

what life groups are all about

Life Groups are our main strategy for encouraging a life of following Jesus. These groups will be focused on learning four life-giving practices. These practices form the pattern of each group, and we will be sharing stories from our week of how these practices are growing in our lives:

- **Life-giving Prayer:** Prayer for the purpose of being with God rather than getting something from God. This kind of prayer is focused on God (The King) and what he is doing (building his Kingdom) rather than on what I want him to do for me. We often use the words “glory, honor, and thanks” from Rev. 4:9 to structure our time.
- **Life-giving Truth:** This is the practice of telling ourselves God’s truth over and over again so that it sinks into our hearts and changes us from the inside out. Practically, this means we will think through the truth which we learned in the Sunday Sermon. We will help each other process the truth of God’s Word together.
- **Life-giving Relationships:** This is an invitation to authenticity, being honest with yourself and others about what’s really going on in our hearts, clinging to the hope that God himself is able and willing to heal our brokenness as we seek him together. This is where learning the truths of grace and humility really will manifest itself. Being real is better than being perfect. Practically this means we will seek to pray for heart issues, not surface issues. For example, someone might want prayer for a job – he might be laid off. We want to know how we can pray for his heart – maybe he realizes that he is struggling with trusting God to care for him. And so we would pray God’s will in this area.
- **Life-giving Impact:** Prayer is the work! We use the pattern of “Pray & Watch” – where we pray for those all around us and then watch for how God is working in their lives. When we see the Lord working, then we both rejoice and respond.

Life Groups are what we do during the week—we don’t have other programs. So if you want to be involved beyond Sunday morning, this is for you! We have men’s, women’s, teen’s, and couples’ groups meeting. And if you want to learn more about these Four Life-giving practices and how they work, tell us you are interested in being part of our 4 week “Getting to know LEFC” where we share about these practices, our mission, and our values.



For the week starting Sunday,
August 14th, 2016

I will reign with Christ

Psalms 8

Life-giving Prayer (about 10 min)

1. Do you have any stories to share this week about worshiping God in the everyday stuff of life?

2. Try using the simple sentences below, filling in the blank. You could spend a bit of time on “glory”, people completing the sample sentence as many times as they want. Then move onto “Honor” and then “Thanks”.

Glory: God, it’s amazing that you _____.

Honor: God, I choose (or want or surrender) _____ to you.

Thanks: God, thank you for _____.

3. Look at the bulletin from Sunday. Go through the Scripture or a song and see if you can pick out statements that give God glory, honor, or thanks.

Life-giving Truth (about 45-55 min)

There are a lot of questions here. Your Life Group Coach will pick out a few below that are best suited for your Life Group to help process this week's Life-giving Truth. Don't try to answer every question – just think through a few together.

1. Read Psalms 8 out loud in your group. What do you notice, appreciate, find amazing, or find confusing about this passage?
2. What was one thing you learned from the sermon on Sunday?
3. What was one question you have from the sermon on Sunday?
4. Have you ever thought about the truth that “I will reign with Christ”? Does it seem presumptuous to you? Exciting? Weird?
5. Dig a bit: Read Psalms 8:5 and Hebrews 2:7. You'll notice Psalms has “heavenly beings” and Hebrews has “angels.” The actual word in Psalms 8:5 is “God” or “gods”. So why not translate it as “God/gods”? Remember that Psalms 8 is written entirely to God, and used lots of “you's”. So the fact David didn't say 'Yet you made him a little lower than yourself' is a clue. Hebrews 2:7 gets it right to recognize that this is not talking about God himself, but refers to beings greater in some sense than moral man. Angels are the only ones that fit that place. Consider how angels have a place “above” us in some respect in this current age: see Gal. 3:19, Acts 7:53, and Hebrews 2:2. Furthermore, they have a role in governing the world (Deut. 32:8, Dan. 10:10-21). And yet, in the age to come we will be over them in greater ways: 1 Cor. 6:3.
6. Look at other Passages: Read Hebrews 2:8. Notice how the key word the author focuses on is “subjection.” Now look at 1 Cor. 15:27. Where does your Bible cross-references say this passage in quotes is cited from? Then look at Eph. 1:20-22. Finally, look at Matthew 28:18. Consider spending a few moments giving Jesus glory, honor, and thanks for this truth about him, that he reigns over all.
7. Read Revelation 22:1-5. What are the things you notice about heaven, a place where Eden has been restored and renewed?
8. As you consider the world around us and how we do not yet see everything under the righteous reign of mankind made righteous, what are one or two aspects you long to see righteousness reigning in?

9. Justin say, “I certainly don't see how Jesus is reigning now. He might someday, but that's not guaranteed. Satan and God are in a long war, and there has been no decisive battle. In fact, I'd say Satan has had the upper hand for a long time.” How might you reply to Justin?

10. Are there any songs that help you remember that Jesus reigns and will reign?

11. Read over the parable of the Minas in Luke 19:11-27. What aspect of “reigning” does Jesus tell us about in his future kingdom?

Life-giving Relationships (about 5-10 min)

If we have prayed for you in the past weeks, have you seen any way, small or large, that God is healing you?

Does anyone want healing prayer this week? Remember, this is praying for the heart of you, the person, not the circumstances you are going through or other people in your life. Is there anything churning in your heart that we can pray for?

Life-giving Impact (about 10 min)

1. Does anyone have any Pray & Watch stories from this week? Did you make a plan and follow through with getting together with anyone on your Pray & Watch list?
2. Get your Pray & Watch list. Let's spend our last minute or two together praying over all these names together.