

LIFE GROUPS

There's a place for everybody. From the first steps of finding out more about faith, to deeper questions of spirituality.

There is no prerequisite—everyone is welcome and encouraged to join. Getting involved in a LIFE GROUP could be one of the most important things you do this year. In fact, it may be one of the most important things you do in the next ten years.

Why?

Small groups were an integral part of the Early Church's structure. For the first 300 years of the New Testament Church there were no buildings—people met in the Temple for their corporate gatherings and in homes throughout the week. These groups were small enough to allow individual members to minister to one another, discover and use their spiritual gifts, and be disciplined in the teachings of Jesus. Small groups can still provide participants with an opportunity for fellowship, growth, and prayer today.

The ultimate purpose of small groups is to move people towards a more intimate relationship with Jesus, to transform them into His image, and equip them for ministry.



WHAT IS A LIFE GROUP?

"A Christian small group is an intentional, face-to-face gathering of 3 to 12 people on a regular time schedule with the common purpose of discovering and growing in the possibilities of the abundant life in Christ."

—Roberta Hestenes, Small Group Pioneer

"intentional"

This refers to the covenant which the group establishes to identify the responsibilities and accountability of group members. Group members choose to be involved.

"face-to-face"

When people meet face-to-face, the gathering can produce honesty, freedom, trust, and growth uniquely found in interpersonal relationships.

"3-12 people"

With less than three people, you don't have a group, and with more than 12 you begin to lose intimacy.

"regular time schedule"

This is essential to foster loyalty and consistency among group members.

"common purpose"

If a group does not share a common vision and common goals, it will eventually fail. People follow clearly identified ideas and direction.

"discovering and growing"

A small group is an ideal place for non-Christians to discover what following Jesus is all about. It is also a great place for believers to grow in their faith.

"the abundant life in Christ"

Small groups have the capacity to make Christianity come to life through prayer, discussion, study, fellowship and ministry.

8 ASSUMPTIONS BEHIND LIFE GROUPS

- We're created in the *image of God* and endowed with amazing potential.
- This *potential* can be realized through Jesus Christ, in the company of a supportive Christian Community.
- To become a truly *supportive Christian community* we need to get to know one another in depth, and this takes time, effort, and a common commitment to life together.
- *Personal growth* begins with inner change—as we respond to the invitation of God for newness of life.
- The *Holy Spirit* gives us spiritual gifts for ministering to others within our community, and through the community to the church and world at large.
- *Scripture* is the living account of God's redemptive activity, and the primary guide to His will for our lives today.
- *Spiritual wholeness* includes our whole being—our emotions, relationships, values, and lifestyles.
- *Celebration* naturally happens when we are set free in a supportive Christian community to discover and express the beautiful persons we are in Christ.

—The Serendipity Encyclopedia



THE MEANING OF LIFE

LEARNING

INSIGHT

FRIENDSHIP

ENCOURAGEMENT

LIFE GROUPS – WHAT TO EXPECT

I don't know much about the Bible, will I be embarrassed?

The reason people join a LIFE GROUP is because they want to learn more about Scripture and their faith. There are groups that look at the basics of the Bible, through to more advanced studies. Wherever you're at, you will be encouraged and grow in your understanding of the Christian faith and life.

I'm Worried I don't have the time to commit.

Don't let time constraints prevent you from participating in this potentially life-changing ministry. Time commitments will vary depending on the group's need.

Are there any 'special focus' LIFE GROUPS available?

Special focus groups will include: Single Women's, Men's, Women's and Youth. New groups may be added during the year as the need arises.

If your not sure if LIFE GROUPS are for you, visit one of our groups and experience it first hand!

WHAT THE BIBLE HAS TO SAY

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." (Matthew 18:20)

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35)

"I myself feel confident about you, brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with knowledge, and able to instruct one another." (Romans 15:14)

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2)

". . . but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Ephesians 5:18-20)

"As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in Him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving." (Colossians 2:6-7)

"Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing." (1 Thessalonians 5:11)



LIFE GROUPS

Small groups that provide an opportunity for connection, community, and spiritual transformation.



"I came that they may have life,
and have it abundantly"
(John 10:10)

Living Waters Anglican Fellowship Kingston
c/o 726 Chatsworth Place
Kingston, ON K7P 2E2
613-453-9140
livingwaterskingston@gmail.com
www.livingwaterskingston.com

