

FAQs about Life Groups

What is a Life Group?

- Life Groups are groups of 8-16 people that meet weekly in homes around Madison and the surrounding communities during the school year (September – May) and discuss the week's message (sermon).
- The group members get to know each other, pray for one another, serve together, discuss the previous Sunday message and have fun together.

How often do groups meet?

Groups meet weekly on a seasonal schedule. That means groups are designed around a Fall/Winter/Spring schedule and each season lasts about 10-12 weeks. This creates easy on ramps for people, and easy off ramps for people if needed. After the 10-12 week season is done, groups can choose whether or not to keep meeting for the next season.

Can I sign up for more than one group?

We prefer people not sign up for more than one group in order to create enough space for others.

How long of a commitment am I signing up for?

People are signing up for one Life Group season (fall, winter, spring), which is 10-12 weeks long (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 Life 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. This, however, is a decision the group will make together.

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.

If I attend at the Brader Way location can I join a Downtown/Fitchburg Life Group or vice versa?

It is our desire as a church to create intentional community at each site. Therefore, we encourage you to join a group at the site you attend. However, if you find a group at another site and it works for your schedule by all means join that group.

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 marrieds, 20s/30s, 30s/40s, young families, empty nesters, multigenerational, etc.). Groups can be single gender or coed.

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 from the previous Sunday message. 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.

What are the expectations of the group members in a Life Group?

- Show up: You are an important part of the group. Your presence matters. If you don't go, you will be missed.
- Join in: Your thoughts are important to the group. Don't be afraid to join in. We all learn from each other.
- Be real: Come as you are and be yourself. That's all we ask

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 and looks a little different for each group, but we know that adults connect best with few distractions. How childcare is handled is determined by each group.

I'm interested! How can I sign up?

Information about Life Group sign-ups is posted on our website:

https://my.blackhawkchurch.org/portal/group_finder.aspx

Who do I contact with questions about Life Groups?

You can reach Tiffany at lifegroups@blackhawkchurch.org or 608.828.4200.

Interested in leading a Life Group?

Contact Carmen at cboyd@blackhawkchurch.org or 608.828.4200.