

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 21st, 2016

Jesus is our Avenging Judge

Psalms 9

Life-giving Prayer (about 10 min)

1. Do you have any stories to share this week about worshipping 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. Did you think about last week's truth *I will reign with Christ* last week? As you look back on the week, how did or might have this truth changed your perspective?
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. Read through Psalms 9. What are the things here which prompt David to give God glory?
5. Have you heard about this truth that “Jesus is our Avenging Judge” before? How does this aspect of Jesus fit with your mental picture of him?
6. Read through Psalms 9 and point out every time it talks about God being a judge, giving judgment, or avenging. Then, respond to this quote from Miroslav Volf: “God isn't wrathful in spite of being love. God is wrathful because God is love.”
7. Read Luke 18:1-8. That word “speedily” in verse 8 certainly doesn't feel like our timetable. But from God's perspective justice will be just that. Do you pray for justice? What are some justice matters you do (or think you would like to) pray for?
8. Read Ps. 9:8. Then look up Acts 10:42, Acts 17:30-31, and 2 Tim 4:1-2, Rev. 19:15. Then think how you'd respond to Anita: “Jesus said “don't judge” and he doesn't judge either. Like everyone says, 'Jesus loves you.' He came to save people, not punish them.”
9. Read Revelation 6:9-11. These people in heaven cry things very similar to David in Psalms 9 (see verses 12 & 19). God doesn't give us a timetable of when he will judge, but he gives us words to cry to him in sorrow and protest. How does using this language of lament and protest strike you? Is it something you want to use, or does it seem somehow “unchristian”?

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.