

Life Groups

To be structured for spiritual growth, a church must have a method in place to consistently connect people to both significant relationships and the Bible. The best tool Larry Osborn and several other large church pastors have ever seen for connecting people to one another and engaging them with the Bible for the long haul is sermon-based small groups. These groups are a lecture-lab model for studying the weekend sermon in-depth during the week.

Purpose and Major Benefits:

- 1) They help people connect to God, his Word, and one another.
- 2) They shut the backdoor of the church.
- 3) They are structured for discipleship and spiritual growth.
- 4) They encourage honesty and transparency.
- 5) They help people develop spiritual disciplines.
- 6) They help children and youth by allowing them to see their parents growing spiritually.
- 7) They allow for natural evangelism, natural follow up, and natural assimilation.
- 8) They help people understand and apply what they hear in church.
- 9) They provided opportunities for serving one another and our community.
- 10) They allow people to socialize outside of the church.

Biblical Foundational Purpose: Christian Fellowship, Discipleship, and Ministry (not evangelism)

Definition: Life groups are groups of 6-8 couples (12-16 people total) or 8-12 singles who meet to: be in community with one another, study God's word together, pray for each other, and serve one another.

Schedule:

- These groups will meet in a home or at the church at whatever time is best for the host/group.

- They can meet at church on Wednesday nights because there is free childcare and their attendance will encourage their kids to attend youth group and children's programming.
- I'm discouraging meeting Sunday Mornings to encourage small churches. Building priorities and programming priorities will be for small churches from 9:00-11:30AM.

- Flexible Schedule (Each group will look slightly different)
 - 10-15 minutes: Refreshments and fellowship
 - 15-30 minutes: Cheers, Tears and Prayer Requests
 - 45 minutes: Sermon based study.
 - Getting to know me questions.
 - Into to the Bible Questions
 - Application question
 - There will be questions about Pastor Bill's sermon plus a section of Scripture or additional verses on the topic Pastor Bill preached about.
 - 15-30 minutes Prayer
 - Total 1:30-1:45
 - Optional hangout time afterwards.
 - Several factors can affect each team's schedule

Sermon Based Studies will:

- Greatly enhance Pastor Bill's ability to teach and reach our congregation.
- Keep our adults studying the same material.
- Encourage us to apply what he is teaching.
- Allow others to help us understand and allow them to sharpen us as well.
- Be much easier for average leader to prepare for.

Leader Responsibilities:

- Prepare for and lead the meeting.
- Designate where you are meeting each week.
- Attend all training meetings.
- Keep in touch with the spiritual needs of your group members.
- Keep in touch with your coach or pastor.
- Complete weekly attendance sheets.
- Care for members

- Visit members in the hospital
- Pray for them
- Consider appointing someone to oversee the delegation of snacks each week.

Service project coordinator (Team volunteer)

Plan 2-4 service projects.

Consider partnering with a Small Church.

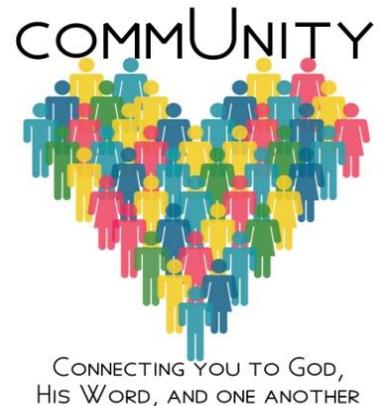
(Examples coming soon)

Social Committee (Team Volunteers)

Plan 2-4 events just for fun.

Consider partnering with a small church and please consider using social opportunities provided by the fellowship committee.

(Examples coming soon)



Childcare:

Childcare will be arranged by each group or by individuals within each group. Free childcare on Wednesday nights from 7:00-8:15. JH-SH youth 7:00-8:30.

Optional Missions Captain Adopt a missionary. Keep your team updated four times per year on what your team missionary is doing. Find a way to serve and bless your missionary as a team service project: Send them letters of encouragement from your group. Take up a special offering. Buy Christmas gifts for their kids. Send them a care package. Raise money for a ministry need or a personal need of the missionary.

Entry points and escape routes:

- We will begin with a ten week commitment.
- Anyone can dropout by week two with no questions asked.
- Team leaders can begin to assemble their groups as soon as they meet with Kelley.
- Pastor Bill's first sermon for Life Groups will be on Aug 18, and groups are encouraged to begin anytime after Aug. 18.
- As people dropout we will have people waiting to join groups.
- We will have another round of signups in January.
- Signups will run from Aug. 21-Sept. 11

I'd like to lead a group:

Contact Kelley at 627-3678 or on my cell at 704-2207.

Next Leader Training is Aug. 31 from 7:00-9:00 (I'll make it shorter if possible)

Ideal Group:

- Couple #1 **Core**-Close friends and people closely connected to GMC
- Couple #2 Core
- Couple #3 Core
- Couple #4 **Congregation**-People occasionally associated with GMC, but not overly involved or connected.
- Couple #5 Congregation
- Couple #6 **Community**-People we want to get involved. People seeking God. Lost.
- Couple #7 Community/Open
- Couple #8 **Open**-Open is a spot we can add someone to.

Please Pray for us: Starting new things can be exciting and challenging. Change can be hard and change can bring new life. I need God to give me wisdom and help me succeed. I pray this new program will be rooted in Scripture and God's call for Christian community and fellowship. I pray Life Groups truly help us connect with God, his Word, and one another. I pray God gives us enough leaders and really helps us connect everyone to a group.

Kickoff-Sept.11th 11:15-12:45. Food, Fun, Fellowship-signups and recruitment.

Key Scripture Verses:

2 Corinthians 13:11-Be joyful. Grow to maturity. Encourage each other. Live in harmony and peace. Then the God of love and peace will be with you.

Romans 12:9-13-Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. ¹⁰Love each other with genuine affection,^[a] and take delight in honoring each other. ¹¹Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically.^[b] ¹²Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. ¹³When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.