



life groups

worship connect serve

Q & A

- Q. What are Life Groups?**
- A. *Life Groups are places where you can connect with people who share your interests, people who are at a similar stage in life, or people who have expertise in an area you would like to grow in. Life Groups are designed to provide an opportunity to develop deeper friendships and are an ideal environment for spiritual growth. They also promote accountability relationships, maximum participation, serving within the church and reaching out to our community.*
- Q. Are Life Groups and Small Groups the Same Thing?**
- A. *Yes. At Peace we are using the designation Life Group rather than Small Group because we believe it more clearly communicates the focus and nature of what the groups are about: applying faith to life, discovering life, receiving life, etc.*
- Q. What are Life Groups about?**
- A. *Our Life Groups are as varied as we are. Life Group Leaders use their gifts and passions to create a group that allows others to join with them in serving God. Whatever your age or interest—Bible study, cooking, prayer, missions, reading, knitting, you name it—we've got a group that's just right for you.*
- We have 3 ways to connect in Life Groups at Peace:*
- *Bible Study and Christian Life*
 - *Serve*
 - *Special Interest*
- Q. Why should I be part of a group?**
- A. *There are three reasons to be in a Life Group. First, you'll be able to serve the community with a team of people like yourself. Second, you'll have the chance to make some new friends. Third, you'll grow as a person and you'll grow in your faith. A Life Group is where you can help make a difference, build friendships and become a stronger person in your walk with Christ.*
- Q. When can I join a Life Group?**
- A. *New groups form during our All-In Series twice a year (Fall and Spring), but there are some groups who welcome new members anytime. You don't have to wait for an All-In Series to join a group. We will help you find a group or help you start your own group anytime.*
- Q. Can I join more than one Life Group?**
- A. *Yes, you can be a part of as many Life Groups as you like.*
- Q. Where and When do Life Groups meet?**
- A. *Life Groups meet wherever it's convenient; in homes, the church, a coffee shop, parks, restaurants, or workplaces of group members. The most common practice for groups to meet is every other week for 1 ½ - 2 hours, though each group decides its own schedule (day or evenings)*
- Q. How often do Life Groups meet?**
- A. *Life Groups meet at least once a month. Some Life Groups may choose to meet more often as they are*

able. We want to make it possible for every group to be successful. We do encourage groups to meet weekly during our All-In Series.

Q. Who can join a Life Group?

Anyone can be a part of a Life Group. You can invite your friends or family who aren't connected to Peace to join you in your Life Group. A simple conversation will begin the process of finding or forming the right Life Group for you. Contact Christine Pearson at 443-758-7576 or garychris@reagan.com.

Q. How do I find a group?

The church can help you find one. Simply check the listing of our current groups or start your own with your friends and neighbors.

Q. Are Visitors Welcome to the Life Groups?

Visitors are always welcome. We should also encourage those in our own congregation who have not connected with a Life Group to do so as well.

Q. Who Would Be in My Group?

Groups consist of 3 – 12 people. We will try to find or help you create a group which is a good fit. If you have existing positive relationships with others, those can be great starting points for a new group.

Q. How Long is a Commitment to a Life Group?

We encourage an initial commitment of 6 – 7 weeks especially during our All-In Series. This is usually the length an All-In Series will last. It is long enough to give the group a chance to gel and give you a "taste" of what happens in an All-In Series Bible Study and Christian Life Group. Group members are never formally locked into a group, although we have some groups who have stayed together in some form for years.

Q. What if I want to try a different Life Group?

No problem. Not every group is the perfect fit the first time you go. The key is to find a group where you connect and have a relational fit, so don't hesitate to keep trying until you find a group that works for you. No one will be offended if you visit their group and end up settling into another one. Our concern is helping you find the group that's right for you.

Q. What Does a Life Group Do?

We pray, study and share life stories. We think three elements are essential building blocks for authentic relationships. It is the responsibility of the Life Group Leader to discern the needs of the group. Rather than prescribing how to pray, what to study, or who should tell their story, we trust the leader to thoughtfully guide the group toward an expression of community.

Q. What happens when a Life Group gets too big?

We encourage the "birth" of a new group. Together the Life Group Leader and Life Group Director walks the group through a process of discernment by asking the following questions:

- *Who among us would like to lead and host a new group in their home?*
- *Based on geography, how should we reorganize ourselves into 2 groups?*
- *Is there anyone in our neighborhood who might be interested in joining us?*

Q. What if I want to lead a group, but I haven't taught anything before.

We can help you find a study that you can feel comfortable leading. Many studies are DVD based, and if you can push the "play" button to get it started, you can simply lead a discussion after the bulk of the teaching is done. The bottom line - God equips those He calls and promises to provide wisdom if you

seek His face. We aren't looking for preachers, but simply people that are ready to make a difference in their communities.

Q. I want to start a group but I don't know what to study.

That's where we can help. We will help you every step of the way! We have training, resources, materials and people to walk alongside you as you start and lead a group.

Q. How do you do life groups with kids?

It depends on the group. Some groups may decide to incorporate kids into each activity. Others may choose to hire a babysitter. And lastly, some groups may share the responsibility, rotating each time they meet. Every group will discover what works for them.

MORE QUESTIONS?

Do you have more questions, or an idea for a Life Group, or are you interested in leading a Life Group? Contact Christine Pearson at 443-758-7576 or garychris@reagan.com.

