

Small Groups thrive on participation. What is a covenant? It's an agreement between two or more parties. The purpose of this covenant is to help you to discuss and clarify your group's goals, expectations and commitments.

LIFE GROUPS: THEIR PURPOSE

Life Groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth through meaningful relationships and the study of God's Word (Colossians 1:28 & Hebrews 10:24, 25). We'll do this by focusing on four primary activities:

SHARE

Each week we'll take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first this sharing will include planned "sharing questions." But after the first few weeks, it will become more informal and personal as we feel more comfortable

STUDY

Each week we'll study a section from God's Word that relates to the previous weekend's sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to learn and apply how to live out our Christianity in everyday life.

Our goal is to interact interpersonally on the topic and how we can practically follow Christ, not to answer all the questions.

SUPPORT

Each week we'll learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (John 15:9-13). This care can take many forms such as prayer, encouragement, listening, challenging one another and meeting real needs.

SERVE

Spiritual Growth is fostered not only by what we gain through the support and input of others, but also through service to others. The role each of us fills is important to the health of the church and for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to our community (Ephesians 4:11-16). Throughout the quarter, it is our hope that you can find and/or be affirmed in the ways God has designed you to serve, and make a difference in God's Kingdom.

FIVE MARKS OF A HEALTHY GROUP

For our group to be healthy, we need to...

1. Make spiritual growth our priority (Colossians 1:28).

Tangents - they are okay sometimes, but sometimes we need to be refocused.

CONTINUED, LIFE GROUP COVENANT LEADER NOTES

2. Accept one another (Romans 15:7).
We will have different preferences.
3. Take care of one another (John 13:34).
When crisis happens we're there with support, prayer, encouragement, listening, meals, etc.
4. Treat each other with respect (Ephesians 4:25-5:2)
 - **Listening to one another, if one's talking lets all listen, nothing worse than two conversations going on at once.**
 - **Our goal is to listen, not give advice (Advice is given when asked for). We are not here to judge or fix , unless someone asks.**
 - **Some of us have the gift of gab, also known as a dominator - be careful. As a leader, I might have to help you**
 - **Be careful of gossip prayers. For example, "we need to pray for (person's name) because they are doing this..."**
 - **No put downs.**
 - **What is said here, stays here - unless what's shared would be harmful to yourself or someone else, and/or if I as a leader need to seek counsel on how to respond to an issue in the group.**
5. Keep our commitments to the group (Psalm 15:1-2, 4 b)
 - **Please give us a call if you can't make it to Life Group so we know what's going on and how to pray for you.**