



LIFE GROUPS

BE LOVED. BELONG. BE YOU.



GRACE ROAD

CHURCH



LIFE GROUPS PURPOSE & VISION

Life Groups are perhaps the most important ministry available through the church. God created people with a powerful desire to belong. We believe community is essential to living a healthy and vibrant life. That's why we are committed to making sure everyone in the church can easily find their place to belong.

Life Groups are also about taking care of the people God brings to the church by creating an environment for spiritual growth. We believe growth happens “organically” as the Holy Spirit works in our every day lives. We consider Life Groups the hub of our church because it's about people living their lives together, unified by the Holy Spirit.

Life Groups are designed to promote Christ-centered relationships and foster the consistent renewing of the mind to God's Word. It's our passion to see every member of the church actively engaged in a sponsored Life Group.



LIFE GROUPS LEADERSHIP

Life Group leaders are ambassadors of “Belong” and facilitators of spiritual growth. What an exciting opportunity! Although being a Life Group leader is a commitment, it can also be very rewarding. Make no mistake, leading a group is the front lines of ministry.

The process of becoming a leader begins with lots of prayer. Although no formal ministry training or background is required, the church expects leaders to adequately follow the program. This involves some time commitment beyond the actual meetings. However, for those with a passion to lead a group, these minor details shouldn't feel like a burden at all.

LEADING A LIFE GROUP

- Must be a regular member of Grace Road Church
- Must understand and believe in the church vision
- Must complete a Life Groups overview session
- Must sign the Life Groups commitment statement
- Must follow the program's leadership requirements
- No teaching is needed or required during Life Group sessions
- No formal ministry training is necessary



WHAT DO LIFE GROUPS LOOK LIKE?

STATIONS-IN-LIFE OR SIMILAR INTERESTS

Life Groups are designed to connect people who currently share a common stage in life (Station-in-Life) or similar interest. Stations-in-Life might include singles, young families, parents of teens, or young professionals. Similar interests might include musicians, cyclers, mountaineers, or painters. We strongly encourage people to choose a group based on these categories, not based on the meeting location.

LIFE GROUP MEETING CATEGORIES

Life Groups will purposefully engage in the following four categories during each weekly session:

- 1. FELLOWSHIP:** Each week you'll spend time hanging out and enjoying each other. It may be awkward at first, but not for long.
- 2. SHARE:** Each week you'll take time to share what's happening in your lives. Over time, the sharing will become more informal and personal as you get to know each other.
- 3. STUDY:** Each week you'll study a section from God's Word that relates to the previous Sunday's sermon. Study materials will be provided in advance so you are prepared for the discussion.
- 4. SUPPORT:** Each week you'll support one another. This may include prayer, encouragement, listening, or meeting a real need.



WHEN AND WHERE DO LIFE GROUPS MEET?

FALL, WINTER & SPRING SESSIONS

Each Life Group session lasts 9 to 11 weeks. We have Fall, Winter and Spring sessions. At the end of each session, you will have the choice of staying in the same group, trying a new group, or even taking a break. Life Groups do not meet during the Summer.

WEEKLY MEETINGS

When Life Groups are in session, they meet on various nights of the week in homes throughout Black Diamond, Maple Valley, Ravensdale and Enumclaw. There may be daytime group meetings too. Most groups meet for about two hours.

2017-2018 CALENDAR

- FALL SESSION: SEP 17 - NOV 12
- WINTER SESSION: DEC 10 - FEB 04
- SPRING SESSION: APR 01 - MAY 27
- SUMMER SESSION: NO LIFE GROUPS

A new calendar will be published during the Summer of 2018.



LIFE GROUPS LOGISTICS

CHILD CARE

Life Groups are for adults only (exceptions can be made for nursing newborns, up to six months). Each family is responsible for planning their own child care. Sometimes it works best for families to share a sitter or swap child care with another family whose group meets on a different day.

COSTS

Very few things in life are free, and Life Groups are no exception. The cost of Life Groups is your commitment! During the first meeting, each group will complete a “covenant form” together.

LEAVING A GROUP

The covenant commitment includes a promise to attend each week and complete the homework. Your participation is needed for the group to be successful, but it only lasts for nine weeks. However, each person has the first three weeks to decide if they’re in the right group.

SIGN UP

Before each Life Group session begins, there are several ways to sign up. You can visit the church website at TheGraceRoad.org and find the Life Groups page. Also, at our weekend services there’s a sign up sheet. Or, you can simply speak with a Life Group leader for help.