

Life Group: People, not an Event

Often when we think of small groups (also known as care groups, home groups, life groups or many other titles) we think of a **specific time and place** where we gather regularly. It is on the calendar. There is usually a **curriculum** or study that we follow. It usually centers on the Bible and/or a book about the Bible.

People arrive at a certain time, go through the process, have a closing prayer, and go home at a certain time. Traditionally for the Chapel congregation these groups have functioned for 8 to 9 months, fall through spring.

In thinking more organically about **community and "life together"**, we want to broaden the possibilities. When you read the accounts of the Church in its early days, there was a liveliness and a connection that is rare today. It was driven by love, and the desire for relationship with one another, with Jesus at the center. There was a genuine sense of community and extended family. That seems impossible these days, doesn't it?

Own The
Mission

Discipleship
and Life
Groups

(Over)

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We all live in a range of life rhythms and spheres. What I am encouraging is that we look at those more intentionally, with **shared space, mission and relationship** in mind. If my life group is extended family, I will be more prone to think of ways to do things and spend time together. My connection with them won't automatically have an artificial start time in September and cut off time in May. (This is not meant to deny the natural life seasons in this Icebox of the North.)

It may not be as neat and clean as programmed events and activities. It may be messier, but does not the Bible indeed call us family? This is a call for more **intentionally connected living**, and away from the isolationism and self-focus our that typifies our culture.

Inconvenient maybe, but rich with possibilities! And I am preaching to my comfortable self.

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