

1. We belong together.

Romans 12:4-5

2. We grow best together. Ephesians 4:21-24; Colossians 3:15-17

Three Key Ingredients to spiritual growth.

1. The HOLY SPIRIT provides power and motivation.
Philippians 2:13
2. The BIBLE provides guidance and perspective.
2 Peter 1:2-11; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Psalm 119:105
3. OTHER CHRISTIANS (community) provide support and accountability. Hebrews 10:24-25

Life Groups will *radically change you and the church...*

By dramatically increasing *honesty & transparency*
Ephesians 4:15 & 25; James 5:16

By making spiritual practices (habits) *a priority*.
Hebrews 10:24-25

By creating connected relationships. Colossians 3:15-17;
Proverbs 27:17; Proverbs 12:1

3. We can't run alone.

John 1:37-42; 2 Peter 1:6-8

Welcome to the Fall Quarter of Life Groups!

This week we kick off our Fall quarter.

Your first meeting will include a time to get acquainted, as well as time to discuss this week's message.

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, encourage one another to grow and to see God change your lives from the inside out!

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

What's something you did this past summer that was fun or enjoyable – i.e. going to a movie, swimming, family gathering, vacation, barbeque, etc?

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

DIGGING DEEPER

The Biblical concept of "church" is as much about connecting with and serving others as it is about gaining Biblical knowledge. Here are six passages from the book of Romans. For each verse, jot down the instruction for how we are to do and be the church.

Romans 12:10

Romans 12:16

Romans 13:8

Romans 14:13

Romans 15:7

Romans 15:14

Why do you think so many Christians settle for a concept of church that is nothing more than a weekly concert and lecture? And what specific changes in attitude, action or perspective are necessary in order to move from just attending church to being in significant, life-changing relationships? List as many as you can think of.

One characteristic of a healthy community (church) is how we interact with each other. A top of priority in community is harmony and unity. ***“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” Ephesians 4:3***

What do these verses tell us about unity/disunity and what can we do to develop and protect unity in the community.

II Timothy 2:14

Proverbs 17:14

I Peter 3:8

II Timothy 2:23

Colossians 3:13-15

Take it Home

- Do I feel as close to God as I would like to?
- Do I have meaningful Connections with other believers?
- Where do I turn when I have a Need-to-know/Need-to-Grow moment?
- Can I be a help (resource) for someone else to assist them in their spiritual growth? Why or Why not?
- The Bible describes connection to each other as a body (Romans 12:4-5). Can we be truly whole by ourselves? What connects us together? What pulls us apart?
- What does Paul mean when he says we find our meaning and purpose in the body?

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