

# Life Groups

## How Important Are Life Groups?

We consider Life Groups to be the hub of our ministry. They are the place where the real ministry of the church takes place as we encourage, support, and challenge one another. God doesn't want any of us to be left to walk alone – we need each other. We want to be a church, not a crowd!

## What Is a Life Group?

A Life Group made up of 10-16 people who meet weekly to study, to share, and to support one another in their Christian lives. Each group is led by a trained leader and host couple. A typical meeting lasts for an hour and a half.

## How Long Does A Group Last?

Each Life Groups session lasts 8-10 weeks. Basically, we've broken the year into 3 sessions. (Fall, Winter, and Spring) At the end of each session, you have the choice of staying in the same group, trying a new group, or even taking a break.

## What Will We Study?

The studies are based on the previous Sunday's Message. Life groups are built upon what we call a "Lecture-Lab" model. If you imagine the weekend Message as a lecture on Christian living, then the group meeting is a lab where you get to roll up your sleeves and discuss how the Message works out in real life.

Each week there will be a series of Bible passages and questions to study and complete before your meeting. The homework is included on the back of the message note sheet found in your bulletin as well on the website. It will usually take 20 to 30 minutes to complete the homework.

## How Do I Sign Up?

You can sign up anytime online. The staff and leaders are happy to help you find just the right group for you so just feel free to ask!

## Which Group Should I Join?

There is a list of life groups on the website that explains a little about the leaders as well as the time and location of the group. You can join a group based on your "station in life" or on geography or the most convenient night of the week. Frankly, sometimes it might take two or three groups before you find the perfect fit. But don't worry, you'll find it!

## What Is The Required Commitment?

Joining a Life Groups requires a 8 to 10 week commitment to attend the weekly meetings and to do the homework ahead of time. Obviously, allowances are made for sickness, vacation, work conflicts, and other special events... but not much more! We have found that this commitment is the key to strong relationships and healthy groups.

## What About Childcare?

Life Groups are for adults. We leave it up to each family to work out their own childcare. Sometimes it works best for families to share a sitter or to swap childcare with another family whose group meets on a different evening or time. Contact a life group leader to see what they are doing for childcare. Remember it is worth the effort and investment to grow.