



LIFE GROUPS

BIBLICAL TEACHING



COMMUNITY



ON MISSION

WCBC LIFE GROUPS

At West Conroe Baptist Church our mission is "Connecting all Generations into God's Greater Journey." Led by the Lord we deeply desire to see people connect with Him and His people through Worship, Growth, and Service.

One of the most effective tools we have to do this is our Life Groups. These groups provide opportunities for people to connect relationally while taking next steps in their spiritual journey. The hope is for every Life Group to practice three things, which are our values:

Biblical Teaching

Providing Biblical wisdom for life's choices by studying His Word

Community

Fellowshipping with one another and meeting needs within the group

On Mission

Making disciples who serve the Lord

You can't do this alone! We are committed to walk alongside you every step of the way. Expect to lead and be led as we provide not only the opportunity for you to impact lives, but to be equipped and trained to do so. It's an incredible journey filled with many blessings.

LIFE GROUP BASICS

Life Group just doesn't happen. Anything worth accomplishing requires preparation. The experience of seeing people's lives transformed requires a road map, equipping, prayer, and the use of your gifting and abilities under the direction of the Lord. Below is the road map to help you move forward:

ENLIST people to participate in your Life Group

- Invite your FRAN's (Friends, Relatives, Acquaintances, Neighbors)
 - People you meet during the worship hour
 - Contact prospects listed on the e-mail sent out weekly
 - Participate in Group Link

ENGAGE Life Group participants in spiritual growth

- Provide a Biblical, life application Bible study
- Promote Discipleship resources to your group

EQUIP Life Group participants to serve through your group

- Assign people to bring snacks or plan fellowships for the group
- Work together to meet needs you discover within your group
- Let someone take attendance, send out e-mails, pray during the meeting
 - Tell them about Serve Central

EXTEND by encouraging participants to serve outside of the group

- Plan a service project for your group to do together
- Share help needed in ministry areas (Children, Students, other)
- Promote Community and Mission Projects through WCBC

HELP FOR LIFE GROUPS

Got questions? We have answers for you! There are various resources made available to you to help with different questions and circumstances you may encounter as you lead a Life Group. Here are some ways we can serve you:

EQUIPPING giving you the tools necessary for a great life group!

- **Start-up Training:** a one-hour session that goes over the basics of Life Groups and how to lead one. Usually on Sunday mornings, 9:30-10:30am or on Wednesday nights, 6:00-7:00pm. Required for new groups and leaders.
- **Quick Tip Video's:** found on the church website, short two-minute video clips that provide quick answers to your questions.
- **In-House Training:** a one-hour session that covers the fundamentals of Life Groups. These occur in January or August, Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:30am or Wednesday nights, 6:00-7:00pm.
- **Out-Side Training:** "EQUIP" a full day of training on Life Groups. Includes a Large Group speaker and Breakout sessions. Typically, on a Saturday from 9am-3pm, involving around 1200 people from the Houston region.
- **Coaching:** through telephone or a personal meeting with one of the Adult Ministry staff. We are available to coach you through situations you are experiencing in your Life Group. Simply contact the church office and ask to speak to Chris Stanley, Minister to Adults (936) 760-1911 or e-mail **chris.stanley@wcbc.us**
- **Serve Central:** a 6-week class, Wednesday nights, 6:00-7:00pm, that helps you discover your spiritual gifts, abilities, passions, and experiences. Putting each of these together to see how God has uniquely wired you to serve Him and His church.
- **How To's:** curriculum, childcare, service projects, and more!
- **Quarterly Lunches:** sharing a meal while discussing hot topics for groups.

HOW DO I?

That's a great question! You may be thinking, "Wait, I haven't even asked the question yet!" That's okay, because any question is a great question when it comes to Life Groups! We're here for you, so let's get started!

How Do I Become a Life Group Leader?

It's very easy actually! We do ask that you be a Member of West Conroe Baptist Church. You agree with the doctrine of Southern Baptist and that you will participate in or use the equipping/training resources provided by WCBC Adult Ministry.

Next, pick up a "Life Group in a Box" which contains the basic information about Life Groups. These information boxes will give you the preliminary information that will help you make a decision to move forward or not. Each information box will contain an invite to attend a one-hour training to get you started on the track to being a Life Group leader.

Or simply pick up the phone and contact Chris Stanley, Minister to Adults and express your desire to become a Life Group Leader. (936) 760-1911 or e-mail **chris.stanley@wcbc.us**

How Do I start a Life Group?

You start by attending the one-hour training which will go over how to begin your Life Group. Simply pick up a "Life Group in a Box" or call Chris Stanley, Minister to Adults to discover more information. (936) 760-1911 or you can e-mail Chris at **chris.stanley@wcbc.us**

We have two options for Life Groups. Those that meet on Sunday morning from 9:30-10:30am and those that meet off the church campus at different days and times. You will choose the option that works best for you.

How Do I order Curriculum for my Life Group?

We place the order for you through one of our preferred vendors. We have three vendors that we order bulk curriculum through, so we get the curriculum at a reduced rate. Curriculum usually takes two weeks to arrive on average, so be sure to plan ahead and provide time for this.

We do ask that we are given time to review the curriculum you desire to use to make sure it follows our doctrine. This usually takes one to two days. To order curriculum contact the church office and ask for Adult Ministry. Once connected simply ask to place an order for your Life Group. (936)760-1911.

How Do I get Child-care for my Life Group?

Childcare is provided for Life Groups currently on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. If your group meets on another day, we will work to provide options for you to have. To check on childcare options, please contact Chris Stanley, Minister to Adults, (936) 760-1911 or **chris.stanley@wcbc.us**

How Do I take attendance for my Life Group?

If your Life Group meets on Sunday morning, you will receive an attendance packet with the names of your group participants. Simply mark who is present and then turn this into the proper area. If your group meets off campus simply e-mail your participants names after each group meeting to Chris Stanley, Minister to Adults **chris.stanley@wcbc.us**

How Do I develop a Service Project for my Life Group?

We have partnered with several groups in our community who will welcome your group to come serve. For a listing of these go to **www.wcbc.us/ministry-teams/** for more information.

WHAT HAPPENS IN LIFE GROUP?

Each Life Group will look a little bit different. Sometimes you have to go through several meetings to determine what your Life Group meeting time should look like. But there are basic items that should be present in every Life Group meeting that you offer. We simply call these items “rhythms.” Here is a simple outline of what they look like:

Rhythm #1 - The Welcome

This happens as people enter your classroom or home. It is best to have someone appointed to greet people as they enter, especially if your Life Group is new. You may introduce them to others, point them to coffee or snacks, and if they are new secure their contact information.

Rhythm #2 - Time of Prayer

At some point it will be time to get your Life Group started. A simple way to get everyone’s attention and prepared to enter into Bible Study is through a short prayer. This prayer could be led by the Life Group Leader or someone else in the group.

Rhythm #3 - Bible Study

The Bible study will probably take up the bulk of your meeting time, depending upon the resource you use (lecture, interactive teaching, video). A good Bible study will contain time of teaching (by you or a video) discussion among the group participants and sharing application for the group.

Rhythm #4 - Closing/Prayer

The Bible study has ended, now is time to close down the meeting. You might have a few announcements or instructions for your group such as meeting a need within the group. Take prayer request and conclude with a short prayer.

WHAT DOES A LIFE GROUP LEADER DO?

Much of this will depend upon your gifting and ability. There are three categories of Life Group Leaders which determine your responsibilities within the Life Group meeting time. These include being either a Host, Facilitator, or a Teacher.

Host – No Teaching Required

- Open their home (or someone else's) or reserve space on church campus
 - Reserve curriculum for their group (Make use of DVD series)
 - Invite people to participate in the group
- Provide pre-made discussion questions to the group to look at on their own time
 - Follow the rhythms of a Life Group (Welcome, Prayer, Bible Study, Close)
 - E-mail attendance to Minister of Adults weekly (if an off-campus group)

Facilitator – No Teaching Required/Lead Discussion

- Open their home (or someone else's) or reserve space on campus
 - Reserve curriculum for their group (DVD, Bible Book, Workbook)
 - Invite people to participate in the group
- Facilitate discussion using pre-made questions during the group time
 - Follow the rhythms of a Life Group (Welcome, Prayer, Bible Study, Close)
 - E-mail attendance to Minister of Adults weekly (if an off-campus group)

Teacher- Teach Material/Lead Discussion

- Open their home (or someone else's) or reserve space on campus
 - Reserve curriculum for their group (DVD, Bible Book, Workbook)
 - Invite people to participate in the group
 - Teach a Biblical, life application study with discussion
- Follow the rhythms of a Life Group (Welcome, Prayer, Bible Study, Close)
- E-mail attendance to Minister of Adults weekly (if an off-campus group)

OFF-CAMPUS LIFE GROUP SCHEDULE

Fall Groups

- Consist of 11 Weeks
- Start in September – End in November

Winter Groups

- Consist of 11 Weeks
- Start in January – End in March

Spring Groups

- Consist of 11 Weeks
- Start in March – End in May

Summer Groups

- Contact Minister of Adults for setting up a Summer Life Group (936) 760-1911

CONNECTING W/YOUR LIFE GROUP

A helpful way to keep your group healthy is to stay connected during the week. Just a simple contact to let them know they are important to you and to the Life Group.

HOW TO MAKE CONTACTS

- Begin by securing good information (Name, phone #, and e-mail)
- Determine best way to make contact (frequency, phone, e-mail, text)
 - Ideas for making contact:
 - Wish them a Happy Birthday/Anniversary
 - Invite them to a fellowship
 - Share information about a church-wide event
 - Provide details about your Life Group's service project
 - Reminder of group meeting time, place, and date
 - Just to say, "So glad you are part of our Life Group!"

WHEN MAKING CONTACTS

- Identify yourself immediately
- State purpose of contact, don't leave them guessing
- Conclude contact by asking for any prayer needs they have

CONTACT US

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