

## 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,  
October 2nd, 2016

**When I walk in the  
Light I will love others**

I John 2:7-11

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### 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. Did you think about last week's truth *Jesus is my Advocate* last week? As you look back on the week, how did or might have this truth changed your perspective?
2. Read 1 John 2:7-11. What was one thing you learned from the sermon on Sunday?
3. Why is loving others so hard?
4. Read John 13:31-35, words Jesus spoke after Judas left to betray him and before he was crucified. In what ways did Jesus love his disciples that was different from "normal" love?
5. Think about how love doesn't really show itself as true love unless there is adversity (or, to say it another way, the opportunity to hate). Read part of the "love chapter" in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. Go through and make a "Hate is impatient" opposite paraphrase. What stands out to you most as a manifestation of hate, thought of this way?
6. Read 1 John 2:7 and 3:11. Then, consider this quote from John Piper as he remarks on these verses: *"This is a very remarkable rebuke to typical gospel preaching and witnessing today. For John, the commandment of love belongs to what people should hear from the beginning! It is not an optional stage two in Christian growth. What people should hear when the gospel is preached is that Christ died for sinners and God offers forgiveness and hope and life-changing power to all who will trust in him. The gospel contains not only the commandment to trust Jesus, but also the commandment, in the power of that trust, to be changed into a loving person."* As you reflect upon what you've learned about the Christian walk, does walking in love figure prominently or not?
7. Holly, a woman in your church, has long been angry with her sister. Although you've not met her sister, Holly says she claims to be a Christian. They haven't spoken much in years. "She's a snake," says Holly. "She'll cuddle right up to you and then steal what she wants. She's a viper. I can't stand her." You've picked up she's been hurt and how bitterness, anger, and hate show in her voice. How do you think the truth "when I walk in the light" will strike her? And how might 1 John 2:11 help you understand what she is going through?

8. We are in an election year, and passions run high. What is your impression of some of your Christian friends? Are they conveying love even as they disagree with each other?

9. Think through the Lord's Prayer together. How might the concepts found in the Lord's prayer be a way to pray for help to love other people?

## 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.