

FAQs About Life Groups

- ***What do life groups do?*** - Life groups seek to become small group communities of word-centered application and gospel care for those who attend FBC. We do this by gathering consistently to do life together. Regular group meetings generally include: hospitable fellowship, Bible discussion, and prayer. Groups are also encouraged to go on social outings and serve together.
- ***When do life groups meet?*** - Life groups may meet any day and time of the week that is most suitable for the group. A life group's leaders will be asked to choose a consistent weekly day and time.
- ***Where do life groups meet?*** - Life groups primarily meet in homes. This provides a relaxed and hospitable environment. One person/couple may host the group every week, or your group may consider rotating meeting locations.
- ***How often do life groups meet?*** - Life groups meet weekly, September through May. However, life groups may choose to take time off from Thanksgiving through Christmas or other times when the group deems it necessary, such as spring break or Easter. The goal is to meet weekly as often as possible.
- ***Why do life groups meet weekly?*** - Meeting weekly is of value for a couple of reasons. First, most of us gravitate toward daily and weekly schedule rhythms. Although a monthly or bi-monthly rhythm is possible, it's not as easy to keep as daily or weekly rhythms. Secondly, the primary goal of life groups is to do life together. This is most effectively accomplished as we meet often and consistently. We connect more deeply with one another as we spend quality and frequent time together. Although it would be great to meet daily, that would not be possible for most people in our current culture.
- ***How long am I committing to a life group?*** - Once you commit to a life group, the goal is that you would participate in the same life group for one year (at least September - May). Although you are welcome to continue in the same life group for multiple years.
- ***How do I join a life group?*** - If you already know someone in a life group, ask them. If not, you may join a group in one of the following ways: (A) Fill out a Life Group Interest Card at the Welcome Center; (B) sign up for a life group on the church website; or, (C) contact the church office. If you fill out an interest card or contact the office, the church staff will help you find a group. A life group leader will follow up with you. Then, you will have the opportunity to participate in the group for 2-3 weeks. At that point, you may either commit to the group or try a different group that may be a better fit.
- ***What do life groups study?*** - Life groups primarily follow sermon-based studies. Each week (September–mid-November and January–May), sermon-based questions will be

published on the church website as a way of helping life groups consider and make applications that are word-centered.

- **Who can be a life group leader?** - Life group leaders are selected by the church staff. Life group leaders must be FBC church members or in process of becoming church members. They must be growing in the biblical character of a deacon, and have a shepherd's heart toward others. We are looking for people who are humble, hospitably social, flexible in personality, and administratively responsible.
- **Can life groups meet during the summer?** - Yes, life groups may continue meeting during the summer, if desired. We encourage life group members to stay connected during the summer, even if they are not scheduling regular gatherings.
- **Can life groups plan social outings?** - Yes, life groups should participate in social outings and gatherings together. These are especially important as a group gets to know one another. These social gatherings may take place on the life group's scheduled meeting day or on a different day—whatever is best for those in the group.
- **What about childcare?** - Each life group will be responsible for determining how they will handle childcare. There are many options for how groups can care for their children, while still meeting weekly.

Child Care Options:

- **Individual Sitters** - Each family in a life group selects and coordinates their own childcare, as needed.
- **Group Sitter** - The group coordinates childcare for the entire group.
- **“Rotation Schedule”** - Each week, group meetings look different: couples only, families together, guys only, ladies only.
- **“Group Swap”** - Identify a group that meets on a different day of the week. Create a schedule so that a couple of people rotate (from each group) to provide childcare for the other group's meetings.