

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 23rd, 2016

We will be like Jesus

I John 2:28-3:10

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. Last week's truth: Did you think about last week's Life-giving Truth *The Gospel Never Changes?* Was there a situation in your life this week when this Life-giving Truth was (or could have been) applicable?

2. Spend some time observing the text of 1 John 2:28-3:10. John is showing us in this text how the children of God act like their God, and the children of the devil act like the devil. Look for all the things God (either the Father or the Son) is like, and then look for parallel things his children are like. Not every blank will be filled in below – just look for everything that John mentions. One item is filled in:

The character of God	What children of God are like	The character of the devil	What the children of the devil are like
His is righteous 2:29; 3:7	Practices righteousness 2:29; 3:7; 3:10		

3. Have you ever heard the Life-giving truth “We will be like Jesus” before? What did you think of it?

4. Does the truth that Jesus will appear (1 John 2:28) excite you or scare you? Why?

5. Look up these Scripture passages. What do you discover about our resurrection bodies? Philippians 3:20-21, 1 Corinthians 13:8-12, 15:49-53, Romans 8:29, Colossians 3:4.

6. Look up these Scripture passages that tell us that God's goal for us is to be like Jesus: Romans 8:29, Ephesians 4:20-24, 2 Corinthians 3:18, Colossians 3:9-10. Reflect together on this question: If in heaven we will be like Jesus, why would we want to become like him now, on earth?

7. The first sentence of the 8th Article in our Statement of Faith (which we read together on Sunday) says, “We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose.” This means that those who are truly saved (truly born of God, that is, “justified”) will become more like Jesus (sanctified) in this life. Read again 1 John 3:3. Have you ever met someone who said they were trusting Jesus but had little or no desire to pursue purity and Christ-likeness in this life?

8. Pastor Tom made the point that the “practice of sin” John writes about is interrupted by repentance. He briefly described a “repentance circle”: We deviate from following Jesus when we sin but then the Holy Spirit convicts us. We confess our sin and meditate on Life-giving truth so that we might believe rightly about our sin and our transformation. And then we act – we obey. And we are following Jesus. As you consider this “repentance circle”, does anything seem missing to you? Would you be able to share an instance of repentance in your life?

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.