

CELL PHONE COVENANT FORM FOR CHURCH GROUPS

The extent to which participants can use their phones and other devices during the Gathering is at the discretion of their Adult Leaders. The use of cell phones and social media is meant to enhance the Gathering experience, not distract from it. Key points from the Gathering will be understood regardless of participants' use of these devices.



Here are some things to consider as a group in adding guidelines to your covenant.

Possible Statements:

We Agree... (Check all that are agreed upon)

- that I will not post inappropriate photos or messages that speak negatively about myself or others.
- that I will leave my cell phone in my pocket or out of sight while at meals during the Gathering and not have it on the table.
- that I will stay fully present in the Gathering experience instead of being distracted by friends back home.
- that I will remain positive about my experience while sending pictures, texting, on social media, or phone calls.
- that having a cell phone is a privilege and not a right.
- that when I am in a conversation with a person or participating in a Gathering event I will not use my phone.
- that I will stay aware of my surroundings and be considerate of others in the city instead of being consumed by screens.
- that if I receive an inappropriate message from someone, I will inform an Adult Leader.
- that if I am asked to turn off my cell phone by any adult I will do it with respect and not complain.
- that if I lose or break my cell phone, I will be responsible for replacing or fixing it.
- that I will honor no cell phone times established by my Adult Leader.
- that I will honor night time quiet times by shutting off my phone notifications from 11 pm-8 am.

If I don't follow these statements... I will face the consequences of losing the privilege of my phone for an agreed upon amount of time.

Parent Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Participant Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Congregational Things to Consider in Creating Cell Phone Covenants:

1. Groups will use social media and phones as part of Gathering programming (Morning Session, Interactive Center, Sessions and Mass Events).
2. Some participants use their phones to access Bible apps which can light up in darker atmospheres.
3. The Gathering encourages Community Groups to set limits on screen times. Some groups will add a statement in their covenant that is agreed upon by all participants and leaders. A few examples follow these guidelines:
 - Some groups collect phones at different events including meals and Community Group time.
 - Use your covenant as an opportunity to teach screen Sabbath time, especially at night.
 - Phones can be a distraction for being present. It is hard for youth to disconnect from events/friends back home. For others, phones can give comfort to those feeling anxious about being away.
 - It is important that Adult Leaders model the behavior agreed upon by the group.