

Frequently Asked Questions — Life Groups

What is a Life Group?

A life group is 5 to 12 people who gather regularly to encourage, challenge, and care for one another for the purpose of becoming fully devoted followers of Christ.

Why do I need to be part of a Life Group?

Simply put, “we need one another.” God made us that way. He designed us to be His personal agents to encourage, challenge, and care for one another. “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:34-35).

When and where do Life Groups meet?

They meet at a time and place that is convenient for the whole group. Ideally Life Groups meet weekly in someone’s home. Developing significant relationships takes time and consistency—that’s why we encourage groups to meet every week.

What about childcare?

Each group will need to workout childcare, either as a group or individually. If childcare is a financial barrier to being part of a Life Group, the church will reimburse individual families at a predetermined rate. Please stop by the church office to complete a *Childcare Reimbursement Form*.

What do Life Groups discuss or study together?

Every Life Group begins with an 8-week study designed to share each other’s life story and to discover what it means to be part of a community. After that, groups are encouraged to follow the weekly sermon discussion questions designed specifically for Life Groups. As needed, groups can choose from a number of recommended curriculums to address specific areas for continued transformation, building relationships and equipping for service.

What’s the difference between Life Groups and Discipleship Communities?

Discipleship Communities are intended to be larger (20+ people) Sunday morning gatherings where believers are equipped for life and ministry. And they are great places to make initial connections with people with whom you might want to be in a Life Group. Life Groups are intended to be a smaller (5-12 people) weekly gathering of people desiring a stronger level of relational depth with other believers in pursuit of maturing in Christ.

What is the life expectancy of a Life Group?

Every group will be different. However, we encourage each group to commit to one another for a set period of time. Then you can decide whether to recommit for an additional period of time, lose members, or add members. After an initial 8-week commitment, the school year (September—May) is a good guideline for a minimal commitment.

What is the role of a Life Group leader?

Life group leaders are responsible for providing their groups with vision, direction, and support—they do not need to be Bible experts or teachers. Leaders are successful when they are personally growing in their intimacy with God, community with insiders, and influence with outsiders, and are leading their groups in such a way as to encourage the group members' growth in these areas as well.

What are the qualifications to become a Life Group leader?

- Spiritual warm—have a personal, growing relationship with Jesus Christ
- Relationally warm—have good social skills and emotional intelligence
- Recognize the Bible as the authority in their lives
- Have Life Group experience (preferably)
- Is a member of the Grace Covenant Church
- Has the time, emotional capacity and moral discernment to lead a group

Have additional questions?

Email lifegroups@grace360.org for a quick response.