

lifegroups

WHAT A TYPICAL LIFE GROUP LOOKS LIKE

Preparation....30-60 minutes (prior to the gathering and on your own) Preparation and communication are crucial for developing a thriving community:

- Group members complete the assigned material for the upcoming gathering.
- Group members receive a phone call or e-mail from the Life Group Communicator telling them when, where, and what to bring (food, etc.) to the next gathering.

Community Building 30-40 minutes
Sharing a meal together every week creates a friendly atmosphere where strangers can become friends. The meal is a potluck where everyone brings something. Don't over-organize it, and keep it simple. The meal becomes a metaphor for the group because everyone brings something different to the table. Circle around the food, thank God for it, eat, and have some great conversations together! When you're finished, be sure everyone jumps in to help clean up quickly.

Discussion 60-80 minutes
Your Life Group Facilitator will help the group spend this time discussing what God has said, what God has done, and what God is doing in our lives! During discussion, we will share specific action steps we are going to take with the material we are focusing on. Commit to hold each other accountable to follow through on specific action steps. It's less about "What do you like about this Bible verse?" and more about "What are you going to do about this Bible verse?"

Communication 5-10 minutes
Your Life Group Communicator will take this time to prepare the entire group for next week's Life Group gathering. This is an important time to talk about things like:

- Where are you meeting next week?
- What are we eating next week?
- Who was missing tonight?
- Who is going to call them and see how they are doing?
- What announcements do we need to make?
- What are some of the current needs in this group, or in the neighborhood, and how can we come together to meet them?

Prayer..... 1-10 minutes
Prayer is an important part of Biblical community, so it's essential that it takes place more than just within a Life Group gathering. During the Life Group gathering there may be a short closing prayer, other times the group will break into smaller groups to pray for an extended period of time. However, some of the most meaningful prayer times will take place when accountability partners are assigned, and they each set aside time to pray for each other and the needs of others. It also makes a big impact when group members get together outside of the regular meeting time to pray together during the week.

When the Gathering is Over..... 2-5 minutes
Group members work together to pick up, clean up, and take out the trash at the host home.

