



Life Groups @ Crossroad

One of the most exciting things that will be happening at Cross road in 2015 and beyond are Life Groups. In March we are launching small groups (called Life Groups) that will be based in peoples homes and we expect that these will quickly become an indispensable part of being a part of the Crossroad family.

We certainly experience the blessing of a worship service each Sunday and that coming together to sit under the authority and proclamation of God's word is foundational and critical.

However, many of you are very aware of the fact that we sit shoulder to shoulder looking forward and there is not too much opportunity for building close relationships in the Sunday service. Some of us take advantage of Sunday Bible Study (SBS) and this creates more community...

But Life Groups is a whole different dynamic and a wonderful way to experience community in the Church. We sit facing one another and this is more than just a posture. In a small group like this there is more familiarity, deeper relationships, more vulnerable dialogue, more doing life together. I can't promise that you will meet your new BFF in a Life Group but I can promise you that you will know more about this group of people and they will know more about you and you will be engaged with one another in putting God's word into action in your lives.

The connections and the fellowship and developing of friendships alone is great, but there is a huge way in which these small groups can meet the needs we have unlike what the bigger church can do. Our hope is that we will find in these groups that friend to bring us dinner or bear our burden or meet us for prayer when we are in deep waters. These groups will be praying for one another and following up with each other and caring for one another in ways that Pastor David or whatever face you put on Crossroad simply cannot do, even as small as we are. But it doesn't stop there at doing life together and caring for one another...

We are designing these groups to help us take God at his word and apply his word in very real ways in our lives. The leaders will be taking the groups through a small series of questions designed to guide the group discussion of the sermon and the Biblical text it came from in a way that will help us do the following:

1. See clearly what is in the text
2. Understand truly what we see
3. Value appropriately what we understand
4. Feel the full impact of what we have valued
5. Apply joyfully and faithfully the truth that has impacted us
6. Share compassionately with others what has changed our lives

Nobody needs to be intimidated because the discussion is in no way a test on the sermon or on the Bible...rather it is a chance to better engage with what you are reading and hearing from the Bible in a comfortable environment among friends. You will also get even more benefit from your participation if you are following along in the 2-year reading plan that we started in January since the sermons are tracking with this reading.



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What should you expect?

- The meetings will run 90 minutes
- and will begin with some snacks and some catching up with one another in casual discussion.
- Then the leader will guide the groups through the Life Group Guide, which contains an ice-breaker to get people talking and discussion questions on the sermon and the biblical text.
- Then the discussion will conclude with talking about prayer requests and praying for one another before wrapping up the evening

The Friday group will be meeting at a home right around the corner and childcare will be available here at church. You can drop off the kiddos right before the group and come back by at the conclusion. There is also a Monday group starting in a local home as well.

What is needed on your part?

A commitment to:

- Show up and participate
- Not wear a Christian mask but be real
- Accept the Bible as our final authority
- Respect one another when you have differences
- Allow the leader to lead
- Carry some responsibility for occasional snack duty

How do you get involved?

The best way is to go to the website and go to ministries/small groups/Life Groups. Then complete the form on this page to request to be placed in a Life Group. I will be in touch with you to get you in a group and as the number of groups grow, the options for day of the week and demographics of the groups will also grow.

We will have sign-ups each fall for the Life Groups and our desire is to get every single person who is capable involved in a group.

So if you are interested in hosting or leading a Life Group (or both) you can indicate that on this form also and I will be in touch with you to discuss that.

Questions?