



SEPTEMBER 11 LIFE GROUPS REDEFINING COMMUNITY



POTLUCK & COVENANT WEEK

This week, we start our fall session of Life Groups with a dinner and covenant meeting. Your Life Group leaders should have contacted you by now to make sure you know the time and location of the meeting, as well as what to expect for the first gathering. If you have not heard from your Life Group leaders, please contact Stacy Sullivan at (818) 709-0113, ext. 105, and she will help you get connected.

The Life Group Covenant explains the purpose of your Life Group, clarifies the expectations for being a part of your Life Group, and explains what you are committing to for this session. Your covenant will look different based on whether you are in a digital (Zoom) group or an in-person group.

As you prepare for your meeting, make sure to take some time to answer the questions in the study and then bring them with you to your first meeting.

Finally, we are providing less space for answers on this sheet, so make sure to have a journal handy to write down your answers.

Enjoy!



GETTING STARTED

This weekend we took a one-week pause from our series in 1 Corinthians and heard a special message casting vision for the launch of our fall session of Life Groups. In this message, we gained a deeper understanding of why small group community matters and what the essential commitments are for us to have a healthy, thriving and vibrant community throughout our Life Groups.

As you begin the study, take a moment to reflect on the verse below:

*Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. **Acts 2:46-47***



GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

You're on a 90-day trip across the United States with your spouse or a very good friend. You can go anywhere you want, at any time you want and ALL expenses for the 90 days are covered. The one caveat is that you can only use one form of transportation and CANNOT change that form of transportation throughout your trip. Your three forms of transportation are: a private jet, a luxury train, or a 2022 Ford Expedition. Which do you choose? Why?



STUDY QUESTIONS

1. The primary passage from this weekend's message was Acts 2:42-47. Read through this passage slowly two or three times.
 - a. Write down any words or phrases that God highlights for you.
 - b. What is it about those words or phrases that caught your eye?
2. One of the points that Dre made this weekend was that *Commitment Is The Foundation of Community*.
 - a. Why do you think that commitment in Life Groups is such an important factor in creating community?
 - b. When you think of a healthy, vibrant and thriving community, what are some values that are present in that community?
3. In the message, Dre shared *Three Essential Commitments* that set apart the Life Group community in the church—distinct from any other community we could be involved in. The three commitments were:
 - a. *Spiritual Growth*
 - b. *Loving One Another*
 - c. *Adding Others*

Of these three essentials, which one is your strength that you can *bring with you* to the Life Group?

What essential area would you like to grow in this Life Group session? Why?

4. The final question from the message this weekend was *What Are You Bringing To Community?* Dre used the analogy of a potluck. We all bring something to a potluck, but if someone doesn't bring the main course, we all miss out. The same is true for our Life Groups—we all have something to *intentionally bring* to group each week. Based on Dre's analogy, how would you answer his final question to us?



LOOKING FORWARD

1. What are you most looking forward to in this Life Group session?
2. What one thing would you like God to do in your life this Life Group session?



TOPICAL PRAYER

Prayer is an important part of each Life Group. Often those who are new to a Life Group are intimidated by praying aloud if they have never done it before. Others are so comfortable with prayer that they can take over the prayer time without meaning to. For these reasons we suggest practicing topical prayer to help your group get comfortable praying together. Here are three basic guidelines:

1. Focus on a Single Topic/Request at a Time

Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request. Once a topic is introduced, one or two members pray for that request. Then the Life Group Leader will direct the prayer time by sharing the next topic/request.

2. Pray Several Times Together

By focusing on one topic at a time, each member has an opportunity to pray at different times for the requests they are most passionate about.

3. Keep Requests/Prayers Short and Simple

By keeping both requests and prayers short and simple, everyone has a chance to share and pray. This helps those who are new to prayer feel more comfortable praying. It also helps everyone stay focused during your time of prayer together.