

Synergy- the combined efforts being greater than the parts. We have a greater return on our effort together than alone.

Growth is Life

The HOLY SPIRIT provides power and motivation.

Philippians 2:13

The BIBLE provides guidance and perspective.

2 Peter 1:2-11, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Psalm 119:105

OTHER CHRISTIANS provide support and accountability.

Hebrews 10:24-25

The Blessing of Connecting—a two-way street

What's in it for me?

Friends

Fun

Help

Perspective

What's in it for other people?

Standing in the Gap

Wisdom

Guardrails

Help

Welcome to the Winter Session of LIFE Groups!

To prepare for this week's meeting, take some time to focus on the questions below and be prepared to share your answers with the group. Have a great first meeting as you come together to connect and encourage one another to grow and to see God work!

In this week's message Jeff shared the blessing of connecting. What aspect of connecting do you think will benefit you the most?

What aspects of connecting do you think you have the most to give?

A key to growth is the guidance and prospective provided by the Bible, God's word. Share with the group some ways you have found that work for you in reading, listening, studying the bible.

These "one another" commands are best carried out within the framework of a church or group that is small enough for close and accountable relationships. Are there any steps you need to take to develop these kinds of relationships in your own life? Is joining a Life Group a good step for you?

John 13:34-35

Ephesians 4:32

Romans 12:10

Ephesians 5:21

Romans 12:16

Colossians 3:9

Romans 14:13

1 Thessalonians 5:15

Romans 15:7

Hebrews 3:13

Romans 15:14

Hebrews 10:24

Colossians 3:16

Hebrews 10:25

1 Corinthians 12:25

James 4:11

Galatians 5:13

James 5:16

We want prayer to be a vital part of life groups so this session we will be putting a stronger focus on praying for one another.

Tips on Group Prayer

Prayer is an important part of being in a Life Group. Over the years we've found that group prayer goes better when we follow three simple guidelines.

WE PRAY FOR ONE TOPIC AT A TIME - Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request either before prayer begins or during the prayer time. Once a topic is introduced, the group focuses on that request alone. Once it's covered, the group moves on to the next topic.

PRAY MORE THAN ONCE - Because the group is focusing on one topic at a time, each person is encouraged to pray several times during the prayer time for those topics they feel most led to pray about. No one is required to pray.

WE KEEP OUR PRAYERS SHORT AND SIMPLE - Group prayer goes better when members keep their prayers short and to the point. When someone prays for a long time, it's hard for the other members to stay focused and long prayers tend to intimidate those who are just learning to pray out loud in a group. No one's required to pray out loud.

Take some time now to share and pray for one another.

PRAYER REQUEST:

TAKING IT HOME

What are you looking forward to the most or hoping to accomplish in your LIFE Group this Session?

THE PURPOSE OF LIFE GROUPS

Life Groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth through meaningful Christian relationships and the study of God's Word. (Romans 8:29 & Hebrews 10:24-25). Here's how it will happen:

SHARE

Each week we'll take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first this sharing will include planned "sharing questions." But after the first few weeks, it will become more informal and personal as we feel more comfortable.

STUDY

Each week we'll study a section from God's Word that relates to the previous weekend's sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life.

SUPPORT

Each week we'll learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (John 15:9-13). This care can take many forms, such as prayer, encouragement, listening, challenging one another and meeting real needs.

SERVE

Spiritual growth is fostered not only by what we gain through the support and input of others, but also through service to others. The role each of us fills is important to the health of the church and for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the community in which we live (Ephesians 4:11-16). Throughout the quarter, it is our hope that you can find and/or be affirmed in the ways God has designed you to serve and make a difference in God's Kingdom.