



SEPTEMBER 10 LIFE GROUPS MADE FOR THIS



POTLUCK & COVENANT WEEK

This week, we start our fall session of Life Groups with a potluck 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 an in-person group or a digital 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 Romans and heard a special message from Joel casting vision for the launch of our fall session of Life Groups. In this message, we gained a deeper understanding of the challenges of being in relationship and why it is so important that we fight through these challenges and step into authentic relationship with other believers.

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

*Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. **Hebrews 10:23-25***



GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

For the first three weeks we will be doing an icebreaker at the opening of our study time together. This will help us get to know one another better.

God has called you to go on a short-term mission trip. You are intimidated, but you sense that this is a true calling from God. Where is He calling you to go and what is He calling you to do? FYI - *Mission trips can be done locally (Los Angeles), nationally (United States) or internationally (the world).*



STUDY QUESTIONS

1. The primary passage from this weekend's message was John 13:34-35. Read through this passage slowly two or three times and write down any words or phrases that God highlights for you.
 - a. What is it about those words or phrases that caught your eye?
 - b. What would it look like to love others more like Jesus loves you?
 - c. What would you have to change or give up? Would you have to repent of anything? Explain.
 - d. What steps would you need to take?
 - e. What would you gain in your relationships by taking these steps?
2. One of the statements that Joel made this weekend about following Jesus was "*Too often we want the benefits without the buy-in.*"
 - a. How have you wrestled with this mentality?
 - b. Think of some healthy, vibrant and thriving relationships in your life. What did it take to create those relationships? Why are those relationships important? Explain.
3. Joel talked about how we can only measure our transformation in community. He shared that "*You cannot be faithful in following Jesus if you **are not** walking in relationship with others.*" Read through Hebrews 10:23-25 & Galatians 5:22-23 and write down any words or phrases that God highlights for you.
 - a. What is it about those words or phrases that caught your eye?
 - b. Why do you think that it is so important to continue *meeting together*?
 - c. What does it look like to "*spur one another on toward love and good deeds*"?
 - d. Since we cannot measure transformation (e.g., the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, etc.) in isolation, how do you think God uses His community of believers to help us grow?
4. Joel shared three implications of the power of relationships:
 - a. We are revealed.
 - b. We are challenged.

c. We are inconvenienced.

- Which of these is most challenging for you? Why do you think that is?
- What has God taught you about yourself when revealed and challenged and inconvenienced in relationship?



LOOKING FORWARD

1. What are you most looking forward to in this Life Group session?
2. What's one thing you would 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.