

GroupLife Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is GroupLife?

A: **GroupLife** is the overarching term for the idea that real life change happens best in groups of believers. Much of what happens at Grace Church happens in small groups. We call our small groups Community Groups.

Q: What is the ultimate goal of a Community Group?

A: The ultimate goal of a Community Group is to foster an environment where Life Change can occur in Community Group members.

Q: What does Life Change mean?

A: Life Change is the process of God forming in us the character of Christ accomplished by the ministry of the Spirit, in the context of community, and in accordance with Biblical standards. This process involves an entire transformation – in our thoughts, our patterns of behavior, and how we relate to God and others.

Q: What exactly is a Community Group?

A: Community Groups are the heartbeat of our church and serve as the primary setting for members to grow in spiritual passion as they seek to live out the core values of the Christian life: Biblically Oriented, Relationally Connected, Ministry Focused, Culturally Engaged, Courageously Generous, and Anchored in Prayer. A Community Group consists of 10-14 adults who are encouraging one another to mature in their faith while serving to meet each others' needs. In Community Groups we experience care and accountability in the context of authentic relationships.

Q: Is a Community Group like a Bible study?

A: Yes and No. Members do meet and work through a biblically-based curriculum; however we go beyond the "bible-study" format. In Community Groups we are learning how to relate and live life biblically. This means that we must be intentional about getting to know and be known by others. Having a Biblical Orientation is foundational to any Community Group; however, our groups also recognize the need for balance and pursue growth in the five other Grace Church "**Core Values.**"

Q: What happens at a typical meeting?

A: Most meetings last around two hours. During that time a group will eat some snacks or share a meal, work through their curriculum, share what is going on in their lives, pray, and encourage on another wherever they are in their journey of faith. Most of our groups meet in homes and they often rotate meeting in each other's homes.

Q: How often do groups meet?

A: Groups meet on a quarterly schedule. In other words, groups meet consistently for 6 weeks before taking a short 4 week break. Groups will continue on this schedule for an entire year, breaking for major holidays, etc...

Q: Who leads the group?

A: Each group has a Community Group Leader whose primary responsibility is to shepherd the individuals in the group. Leaders have completed both our **LEAD training** and **GroupLife Bootcamp** class and must have participated in a Community Group before they're assigned to a group. The Community Group leaders meet with a Coach regularly for the purpose of encouraging them and equipping them in the role they have in the church.

Q: How are groups put together?

A: **GroupLink** events are held several times per year to allow the formation of new Community Groups. **GroupLink** will give you more details on what Community Groups are, our expectations for groups and group members, and what groups are available in your area. You will get the opportunity to survey our available groups. Then, based on a number of factors (meeting night, geography, stage of life of current group members, childcare needs, etc.), we will help you select the appropriate group for you.

Q: Are children involved in Community Groups?

A: Because of our desire for adults to truly engage in each others lives, children do not attend Community Groups with their parents. Each group is responsible for working out childcare to meet their unique needs. Students in both middle school and high school also meet in a Community Group structure on a separate night with other students.

Q: How long do groups stay together?

A: There is no "hard rule" for how long a group will stay together; however, most groups are together two to three years. Groups need time to develop trust and accountability through strong relationships, however, if a group meets for too long, they have a tendency to become stagnant and inward focused. In these cases, it is best if the whole group undergoes a change. We also ask may at times survey group members to let us know how their group experience is going.

Q: How do I get involved in a Community Group?

A: The first step to getting involved in Community Group is the completion of **Discovery**. Upon completion of Discovery, you can sign-up for a **GroupLink** event. **GroupLink** is your portal to getting involved in a group. (Please see above "How are groups put together?")