

# FAQs of Life Groups

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Winter 2011-12

## **What is a Life Group?**

- Life Groups are groups of 8-16 people who meet weekly in homes around Madison and the surrounding communities, during the school year (September-May)
- Most groups discuss the week's message, but some groups study a book of the Bible or another curriculum.
- The group members get to know each other, pray for one another, support each other and have fun together.

## **When do groups start?**

The winter season of Life Groups starts the week of January 8, 2012 and runs for 10 weeks.

## **How often do groups meet?** Weekly

## **Can I sign up for more than one group?**

We prefer people not sign up for more than one group.

**When will I hear from the group leader or know when I have gotten into a group?** All people signing up for a group will receive a confirmation email from the Life Group Ministry within a couple of days.

## **How long of a commitment am I signing up for?**

People are signing up for the winter season, which is 10 weeks (college groups run the full school semester). If the group members and the leader want to stay together after that they will continue on into the next season together.

## **What if a group does not fill up?**

If a group is too small we may suggest that you join another group. Our goal is to set everyone up for success and having critical mass for a group is one way of doing that.

## **What if a group is not a good fit for me?**

If a group is not a good fit you are free to see if there are other open groups for you to join. We do, however, encourage group members to give it at least four weeks. Relationships take time to build and grow, and starting can often be the hardest part.

### **Can a dating couple join a couples LG?**

(We would define couple as married or engaged, both attending the group together.) We would prefer a dating couple to join an individuals mixed group or each person join a separate group with all men or women.

**If I attend at the Brader Way location can I join a Downtown Life Group or vice versa?** You are free to join any group you would like. Many people prefer to be in a group with others who attend the same site, but any group will work. Keep in mind that many groups are made up of people from both sites.

### **When do groups meet?**

Most groups meet in the evening, Sunday - Thursday. Some of our men's and women's groups meet in the morning. Group meetings usually last 1.5-2 hours.

### **What types of groups are available?**

Many of our groups form around stages of life (young couples, 20/30s, 30/40s, empty nesters, etc.). We also have multigenerational, college age and young family groups.

### **What should I expect when I go?**

Life Groups are shaped by their members, and each has its own personality, but in general, you can expect weekly gatherings of conversation, food, prayer and discussion of a Bible passage or topic. Life Groups are not classes and the leader isn't necessarily an expert with all the answers. As groups discuss the Bible, members are able to ask questions, share learning, and encourage each other in applying the message to everyday life.

Our groups also serve together. Sometimes that happens during the regularly scheduled meeting time; at other times it happens outside the meeting.

### **Can I bring my children to group?**

Life Groups are designed for adults. For most groups with children, the men and women alternate meeting and occasionally the whole group meets together. The structure for Young Family Groups is unique, but we know that adults connect best with few distractions. For more information on the format of Young Family Life Groups, contact

[lifegroups@blackhawkchurch.org](mailto:lifegroups@blackhawkchurch.org).



life groups