

Gateway Community Church

Fall 2023 & Winter 2024

LIFE GROUPS



Meaningful relationships centered on God's Word and prayer

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this could be **you**
gatewaycrc.org/grow/lifegroups





Pastor Adam Van Dop



Pastor Justin Carruthers

a word from our pastors

The month of September is always interesting. While it signals the end of the relaxed patterns of summer, it signals the re-emergence of our usual routines. Whether it's the start of school, the beginning of ministry activities like Life Groups or Summit Youth, the extra-curricular sports teams and dance groups, the regular work patterns, and all our volunteer commitments, we see that September reminds us of our full and robust lives.

Luke, in the book of Acts, shares how the initial growth of the church took place and it has us wondering – did the first century Christians live with the same fullness? Were they as busy as we are? Did their calendars have any room for these new gatherings?

Think about the average first century person. They didn't have running water to wash their clothes, electricity to power a refrigerator, or cars

to get them quickly from A to B. They had to find water in local rivers, store food in salt, and walk everywhere.

And yet ...

"...they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." (Acts 2:42)

These early Christians began immediately to reprioritize their lives as they answered Christ's invitation in their lives. They put their faith in central focus. Take notice of what they devoted themselves to:

"...the apostles' teaching..." – they **prioritized the gospel above all else.**

Each week at Gateway, we gather in corporate worship, where we sing to glorify God and join in

prayer exalting Him. We engage these patterns of worship to prepare our hearts to hear God's word proclaimed.

"...the fellowship..." – they saw that **discipleship happens in circles.**

Hearing God's word proclaimed corporately is fantastic, but it needs to be examined and explored more closely to sort out how the message will take shape in our lives. Gathered with hundreds of people in the church auditorium makes it difficult to have personal conversations with others as we're learning. Therefore, we additionally gather in homes with our smaller communities, to dive further into the text, with the goal of discovering the Lord's challenge for us.

"...the breaking of bread..." – they were eager to **make disciples, not just believers.**

When the early church gathered to celebrate the sacrament of communion, it took a different form than how we engage it on Sunday mornings in church. They gathered in homes, centered around a robust meal with significant elements, which were explained as the meal was enjoyed. From neighbors, to guests, to the children present, *all* were shown how Christ gave Himself up.

"... and the prayers." – they understood that all are to be **known, loved, and accounted for.**

The prayers that they prayed, possibly from an ancient prayer book, turned them inwards, towards their own faith, but also, they would have turned them outwards, towards each other. When we posture ourselves towards the others in our lives, they grow in their sense of belonging to the Lord. It becomes evident, as Luke continues to write, *"... awe came upon every soul ... all who believed*

were together and had all things in common ... and the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved." (Acts 2:43, 44, 47)

Gateway church family, at times our lives are beyond full. However, take notice of what happened when this Christian community dove headlong into their faith – **the church grew!** Consider how the Lord strengthened that community for gathering together; then consider how the Lord can strengthen you for the same!

As the early church was devoted to the Lord's work, we too, at Gateway, will **do whatever it takes to reach people for the gospel.** This means that we will be hyper-focused on all who the Lord sends to us! While we focus on our own journeys of faith, we seek with earnestness, to add names to the Lord's kingdom.

We believe our Life Groups are key environments for that to happen.

If you haven't joined a group yet, we invite you to do so this year, and take the next step in prioritizing *meaningful relationships, centered on God's Word and prayer.*

If you have questions about that process, this booklet should help guide you, but if you're left with unanswered questions, please reach out to anyone on our coordinating team (see page 17).

Blessings to you as you embark on this exciting journey!

Pastors Adam & Justin

Read more about our values:
gatewaycrc.org/start/values

frequently asked questions



WHAT IS A LIFE GROUP?

A Life Group is a home fellowship made up of 10-14 adults who meet weekly to share, study, and support one another. A trained facilitator and host lead each group.

HOW LONG DO THEY LAST?

Each meeting typically lasts 1.5-2 hours and meets for 9 weeks. At the end of each semester, you will have the choice of staying

in the same group, trying a new group, or taking a break. Making this commitment is the key to a strong Life Group. You have the first three weeks to attend the group to make sure it's a good fit for you.

WHAT WILL WE STUDY?

We cherish the idea that our congregation is on a journey together discussing the same biblical themes, therefore,

our groups are based on the previous weekend's message. These "sermon-based" Life Groups are built on what we call a "lecture-lab" model. Imagine the weekend message as a lecture on Christian living, and the Life Group as a lab where you get to roll up your sleeves and discuss how the weekend's message works in real life.

We are excited that in this

semester we are concluding our 1 Corinthians series in mid-October. Then we are planning to explore the life of David, through the two Old Testament books of 1 & 2 Samuel from October, all the way into the new year and the Winter 2024 semester of Life Groups. Join a group this semester to enter a study of these fascinating books! Flip to page 8 and 9 to learn more.

Each week, we provide everyone with a sermon guide, so you can take notes during the weekend messages. Then, we provide all our Life Groups with a discussion guide which contains the same questions for each group to further explore the themes from the weekend's message. We encourage you to prepare for your group meeting by working through the questions ahead of time.

ARE THERE GROUPS FOR TEENAGERS & YOUNG ADULTS?

Our Edge & Summit Youth Groups are for those who are in Middle & High School. These groups include organized small groups for students. Although these groups are not included in this catalogue, they are very important to our church! For more information about these ministries, please contact Pastor Marcel: marcel@gatewaycrc.org

HOW IMPORTANT ARE LIFE GROUPS?

Here at Gateway, we envision Life Groups to be the hub of our adult ministry. They are the place where real ministry of the church takes place as we study God's Word, while supporting and sharing our lives with one another, and serving our community.

HOW DO I CHOOSE A GROUP?

When selecting a group, we strongly recommend you start by trying a group based on its leadership team, rather than its location. We have found that groups do best when members share a common station in life and other interests with their facilitators, hosts, and other group members. In the end, if you do need to travel great distances to meet your group, we trust that you will find it is worth the drive!

If you have any questions about which leadership team fits your station in life the best—do not hesitate to ask!

Find the selection of groups that are eager for you to be a part!

WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO REGISTER FOR A GROUP?

As the proverbial saying goes, "the early bird gets the worm." So, sign up as soon as registration opens! That will

happen online and in person on September 10 in the Fall, and December 31 in the Winter.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE GROUP I WISH TO JOIN IS ALREADY FULL?

First, take a moment to consider an alternative group. Perhaps arrive at registration with two options for yourself. Second, if the groups you wanted are full, please let us know, as we are more than happy to help!

WHAT IS THE REQUIRED COMMITMENT?

Our groups meet weekly for nine weeks. The Fall semester begins meeting the week of September 24, and the Winter semester begins meeting the week of January 21. Life Group meetings typically last 1.5-2 hours. As you arrive at your Life Group meeting, come as prepared as you can! Please have spent some time considering how you would answer the provided questions found in our weekly sermon guides. That way, you can contribute to your discussions with well thought out responses and added questions!

WHERE DO I SIGN UP?

Either in person in the church lobby following services in September and January, or online: gatewaycrc.org/grow/lifegroups.

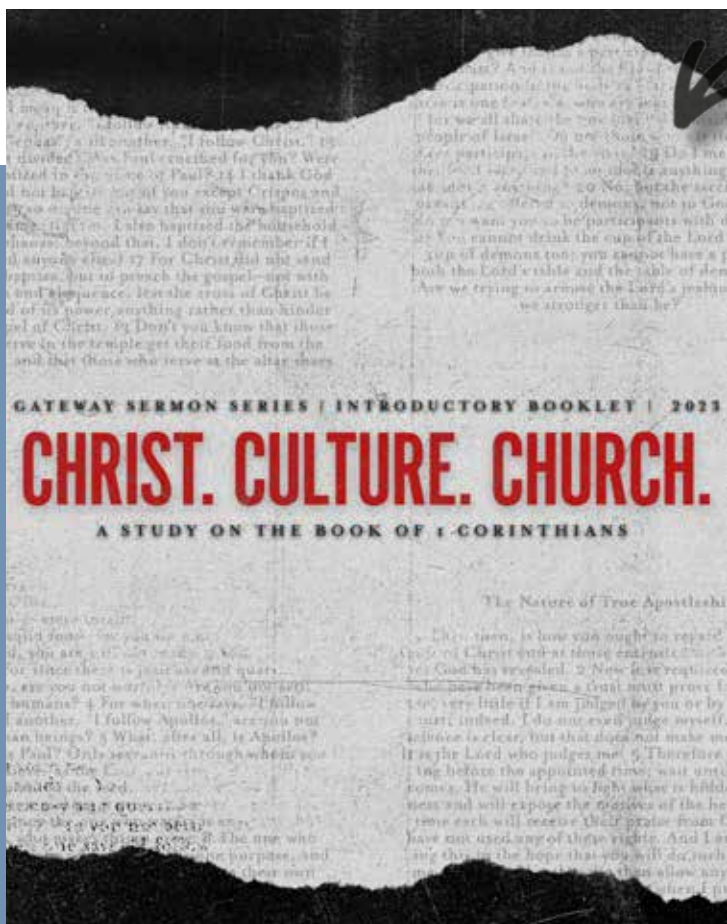
upcoming sermon series

At Gateway we love the Bible, we seek to learn from it how we are called to live, and receive its challenges each week. We explore the Bible primarily through exegetical preaching, and never shy away from any conversation scripture encourages us to have.



In the Fall of 2023, we commit to completing our journey through the CHRIST.CULTURE.CHURCH series that has had us immersed in Paul's first letter to the Corinthians since January 2023. It has been an incredible ride as we have received Paul's challenge for us to live into God's leadership of the church and how we live out our Christian faith.

In mid-October, we will enter a new series, THE SHADOW KING, which will have us dive deep into the life and stories of David, through both Old Testaments book of 1 & 2 Samuel.



September-October 2023

This series identifies problems in the Corinthian church that we are still banging our heads on today. It also offers godly solutions and teaches believers how to live for Christ while we, and our neighbors, are tempted to live for ourselves.

If you know anything about this book, you know that it covers a lot of very practical, but challenging topics. The theme of this book can be described as follows:

God gives guidance to the spiritually gifted, but immature Corinthian church. He challenges believers to examine every aspect of their lives through the lens of the gospel.

October 2023-May 2024

The story of David is one of the most remarkable stories in the Bible. From a young shepherd, slaying Goliath, to a fierce warrior and eventually king. It's a story of leadership, bravery, faith, sin, despair and redemption. He is a shadow of the future king, Jesus.

As we see the pattern for Israelite Kingship develop through 1 & 2 Samuel, we will see clearly just who Jesus Christ came to be - not our shadow king, but our One True King. God speaks to David,

When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

2 Samuel 7:12-13 | ESV



gatewaycrc.org/grow/lifegroups

groups waiting for you



DYKSHOORN / ARENDS

Facilitator: Steve & Katy Dykshoorn
Host: Shawn & Shawna Arends
Day/Time: Tuesday, 7.30pm
Status: Full



VAANDRAGER / BOUWMAN

Facilitator: Tim & April Vaandrager
Host: Grant & Amanda Bouwman
Day/Time: Thursday, 7.30pm
Status: **Open**



BRANDSMA / KORNELIUS

Facilitator: Bryan & Lynnette Brandsma
Host: Bryan & Karla Kornelius
Day/Time: Wednesday, 7.00pm
Status: **Open**



MULDER / CARRUTHERS

Facilitator: Justin & Cheryl Mulder
Host: Justin & Julie Carruthers
Day/Time: Monday, 7.30pm
Status: Full



CORTER / BARNUM

Facilitator: Nathan & Shena Gorter
 Host: Mike & Lorene Barnum
 Day/Time: Monday, 7.30pm
 Status: Full



VANDEVENTER / VISSCHER

Facilitator: Ian & Jenn VanDeventer
 Host: Kevin & Melanie Visscher
 Day/Time: Sunday, 7.00pm
 Status: Full



DRAAISTRA / BAART

Facilitator: Chris & Juanita Draaistra
 Host: Jenine Baart
 Day/Time: Sunday, 7.00pm
 Status: Full



BEUKEMA / DYKSHOORN

Facilitator: Betty Beukema
 Host: Lorraine Dykshoorn
 Day/Time: Sunday, 7.00pm
 Status: Full



BAARS / DEJONG

Facilitator: Gerard & Debbie Baars
 Host: Wayne & Marlene DeJong
 Day/Time: Sunday, 7.00pm
 Status: **Open**

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groups waiting for you



VAANDRAGER / DYKSTRA

Facilitator: Mark & Susan Vaandrager
Host: Lloyd & Jeanetta Dykstra
Day/Time: Sunday, 7.30pm
Status: Full



VAN DOP / MAARHUIS

Facilitator: John & Theresa Van Dop
Host: Jason & Chris Maarhuis
Day/Time: Sunday, 7.00pm
Status: **Open**



WARDROPE

Facilitator: Bruce Wardrope
Host: Linda Wardrope
Day/Time: Thursday, 10.00am
Status: Full



SPYKSMA / BEERDA

Facilitator: Bob Spyksma
Host: Edith Beerda
Day/Time: Thursday, 10.00am
Status: **Open**



VANDELFT

Facilitator: Keith VanDelft
Host: Nadia VanDelft
Day/Time: Monday, 7.00pm
Status: Full



ROOS

Facilitator: Hank Roos
Host: Alice Roos
Day/Time: Thursday, 7.00pm
Status: Full



UNRAU

Facilitator: Ineke Unrau
Host: Les Unrau
Day/Time: Wednesday, 7.00pm
Status: **Open**

groups waiting for you 
gatewaycrc.org/grow/lifegroups

serve projects

It does not take a long exploration of God's word to see that there is a clear mission associated with being a disciple of Jesus. From Christ's own mouth in Matthew 28:19, He gives us the "GO" in the great commission. We see that call developed through the words of other New Testament authors:

Peter writes, *"each [one of you] has received a gift, use it to serve one another"* (1 Peter 4:10).

Paul writes, *"do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another"* (Galatians 5:13).

James writes, *"someone will say, 'You have faith and I have works.' Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works"* (James 2:18).

A vital component of our Life Group ministry is that each Life Group **serves** with one another, shoulder to shoulder, within our city of Abbotsford. Therefore, we seek as communities of faith to feed and nourish the hungry, clothe those who are cold, and provide care for creation.

We believe God has placed us right here in Abbotsford for a specific reason, to love and serve this city, at this time, for the purpose of growing His kingdom. Right here. Right now.

That means that we will prioritize mission endeavors and the establishment of Kingdom partnerships in Abbotsford. We want to be a church that is for our city!

[#gatewaylovesabbotsford](#)

Turn to page 16 to see a list of arrangements we have already made of organizations with whom we wish to nurture long lasting relationships. Leaders will have access to registering for one of the options starting as registration for the semester opens.



serve project FAQ's

WHEN ARE THESE HAPPENING?

All serve projects happen during the Life Group semester. In the Fall 2023 semester, between September 21 and December 2. In the Winter 2024 semester, between January 21 and March 23.

WHEN DO THEY CLOSE?

All sign-ups should be in at least two weeks before the event and no later than September 30, and January 31.

HOW WILL I KNOW IF A SITE IS ALREADY BOOKED?

We try our best to keep the website up to date. As SERVE sites are booked, it will be indicated on the serve site. These sites are secured on a first come, first served basis, so don't take your time in sorting out an option for your group.

WHAT IF THERE ISN'T A POSTED DATE FOR THE EVENT?

This means that the serve site is open to having your team serve when it works best for

your group. Pastor Adam will be in contact with the Life Group HOST shortly after the site is picked and coordinate with the SERVE site the best time for your group.

ARE THERE MORE DETAILS ON EACH SERVE SITE?

Yes, look online you will see a much fuller description of the requirements for each SERVE site, or connect with Pastor Adam. Turn the page to see all the current options.

CAN I POST PICTURES OF MY GROUP SERVING?

Yes, PLEASE DO!!! We love it when our Life Groups post about their activities together. Just make sure that everyone in your group and the organization you are serving are okay with it. Then post your pictures to either Facebook or Instagram! Be sure to post with the hashtag #gatewaylifegroups and #gatewaylovesabbotsford. If you are not able to post your pictures, but still wish to share them, please

email, or text them to Pastor Adam.

WHAT IS THE STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS?

1. Look over the various SERVE options, in this catalogue and online.
2. Send Pastor Adam an email with your Host name and the name of the Serve Project you wish to sign up for.
3. Pastor Adam will contact the Host to confirm and share any further details about the SERVE Project.
4. Arrive at your location at the agreed upon time and enjoy the time together!

WHERE DO I GET A SERVE SHIRT?

On any given Sunday, find the HUB host in the main lobby, and ask for help finding the right size off the shelves there for you at the HUB. From here, the shirt is yours! Please wear it at your serve site, and at other times when serving our city with our church!



winter 2024

serve site options



LIFE RECOVERY HOME

Serve this local women's recovery home as there are always indoor and outdoor maintenance projects to complete. They rely on the

broader community to assist the leadership and clients.

DATE: Flexible



LIFE RECOVERY STORE

Serve this local thrift store as there are always indoor cleaning and outdoor maintenance projects to complete.

DATE: Flexible



STORMTROOPERS Serve the city of Abbotsford by painting on the iconic yellow fish near drains that lead water run off to our local streams and rivers.

DATE: Flexible



MARKER MAINTAINENCE

Serve at one of our five local city owned cemeteries, cleaning off grave markers. It's a large, but very rewarding task.

DATE: TBD

DATE: TBD



INVASIVE WEED

REMOVAL Serve our city within local parks removing invasive weeds like blackberries and other such problem species.

DATE: Flexible



CYRUS CENTER MEAL Our city's local shelter for youth is always in need of meals for their clients and staff. For each 4 members of your group, arrange to bring a

meal one evening.

DATE: Flexible



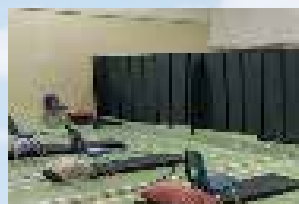
ARCHWAY FOODBANK

Our local foodbank is regularly in need of assistance in sorting all the donated food. When your group serves, be sure to

bring a bag of your own donations!

DATE: TBD

DATE: TBD



EMERGENCY WEATHER

SHELTER Serve within our Gateway EWS, make and serve a meal for the guests in attendance, or commit a timeframe to help clean and

sanitize the facility.

DATE: Flexible



this could be you

gatewaycfc.org/grow/lifegroups



coordinating team



PASTOR ADAM VAN DOP serves to support both our facilitators and hosts in their leadership roles through writing the sermon guides and providing leadership guides. He also sets up the serve sites, and takes care of our Life Group webpresence.

adam@gatewaycrc.org
604.309.5858



PASTOR JUSTIN CAR- RUTHERS is constantly observing our Life Group ministry to be sure that it is fulfilling our objective to see that our church family is gathering in circles, as well as in rows. He also loves recruiting new facilitators and hosts.

justin@gatewaycrc.org
778.201.8144



PASTOR MARCEL de- REGT supports the Life Group ministry in sharing thoughts and observations, seeking to include our younger generations in similar ministry models!

marcel@gatewaycrc.org
604.859.5908, ex 204



CAROL CONWAY is not only our Office Administrator, but also, she desires to see that all Life Group members are accounted for within their groups, and that our data is always up to date.

office@gatewaycrc.org
604.859.5908

fall 2023 calendar

*Our Life Groups meet for nine consecutive weeks, on the specified day that your leaders have selected. Compare the week day to your calendar within the following weeks of these **sample** calendars. As you look at your calendar, consider how important it is for you to immerse yourself in your faith community!*

Week 1	September 24-30	Potluck
Week 2	October 1-7	Bible Study
Week 3	October 8-14	Bible Study
Week 4	October 15-21	Bible Study
Week 5	October 22-28	Serve Project
Week 6	October 29-November 4	Bible Study
Week 7	November 5-11	Bible Study
Week 8	November 12-18	Social Event
Week 9	November 19-25	Bible Study
Week 10	November 26-December 2	Optional Social Event

this could be you
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Here are some dates to be aware of as you plan out your semester:

September 17	Gateway Fall Festival 2023
September 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
October 9	Thanksgiving Day
November 5	Daylight Savings Time **clocks fall back**
November 11	Remembrance Day
December 3	First Sunday of Advent

winter 2024 calendar

Take note that special events within our semester can happen at any point. Your leaders will work with your group to see when best to plan the SERVE project or the SOCIAL event. We also invite our groups to gather for a final week 10 as a social to close out the semester.

Week 1	January 21-27	Potluck
Week 2	January 28-February 3	Bible Study
Week 3	February 4-10	Serve Project
Week 4	February 11-17	Bible Study
Week 5	February 18-24	Social Event
Week 6	February 25-March 2	Bible Study
Week 7	March 3-9	Bible Study
Week 8	March 10-16	Bible Study
Week 9	March 17-23	Bible Study
Week 10	March 24-30	Optional Social Event

Here are some dates to be aware of as you plan out your semester!

February 14	Valentines Day
February 19	Family Day
March 10	Daylight Savings Time **clocks spring ahead**
March 29	Good Friday
March 31	Easter Sunday

this could be you
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will you join
a group today?



gatewaycrc.org/grow/lifegroups

GATEWAY
COMMUNITY CHURCH

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