


# LIFEGROUP LAUNCH CURRICULUM

4 DISCUSSIONS TO  
HELP YOU LAUNCH A  
LIFE-TRANSFORMING GROUP



MEMBER GUIDE





THEY DEVOTED  
THEMSELVES TO THE  
APOSTLES' TEACHING, TO  
THE FELLOWSHIP, TO THE  
BREAKING OF BREAD ,  
AND TO PRAYER.

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ACTS 2:42

# WEEK 1: STRONG BEGINNINGS

## WHAT IS A LIFEGROUP?



LifeGroups are a place for both Christians and non-Christians to be known & loved, pointed to Jesus, and challenged to grow.

- 1. Known & Loved:** LifeGroup is more than a Bible Study; it is a community. We believe that life change happens best in circles, not rows. It's in relationships that we experience the love of Christ as we live the "one anothers" of the faith. For this reason, any time we gather, we will spend time socializing and getting to know one another.
- 2. Pointed to Jesus:** Our LifeGroup is a place where people can come just as they are and meet Jesus just as He is. Regardless of where you are in life or your relationship with Jesus, our LifeGroup is an authentic and vulnerable place where you can experience the love of Christ. It's a place where you can be real with God and real with others.
- 3. Challenged to Grow:** With Acts 2 as our example, we commit to reading and discussing the Word of God and enjoying time with one another. Our discussions will focus on how God's Word applies to our lives today because the measure of maturity is not information, but obedience.

Each week, we will look at the passage from the sermon. As God's Word begins to work in our lives, we will see people meet Jesus and know Him in a deep and more personal way.

Every person brings unique giftings (spiritual gifts, skills, passions, personality) to your group. One of the strategic ways that your group can grow in maturity is by offering fulfilling service opportunities.

Within any group, there are many different ways you can help: facilitating discussion, hosting, coordinating prayer requests, planning hangouts, bringing snacks/food, and more.

The second way that group members can become who God designed them to be is by joining a Discipleship Group where they can meet regularly in a gender-specific group of 4-6 people for a season of accelerated spiritual growth.

**From these three explanations, is there one that catches your attention more than the others?**

**How might God use this LifeGroup in your life?**

## WHEN WILL WE MEET ? (10-15 MINUTES) ---

*LifeGroups tend to not follow a strict schedule. Rather, they follow a weekly rhythm. A typical LifeGroup rhythm looks something like this:*

- **Meet Weekly:** We will gather weekly on the same day and time. Normally we will go through the passage from Sunday's sermon. For the first few weeks, we will go through specific passages that best describe how God will work through this LifeGroup to bring about change in both your life and in the lives of those who aren't in the group yet. Below is a recommended meeting rhythm:
  - **Community Time (10-30 minutes):** We'll spend time laughing and welcoming new people. Some groups include snacks and/or a meal for this time.
  - **Group Discussion (45-60 minutes):** We'll discuss the passage and how it has, is, or will apply to our lives.
  - **Prayer (5-15 minutes):** We will finish by praying for one another.
- **Party Quarterly:** LifeGroups choose one or two times each semester to have a Community Night as a strategic way to build relationships and invite new people into the group. We'll talk more about Community Nights in Week 4.
- **Serve Regularly:** LifeGroups find creative and strategic ways to serve their community throughout the year. This can oftentimes be outreach events that Northland organizes, such as Love Your Neighbor Day.

*Let's finish our first time together with prayer for the Lord to be honored by our weekly time together.*

*Let's pray that the Lord would bless our group so that everyone can be known & loved, pointed to Jesus, and challenged to grow.*

*Let's pray that new people would join the group and that we would be welcoming as we seek to love one another.*

*Let's pray that we would all grow in wisdom, in love, and in Christ-likeness.*

# WEEK 2: THE IMPACT OUR LIFEGROUP CAN HAVE ON US

## MEMBER GUIDE

### CONTEXT

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Today, we will be reading through a passage in Acts 2. Jesus has just died, risen, and spent forty days with His disciples preparing them to continue His ministry in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. After the Holy Spirit descends down onto the disciples, the author (Luke) gives a summary of how the early church functioned. The principles from this passage give us a model for how our community can experience life change through Jesus Christ.

### PASSAGE - A CTS 2:4 2-47 (CSB)

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*<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> Now all the believers were together and held all things in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with joyful and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.*

**“THEY DEVOTED THEMSELVES TO THE APOSTLES' TEACHING, TO THE FELLOWSHIP, TO THE BREAKING OF BREAD, AND TO PRAYER”**



## **NEXT STEPS (15 MINUTES)**

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As we commit to the Word, fellowship, and prayer, God does amazing things in and through us. Here are two simple NEXT STEPS we can all take to be a part of this life-changing experience.

### **Contribute To The Group.**

We want every person to engage in our LifeGroup so that we can BECOME who God designed us to be. A LifeGroup is not a place to simply observe, but to participate. Our group will be better when everyone shares their perspective, and steps up to encourage and serve one another! To be clear, this doesn't mean that everyone will have a correct perspective, or will do things biblically at all times. Rather, it means we engage with one another and seek to be vulnerable in this encouraging and servant-minded group.

Take a couple of minutes to answer this question:

**How can each of us contribute to this LifeGroup to both serve one another and serve those who will join us in the future?**

### **Plan To Join or Start a Discipleship Group.**

Jesus' final command to His disciples was that they go and make disciples of all nations. Our LifeGroups actually provide us an easy way to do exactly that. As you grow in your relationship with God and your relationships strengthen with one another, you will long for something more, something deeper.

Discipleship Groups (DGroups) are gender-specific groups of 4-6 believers who meet regularly to discuss what it means to be a disciple of Christ, to confess sin, and to pray for one another. These groups meet regularly (every week or every other week) to shepherd one another and to grow in Christ.

These groups eventually launch into new DGroups that help new believers experience the same growth-oriented environment. For more information, contact Pastor Tyler ([tyler@nbckc.org](mailto:tyler@nbckc.org)) or go to [nbckc.org](http://nbckc.org).

As we continue meeting together as a LifeGroup, let's consider joining or starting a DGroup. Northland Church provides excellent resources to help take the pressure off of leading and equip you to have a thriving group that encourages and challenges you in your walk with Jesus.



# WEEK 3: THE IMPACT OUR LIFEGROUP CAN HAVE ON OTHERS

## MEMBER GUIDE

### CONTEXT

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In the story we are about to read, we are between several miracle accounts as Jesus is in the middle of His earthly ministry. In this passage, we will see Jesus take a detour from performing miracles. Instead, Jesus spends time in a tax collector's office where a different type of miracle takes place: life change.

### PASSAGE - MATTHEW 9:9-13 (CSB)

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*<sup>9</sup> As Jesus went on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office, and He said to him, "Follow Me," and he got up and followed Him.*

*<sup>10</sup> While He was reclining at the table in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came to eat with Jesus and His disciples. <sup>11</sup> When the Pharisees saw this, they asked His disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" <sup>12</sup> Now when He heard this, He said, "It is not those who are well who need a doctor, but those who are sick. <sup>13</sup> Go and learn what this means: I desire mercy and not sacrifice. For I didn't come to call the righteous, but sinners."*



**GO AND LEARN WHAT THIS MEANS:  
I DESIRE MERCY AND NOT SACRIFICE.  
FOR I DIDN'T COME TO CALL  
THE RIGHTEOUS, BUT SINNERS."**

## **GROUP DISCUSSION (30 MINUTES)**

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- 1. As a tax collector, how was Matthew seen by society?**
- 2. *How should Jesus' invitation to a tax collector impact the relationships in your life?***
- 3. What does a room full of tax collectors tell you about Jesus' impact on Matthew?**
- 4. Can you share how Jesus has impacted your life in a similar way?**
- 5. In verse 11, what does the Pharisees' question show us about their heart?**
- 6. *In verse 12, Jesus says He came for the sick, not the healthy. What do you think He meant by these two descriptions?***

*Let's finish the group time by reading through the next page together.*

*We'll discuss the final question and pass out the ONE cards.*

*Let's close the night with prayer and a reminder to bring our card back next week.*

## NEXT STEPS (15 MINUTES)

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Jesus' interaction with Matthew is one of many where He spent time with people regardless of how society saw them. He never required people to get their lives together before He loved them. Jesus created a place in His life where all people could be known and loved. Likewise, we desire to reflect Christ by building environments where everyone can be known and loved. Todd Engstrom has a great quote about the power of creating a place to belong before belief is required:

*"The most persuasive argument for the Christian faith is the Christian community. The majority of conversions throughout church history have come not through argumentation, but through belonging to a meaningful community before belief is ever required."*

As a LifeGroup, we intentionally strive for an environment where people can come just as they are and meet Jesus just as He is. Whether new people discover the group or whether we invite our friends, everyone is welcome to join. LifeGroup is not a "holy huddle;" it's a place where all of our brokenness can encounter the risen Savior.

**What are some practical ways that we can make sure everyone feels known and loved by our group?**

## WHO'S YOUR ONE?

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As a LifeGroup, we want every member to identify one person in their life who would benefit from a group like this. As a group we'll encourage each other to pray weekly for that person, invest monthly in that person, and invite them to the next right thing.

This week, write down the name of that person on your card and bring it to LifeGroup next week. We'll pray over those names and plan our quarterly Community Night with that person in mind.

who's your  
**ONE?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(FIRST NAME ONLY)

**PRAY DAILY**  
**INVEST WEEKLY**  
**INVITE TO THE NEXT RIGHT THING**

# WEEK 4: BY GOD'S STRENGTH

## MEMBER GUIDE

### CONTEXT

In the passage we are about to read, the disciples have had a long and discouraging day. They ask Jesus to send the crowds away to fend for themselves. Instead, Jesus takes what the disciples have, He multiplies it, and then uses the disciples to bless others.

### PASSAGE - MATTHEW 14:15-20 (CSB)

*<sup>15</sup> When evening came, the disciples approached Him and said, "This place is deserted, and it is already late. Send the crowds away so that they can go into the villages and buy food for themselves." <sup>16</sup> "They don't need to go away," Jesus told them. "You give them something to eat." <sup>17</sup> "But we only have five loaves and two fish here," they said to Him. <sup>18</sup> "Bring them here to Me," He said. <sup>19</sup> Then He commanded the crowds to sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed them. He broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. <sup>20</sup> Everyone ate and was satisfied. They picked up twelve baskets full of leftover pieces.*

“ HE BROKE THE LOAVES AND  
GAVE THEM TO THE DISCIPLES,  
AND THE DISCIPLES GAVE  
THEM TO THE CROWDS.”

## **GROUP DISCUSSION (30 MINUTES)**

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- 1. What kind of response did the disciples have towards the crowds of new people?**
- 2. *What kind of response did Jesus have towards the crowds of new people?***
- 3. Can you share a time that someone was compassionate towards you and helped you get closer to Jesus?**
- 4. What did the disciples bring to Jesus and what did Jesus do with it?**
- 5. *What "small things" can you bring to Jesus so that He can multiply it and use you to bless others?***
- 6. *What are some situations in your life where you've felt inadequate or ill-equipped to meet a need?***
- 7. *How can we trust in God's provision and overcome feelings of inadequacy?***

*Let's finish the group time by reading through the next page with the group.*

*Let's close our time with prayer for the group to be welcoming and compassionate by God's strength.*

## NEXT STEPS (15 MINUTES)

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Now that we have all identified one person in our life that would benefit from a group like ours, let's commit to do three things together:

1. **PRAY weekly:** Let's ask God to make this person aware of Christ's love and their need for Jesus and to give them the faith to repent, believe, and be baptized.

**Group Question:** *What are some specific ways you can pray for your person? Be careful to not share private details about their life. Rather, think of encouraging ways to pray for them that doesn't steer into gossip.*

2. **INVEST monthly:** Let's each be intentional to build a relationship with the person we're each praying for so we can each share Christ's love with them. As we each invest in someone's life, we build trust and credibility, which creates more opportunities to share the Gospel.

**Group Question:** *What are some simple, practical ways that you can invest in your relationship with your ONE? How might that create opportunities to demonstrate and discuss Jesus with them?*

3. **INVITE to the next right thing:** We want to invite people into a growing relationship with Jesus. When people aren't ready yet, we can still invite them to belong to a LifeGroup before they believe in Christ.

As each of us are praying for and investing in our ONE, we want to intentionally create a place where we can invite them to belong to our community. About once or twice a semester, our LifeGroup will host a Community Night.

Community Nights are nights where we hang out with one another. It's a time where we can get to know one another as well as invite new people to join us. Though we can invite someone new any week, Community Nights are intentional nights designed with the new person in mind.

Hangouts can be as simple or involved as you want them to be. You can grill out, see a movie, complete an Escape Room, or host a Trivia Night. It's totally up to your group. Just choose things that allow your group to connect with one another and something your ONE will be interested in joining.

*Finish the night praying as a group for opportunities to invest in your ONE.*

*Pray for opportunities to invite your ONE.*

*Pray that we would minister by God's strength.*