



# Life Group Leader's Support

As of July 21, 2020

The Groups Team wants you to have all the support you need to effectively lead your Life Group. We are available to coach you, help you find curriculum, or to assist in any other way we can. Our goal is to touch base with you every six months to see how things are going, and to help you walk your group through the six-month re-commitment. If you want assistance anytime between those contacts, please do not hesitate to contact us.

A big difference between Life Groups and Classes is relationship drives in Life Groups, while content drives in Classes. A Life Group focuses on **Christ-Centered Community** and combines:

- Love - Community building - food/ice breaker questions.
- Growth - Here are options:
  - Bible study - a video, a bible study book, or if you or someone in your group has the gifts & desire, a leader-led bible study.
  - Topical study - explore an area of spiritual focus or interest – like prayer, marriage, community. There are video options, small group study options and book study options for doing a topical study.
  - Covenant Discipleship - create an accountability covenant to grow deeper in our relationships with Christ with one another.
  - Daily Devotional - everyone in your group uses the same daily devotional, then discuss what you gained that week. Options include: The Upper Room, Jesus Calling, Seedbed, or My Utmost for His Highest.
- Prayer - Share with and pray for one another.

You have lots of flexibility to customize your Life Group. Whatever focus and format you choose, we recommend you begin by working with your group to create some **Guidelines** that will shape the building of community within your group. Some potential guidelines might include:

- What's said in the group stays in the group.
- We will contact each other when we miss.
- We expect a growing openness and honesty within the group.
- We are okay with group members passing on speaking as we get used to each other.
- We will pray regularly for the members of our group.
- Do we want to serve in the community or the church 2-4 times a year?
- We are each others' support group for life's challenges.
- We know what is happening in each others' lives.
- We only need the pastoral care team if things get bad because we take care of each other.

Your role as a **Life Group Leader** - You can delegate any of the following responsibilities to others in your group and/or work with the whole group to do them together:

- Get the group together for an initial gathering.
- Get contact information for everyone in your group or have them update their own contact information in the Church Center App.
- Set the meeting time and place for the group gatherings. Establish the length of your gatherings. The Church Center App is a good tool for keeping meeting details up-to-date and easily accessible for group members.
- Choose an initial focus for the group.
- Establish a format/pattern for the flow of your gatherings: Ice Breakers, Centering Time, Gathering Prayer, Study Time, Sharing, Closing Prayer, Refreshments.
- Lead the group in developing your Guidelines for Group Life.
- Facilitate the gatherings or establish who will facilitate them.
- Communicate the groups' needs to Brad Reed (660-492-3060) or Mary Cockroft (417-848-1464) when you would like their assistance/support/guidance.
- Touch base with group members when they miss a gathering or establish who will make that contact.

We recommend meeting in homes for hospitality and relationship advantages, however, you can use a church room for your gatherings if you need to. If your group wants to meet at church, contact David Freeman (417-879-4016) to reserve a space. COVID 19 added the reality of online platforms as a supplement or substitute meeting venue.

If you want childcare at the church, in non-COVID times it is available in spring (mid-Jan to late April) and fall (mid-Sept to mid-Nov) on Wednesday nights.