

# **GROUPS**

## **Launch Guide**

# Mission of LCC

We exist to...

**Know God**

**Be the Church**

**Lead the Change**

# Why

**Because people matter to God, people matter to us.**



**We believe that life transformation happens best through genuine and authentic Christian community.**

Hebrews 10:24-25

**Every believer needs a place where they can be fully known, loved, and called higher.**

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

**By leading a Lifegroup, one more person can find genuine, Godly community here at LCC.**

1 John 1:7

# Vision

A successful Lifegroup's Ministry at Lifeway Church is one where lives are being transformed, sin struggles are being overcome, and people are knowing God better than ever before.

Groups are being the church not only to those within their group, but with those in our community.

And where people are leading change in themselves by the encouragement and accountability with their group.

A successful Lifegroups ministry is one where partners are discipling partners

And that we are struggling to have enough groups for people to get into, because they are where everybody wants to be.

# PLACED

**We want our lifegroups to live out  
our placed values, where we...**

Pursue Relationally to be truly known and loved  
Romans 12:10

Live Authentically by being vulnerable and honest  
James 5:16

Admonish Faithfully to point each other towards Christ  
Colossians 3:16

Counsel Biblically to keep centered on Scripture  
2 Timothy 3:16-17

Engage Missionally to take the church beyond the building  
Matthew 28:19-20

Devote Daily to maintain communion with Christ  
John 15:5

# Culture

We want our Lifegroups to carry the culture of LCC into the daily lives of our partners. We want the culture of Lifegroups to be defined by these three emphases

## Jesus focused

Lifegroups are where we pursue Jesus, together. We do life together to press on towards the upward call of Christ.

## Servant leaders

Being a servant leader means eating last. We jump at the opportunity to serve and love others. When you see a group member stumble, we are willing to do anything to help them back up.

## Fun

We want to create an outgoing, fun, energetic, and loving atmosphere in every area of the church. We bring the fun with us and make Lifegroups a place where people want to belong.

# How

What does a Lifegroup meeting look like?

You have a lot of freedom in deciding what your Lifegroup will look like! Here are some parts of the group that we have seen work well!

**Icebreaker**—A way to get the conversation going. Think of something like, “What is your ideal vacation?” or “What is the largest animal that you think you could beat in a fight?” These questions can help people loosen up and start talking. There is a new one every week on the Lifeway Lite Study!

**Study**—Whether you choose to pick your own study, go through a book of the Bible chapter by chapter, or follow along with Lifeway Lite, your group will dive in to the material together. Have some questions planned out, and see where the Spirit leads! Lifeway Lite has questions each week, along with key Scriptures that follow the sermon series.

**Prayer/ Confession**--- This goes with Live Authentically and Admonish Faithfully. Spend some time with the group confessing the struggles of the week before, lifting each other up in prayer, and encouraging each other to keep pushing forward in their faith. A lot of groups find that recording prayer requests and sending them out after the group is a great way to keep the prayers accounted for.

**Fellowship**—As with Pursue Relationally, a Lifegroup thrives when the group meets outside of the organized group time. Is your group into fitness? Take a Crossfit class together! Are one of your kids in the state playoffs? Take the group to a game! Do y'all enjoy Taco Tuesdays? Go out to eat! These times of fellowship help build relationships within the group, so that when the group does life together, your community is strengthened.

# Your Role

What are the leaders' responsibility?

Your role as a Lifegroup leader takes the role of a shepherd. A shepherd cares for the flock, ministers to them, chases strays, and helps them to develop in their relationship with God and relationship with others. They also create a community within their group and also helps the group to be essential to those living around them—the greater community.

Here are some very practical ways that shepherding could look like—

1. Pray Daily for the members of your group
2. Consider partnering with a co-leader to help share the responsibility of caring for and leading your group.
3. Connect with group members between weekly meetings through phone, email, text, social media, or face-to-face. Encourage group members to connect with each other throughout the week as well.
4. Have fun through laughter and by creating an enjoyable environment.
5. Respect people's time by beginning and ending your group on time.
6. Invite group members to attend church services and events with you like Worship Nights, conferences, or outreach opportunities.
7. Rally the group around a member going through a crisis. Use wisdom and be sensitive.
8. Create expectations and cast vision for your group, so that everybody is on mission, together.



# FAQ's

## 1. How does our group multiply?

At a certain point, you will notice another couple in your group with the 'nudge' to lead a group. Maybe they express the interest themselves, or you see the leadership potential in them to successfully lead a group to see more people come to know Christ-centered community. Just as Jesus sent out the disciples, we believe in sending out leaders in multiplication. This multiplication allows more people to find the community that produces life-change through Christ.

## 2. How does Lifeway equip me?

We are here for you! We want to support you as a staff and church family as you shepherd our church. Here's what this looks like—

1. Quarterly Trainings—Once a quarter, we have a Group Leader Training for all Lifegroup leaders. These trainings are immediately after the 10:30 service, with lunch and childcare provided. You will be able to get connected with other leaders as well to see how they are doing/strategies that you can lead with!
2. Weekly Emails—I send out a weekly email with encouragement, things on the horizon, and checking in with leaders.
3. Community Building— We work hard to build a community among the leaders and their families. We will be having social events throughout the year, such as movie nights and cookouts, to bring your family and enjoy the community.

## 3. How often should we meet?

The expectation for Lifegroups is to meet at least every other week, for the Spring (January-May) and Fall (August- December). You can choose to meet normally during the summer, slow down, or just focus on pursuing relationally. Some groups choose to meet every week or every other week. One rhythm that works great for many groups is this- weeks 1 and 3 are study nights, week 2 is separated men's and women's nights, and week 4 is a group hangout. One of our expectations for groups is that you should only miss group if you had to miss work. We hold a high bar for attendance- a bad day is the day you need your community the most.

## 4. What should we study?

We ask all of our new groups to start with the PLACED study guide, where the group discusses the core values and expectations of Lifegroups for six weeks. After that, some groups follow along the sermon series with Lifeway Lites (available weekly on the app or website), traditional Bible studies, or finding their own small group curriculum (with Group Pastor's help).

After your first semester of meeting as a group, we encourage all groups to go through Lifemaps. The Lifemaps study is a way to share your testimony with your Lifegroup. It is a guide for writing and sharing your story- which includes your life leading up to Christ, and after beginning to follow Him. Lifemaps are an excellent tool to live authentically and learn more about people in your group. When you know the stories of people in your community, you build trust, vulnerability, and get invited to the hard parts of people's lives.

## 5. How does our group grow?

Through our partnership process, we help connect new partners to Lifegroups. You can leave the recruiting and connecting up to us! Groups are considered full when they reach 10-12 members.

## 6. How do I know the group is healthy?

Every fall, we do the Spiritual Health Assessment for each of our Lifegroups. It is an anonymous survey where each group's members answer questions about how they are living out PLACED in their own lives. The SHA helps us know where your group members are at, and we will sit down with you to discuss how to lead your group based on the results. This is not a test of your leadership, but an opportunity to reflect and pursue spiritual health together!

## 7. Where do we meet?

Most Lifegroups choose to meet in the leader's home. However, feel free to ask others to host, or create a rotation of host homes for group!

## 8. Who do I ask for help?

We all face situations, conflict, and conversations that require us to ask for help. As a Lifegroup ministry, here are the places where help is always available!

1. Leaders- Whether a co-leader or another group's leader, you have the option to reach out to talk to another leader for counsel and advice for most Lifegroup situations. There is a difference between gossiping about a group member, and seeking counsel with another leader while choosing honor. The Leader Team is here for each other, to help bear one another's burdens and point others to Christ.
2. Group's Pastor- If the situation is found to be too difficult, the Group's Pastor may need to be included. The Group's Pastor is more than willing to sit down with you, the affected group members, or even come to the group to address an issue together.
3. Elders- if the situation elevates to church discipline, every Lifegroup has an elder that oversees the group. If you don't know who your elder is, reach out to the Group's Pastor for help!