

Vision for Life Groups at Life Church

Nowhere does the Bible encourage “lone ranger” Christians. As the church, we need one another. Spiritual growth and discipleship is a group process, involving all the body of Christ. We cannot fully grow and mature as Christ intends alone.

However, our culture devalues personal relationships and even many in the church no longer see the value in them:

“Fewer than one out of every five adults firmly believes that a congregational church is a critical element in their spiritual growth... Only 17% of adults said that “a person’s faith is meant to be developed by involvement in a local church.” Even evangelicals and born-again Christians generally dismissed that notion: only one-third of all evangelicals... endorsed the concept.”

- George Barna, April 2006

The Bible is clear that we are not intended to live our life in isolation. It’s in the context of a group that we are challenged, refined, encouraged and strengthened. In 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 Paul makes one of the strongest arguments in the New Testament for the importance and value of the body of Christ. While we do have an *individual* responsibility for how we respond to Christ and grow, the church and Christ centered relationships such as those found in a Life Group play an essential role as well. Using the analogy of the different parts of the body Paul says in verses 21-23:

“The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty.”

Most people have not experienced, or do not know where to find and develop Christ centered relationships in their life outside of the church. Even in a church the size of Life Church, meeting and developing relationships on Sundays is nearly impossible. This is why Life Groups are central to all we do at Life Church.

One cannot read the Bible without encountering the “one another” passages and commands spread throughout (over 50 alone in the New Testament.) These can only be accomplished in the context of relationships with other Christians in an environment such as a Life Group. Here is a sampling of the “one another” passages:

Honor one another (Rom. 12:10)

Live in harmony with one another (Rom. 12:16)

Don’t pass judgment on one another (Rom. 14:13)

Accept one another (Rom. 15:7)

Serve one another (Gal. 5:13)

Be patient, bearing with one another in love (Eph. 4:2)

Be kind & compassionate to one another, forgiving each other (Eph. 4:32)

Encourage one another (1 Thes. 5:11; Heb. 10:25)

Confess your sins to each other (James 5:16)

Pray for each other (James 5:16)
Offer hospitality to one another (1 Peter 4:9)

Greet one another with a kiss of love (1 Peter 5:14)

Life Church Model of Ministry

Life Groups aren't just part of what we do at Life Church, they are what we build everything else around.

Traditional Model: Only pastor and staff minister to people, get vision from God, pass down decisions, coordinate activities and outreach, etc.

Life Group Model: Pastor and staff equip Life Group Leaders and individuals who minister empowered by the Holy Spirit to those God has brought around them, pursue God's vision for their group, respond to outreach and service opportunities, etc. (Ephesians 4, 1 Peter 2)

Life Group leaders are *co-laborers* in the Kingdom of God with the ministry team at Life Church. As part of a Life Group leadership team you may have the opportunity to minister in the following ways:

- Counseling
- Home Visits
- Funerals
- Weddings
- Hospital Visits
- Crisis Situations

Thank You for making yourself available to lead those God brings to your Life Group. You will be able to do all God has called you to do because according to Philippians 4:13, '... you can do all things through Christ who strengthens you.'