providing opportunities for group members to go from the acquaintance level, to the friendship level, to the family level with one another.

The different sections of the typical Connection Group discussion guide are designed to do just that. From the ice breaker questions, to the discussion questions, to the prayer time, people are given opportunity to open up and learn from one another as they share their experiences and thoughts.