

What is the purpose of Life Groups at Outlook?

- **Connect** – Life Groups are where we get to know and be known, love and be loved, serve and be served, and celebrate and be celebrated.
- **Grow** – Jesus followers learn and live out God’s Word together, encouraging each other to love and serve Him every day, wherever we are, whatever we do.

Where do Life Groups meet?

- **Homes** are where family and close friends gather to share life, and this is just what Life Groups do. Some groups meet in the same home each week, others share hosting. Everyone contributes the group in mutual love and service.

When do Life Groups meet?

- **Day and frequency** of meetings is up to each group; the minimum is twice a month. Many groups find weekly meetings are best to build and maintain the closeness they want, and makes for shorter times apart when a meeting has to be missed due to sickness or travel. Meetings last 1 ½ to 2 hours.
- **All-year or seasonal** – Some break for a month or two in the summer, others find winter holidays a good time. Others prefer to meet year-round. Groups that do take breaks are encouraged to gather once a month for a meal or activity to keep in touch. Some groups alternate meetings for study and service; some have social times once a month.
- **The Tailgate Party** is held at the end of summer each year to provide a celebratory kick-off for Life Groups. The 2010 Tailgate theme is State Fair Pie Contest.

What do Life Groups do?

- **Connect** with God and other believers is the best way to describe it. Priority time is spent in the Bible, either through the weekly sermon study or a book or study chosen by the group. Mutual encouragement and prayer is key at each meeting. Sharing food and planning service projects and activities are part of many meetings.
- **Invite new members.** When you’ve got a good thing going, you want to share it! Each group is expected to keep an “open chair” ready to receive a guest at every meeting.

How do I find a Life Group?

- **The Connection Catalog** lists details and contact info for all Outlook groups. It is available at the Connection Center and on the CONNECT page of the website.

- **The Group Inquiry form** at the back for you to fill out and turn in to the church. Deposit it like an offering or take it up to the office.
- **Contact** Connection Minister, Robyn Priest (rpriest@outlookchurch.org), to get personal help finding a group. Check the box on the back of your completed Communication Insert and she will get in touch with you.
- **Ask** Outlookers if you can visit their group ... they will be thrilled to have you visit!
- **Attend** Taste of Life Groups, Core Class 101: CONNECT, or Core Class 201: GROW as a next step.

Can I visit some Life Groups before joining?

- **Yes!** Life Group leaders and members will warmly welcome you, but they understand you may need to look around before settling on one that works best for you. We understand that there are many factors in finding the right Life Group: day, time, location, availability of childcare, life stage, and affinity.

Who is responsible for the Life Group?

- **Leaders** are Outlook members who conduct the meeting and communicate with staff. They make sure the group meets consistently and sticks to its purpose. Leaders encourage group members to lead discussion and prayer, and help with group needs and projects. Leaders identify and prepare co-leaders to lead a group of their own as the group grows and multiplies.
- **Every member** commits their time and helps the group succeed.

Can I start a Life Group? How?

- **Absolutely!** We want everyone to be in a group, so we are always eager to help new groups get started. In fact, we work hard to make leading a Life Group as simple as possible. Gather 5-12 interested people, choose a meeting day, and grab your Sunday sermon insert with the group discussion guide. Read the Bible passages, discuss the questions, love and pray for each other. Repeat.
- **Contact** the Connection Minister, Robyn Priest (rpriest@outlookchurch.org). Tell her who is in your group, when you meet, and what you are studying. She will point you to resources and training, help you find members, and connect you with other leaders at Leaders’ Community gatherings. Since all group and team leaders must be members of Outlook, membership will be discussed with all interested in starting a Life Group.