

LifeGroup FAQs

Why LifeGroups?

THE REASONS WHY WE DO LifeGroups ARE SIMPLE:

- 1. WE ARE OUT OF SPACE.*
- 2. WE BELIEVE THEY ARE A BIBLICAL MODEL FOR REACHING OUR COMMUNITY WITH THE WORD OF GOD.*
- 3. WE ARE OUT OF SPACE.*

We are out of space. The simple truth is that our current facilities do not provide enough room to allow all of our Bible studies to meet on campus. In fact, at this time there is no fiscally responsible way for us to keep up with the growing demand for space. With the space required to minister to the hundreds of children and teens we see each and every week, there is simply no way for us to provide the additional space needed for our adult Bible studies to meet on campus. Therefore, it is necessary for our adult Bible study groups to meet in the homes of LSC members and attendees.

We believe they are a biblical model for reaching our community. Having our adult Bible study groups meet in homes follows the example of the Church in the New Testament. In the Book of Acts, we find that the Church was breaking bread “from house to house.” This tells us that the early Church met and fellowshiped in houses rather than exclusively in church buildings. This allows for a greater impact on our community as we seek to invite and involve them in our Bible studies. So, it would appear that our current space limitations are forcing us to be creative, intentional, and biblical.

Did we mention that we are out of space? *It’s amazing how willingly you will do something biblical when it is the only practical thing left to do.*

LifeGroup PURPOSE

TO PROVIDE AN ONGOING SMALL GROUP ENVIRONMENT WHERE PARTICIPANTS EXPERIENCE SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY.

Spiritual Growth

Intimacy with God
Influence with Outsiders
Community with Insiders

Authentic Community

Accountability
Belonging
Care

Question: How do you define a LifeGroup?

Answer: LifeGroups are made up of five to six couples or five to eight individuals and are the place where people are personally encouraged and challenged in their relationship with God and each other.

Question: Why does LifeSpring Church do LifeGroups?

Answer: We believe that it is in the context of intentional relationships where significant life change takes place best. LifeGroups are the place where real life and real issues are discussed. This is the environment to celebrate the successes and good times of life and to comfort one another in the tough and disappointing times. It is a place to be encouraged, equipped and challenged to grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ.

Practically speaking, there is no way for the staff or leaders of LSC to personally minister to everyone who attends our church. That's why we place such a high premium on group life. It's how we minister effectively at LifeSpring.

Question: When do LifeGroups meet?

Answer: Each LifeGroup decides when and where it wants to meet. Most groups meet at least three times a month during the school year. During the summer months, however, most groups take a break from meeting or simply meet once a month.

Question: How is childcare provided for LifeGroups?

Answer: Each group is responsible to devise their own childcare option. These options may include each parent arranging for childcare during their meetings, group members taking turns watching the children, or any number of other arrangements. Because of various concerns, however, we do encourage each LifeGroup member to provide for their own childcare needs. LifeGroups meeting on Sunday morning will have childcare provided at the church.

Question: Is childcare available for single parents in groups?

Answer: Childcare is provided for single adults through our childcare reimbursement program. Single adults arrange for childcare during their LifeGroup meeting, and they are reimbursed at a pre-determined rate. Childcare reimbursement forms are available online and are filed for each group meeting individually. Reimbursement for childcare is available to single parents only. See the childcare form for more information.

Question: What's the next step for people who get connected into a group at LifeLink?

Answer: Typically, those who join a group at LifeLink leave with the time and location for their group's meeting. Group leaders, likewise, leave LifeLink with the contact information for the individuals who have decided to start attending their group. If further contact or follow-up is needed, the leader will be sure to contact the appropriate new members. Otherwise, each new attendee should make plans to attend the next group meeting.

How To CHOSE A LifeGROUP

WHEN PEOPLE ARE LOOKING TO CONNECT TO A NEW LifeGROUP, THEY TYPICALLY USE THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- **STAGE of life**
- **AREA of TOWN**
- **Day/NIGHT of THE WEEK**

While area of town and day/night of the week are pretty self-explanatory, the stage of life criteria can be a bit confusing. Hopefully, the following classifications will help.

Stage of life classifications:

Ages 20-35—Young Adults

Ages 35-45—Young Median Adults

Ages 45-55—Median Adults

Ages 55-65—Older Median Adults

Ages 65 & Up—Older Adults

Please remember that these are general guidelines, not hard and fast barriers. We do, however, encourage individuals and couples to try to select a group which fits their current life stage. We have found that it is difficult for a leader to create an authentic community with single adults and married couples together in the same group. Or, for instance when a median adult couple chooses to go to a young adult couples group, it is difficult to have authentic community. This is not to say that we cannot learn from each other. The disparity in life circumstances, however, limits the connection and accountability that is possible in a mixed-season-of-life group.

JUST SO YOU KNOW...

Each of our LifeGroup leaders is well aware of the fact that their group may not be a perfect fit for everyone. You will find, however, that their number one priority is for you to find the group that works for you. So, if you sign-up for a group and decide that it isn't a good fit, you are not obligated to stay in that group. You are free to find the group that works for you without having to worry about offending any of our LifeGroup leaders.

It will also be helpful for you to be aware that the goal for each of our LifeGroups is multiplication. There are several reasons why we feel that each group should reproduce itself.

Better Communication. The larger a group becomes, the less likely individuals are to express their opinion or share circumstances in their lives. Smaller groups help solve this problem.

More Connections. Whenever a new group is formed, its members are more likely to invite new people to attend with them. In short, when new groups are formed, new people come.

Development of new leaders. For every new group that is formed, a new leader must step up to lead it. This gives individuals the opportunity to discover and develop their spiritual gifts.

We say all this so that you will be aware of our goals and expectations. We also want you to know that the group you join will change over time *and that is OK.*