



PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE GROUPS AT LEFC

SHARING LIFE AND TRUTH

WHAT ARE THE FOUNDATIONAL QUALITIES that make a Life Group unique? LGs begin with a leader/shepherd who gives oversight to the group's unique vision and mission. The LG leader is a lover of God and people, who desires to see them live the transformed life of Christ. Folks within the LG should be open to new people, with the *understanding that the group's ultimate goal is making and multiplying disciples*. Multiplication of groups happens intentionally when its members are on mission and passionate about spiritual growth. The LG Coordinator is available to help with the logistics of multiplication. ABFs differ from LGs in that they are designed for folks to *stay together* through the stages of life and can grow fairly large.

SERMON-BASED QUESTIONS provide the basis for group study time. The questions are designed to extend the truths taught during our Lead Pastor's weekly teaching and are made available on the church webpage following the worship time each Sunday.

LEFC believes that **LGs are essential to fulfilling the church's mission to, "Make Disciples"** (MA 28:19, 20). Making disciples is about building relationships and involves a process of spiritual formation. Peter Scazzero defines spiritual formation as, "The process of putting off the sinful patterns of our family of origin and culture and learning to do life in the new Family of Jesus."

THE FOLLOWING LIST ILLUSTRATES SOME KEY ASPECTS OF THIS DISCIPLESHIP PROCESS:

- Emotional Health: "How can we know God, when we don't even know ourselves?" (Augustine)
- Reading/Observing and Learning about the Biblical Text: "What does it say?"
- Interpreting the Biblical Text: "What does it mean?"
- Applying the Biblical Text: "So what?"
- Brokenness through the work of the Spirit: "I need to change."
- Personalizing the Biblical Text: "What do I need to do to change?"
- Obedience to the Biblical Text: "Who will hold me accountable?"

Being a part of a small group of safe people whom I trust allows me to reap the rewards of vulnerability and the encouragement to grow that accompanies it. A pastor of counseling put it this way, "When we fear rejection or judgment... we tend to put our best foot forward, hiding our struggles. But that is not how real growth happens... an atmosphere of authenticity, grace and truth... accepted despite our struggles... helps us... [become mature disciples of Christ]" (George May, Calvary Church). So, the pursuit of biblical obedience through loving and healthy relationships while accomplishing His mission is the purpose of Life Groups.