

LIFEGroups Mission & Covenant

St. John's - Bakersfield-LCMS

Date: _____

LIFEGroups thrive on active participation! The purpose of this covenant is to help you to discuss and clarify your group's goals, expectations, and commitments, whether you meet just during a campaign or, as is our preference, continually through the year.

LIFEGroups: THEIR PURPOSE

LIFEGroups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth through meaningful Christian relationships and study of God's Word (Romans 8:29 & Hebrews 10:24, 25). We'll do this by focusing on four primary activities:

SHARE

Each week we'll take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first this sharing will include planned "sharing questions" (see LIFEWork pages). But after the first few weeks, it will become more informal and personal as we feel more comfortable.

STUDY

Each week we'll study a section from God's Word that relates to the previous weekend's sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life.

SUPPORT

Each week we'll learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (John 15:9-13). This care can take many forms such as prayer, encouragement, listening, challenging one another, and meeting real needs.

SERVE

Spiritual growth is fostered not only by what we gain through the support and input of others, but also through service to others. The role each of us fills is important to the health of the church and for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to our community (Ephesians 4:11-16). Throughout this campaign and hopefully as you continue to meet together, it is our hope that you can find and/or be affirmed in the ways God has designed you to serve, and make a difference in God's Kingdom.

MARKS OF A HEALTHY GROUP

For our group to be healthy, we need to:

1. Make spiritual growth our number one priority (Romans 8:29).
2. Accept one another (Romans 15:7).
3. Include everyone, being careful to not dominate conversation.
4. Take care of one another (John 13:34).
5. Treat each other with respect (Ephesians 4:25-5:2).
6. Keep our commitments to the group (Psalm 15:1-2, 4b).

GUIDELINES & COVENANT

- Dates** We'll meet on _____ nights for _____ weeks. Our final meeting of this campaign will be on _____.
- Time** We'll arrive between _____ & _____ and begin at _____
We'll spend, in no particular order, approximately _____ minutes in singing (optional), _____ minutes in study/discussion, and _____ minutes in prayer/sharing.
- Children** Group members are responsible to arrange child care for their children.
- Study** Our studies will focus on the same topic covered in the previous Sunday's sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life.
- Prayer** Each meeting we will pray for one another.
- Attendance** The benefits of a LIFEGroup are greatest when each participant makes a commitment to attend each meeting, understanding that others are counting on your support and friendship. Mutual commitment and dependence is the "body of Christ" as Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 12. If we cannot be there we will respect each other and make our fellow group members aware.
- Food** Food shared in the warm atmosphere of a person's home is a wonderful aspect to most LIFEGroups. We agree to share in this responsibility.
- Service Projects** We were made to grow in the likeness of Jesus, and He made it clear that one of the important joys of being His follower is to live out our faith in service to others. We invite each LIFEGroup to continually be mindful of service opportunities in your community and commit to serving together.

We agree together in Christ to honor this covenant:

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|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 12. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 13. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 14. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 15. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 16. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 17. _____ |
| 8. _____ | 18. _____ |
| 9. _____ | 19. _____ |
| 10. _____ | 20. _____ |