

Date: _____

LIFE GROUP COVENANT

Spokane Valley Church of the Nazarene

Leader(s):
Phone:
Email:

Host(s):
Phone:
Email:

The Life Group ministry of Spokane Valley Church depends upon the unity and commitment of group members who enter into covenantal relationships together. The purpose of this covenant agreement is to help your Life Group discuss and clarify your common goals, expectations and commitment.

The Purpose of Spokane Valley Church Life Groups

Our Life Groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and growth through the development and strengthening of healthy relationships of integrity and mutual accountability as we gather together to study and apply the Word of God (see Acts 2:42; Romans 8:28-29; Hebrews 10:24-25). We will do this by focusing our Life Group time together on four core activities:

Share

Each time we meet, we will take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first, this sharing will probably be largely based on pre-planned "icebreaker" and discussion questions. But the natural progression of a Life Group typically results in a growing confidence among group members that allows them to become more informal and personal in their sharing after the first few weeks as participants become comfortable relating to one another in a healthy way.

Study

Each time we meet, we will study a portion of the Christian Scriptures that relates to the message of our weekend worship services or follows a recommended or approved Life Group curriculum. Our goal in this study is to grow in our ability to live out our identity as disciples of Jesus in consistent and practical application to the opportunities of daily life.

Support

Each time we meet, we will do our best to care for one another just as Christ commanded (see John 15:12-14). This care will take many different forms such as *intercessory prayer, encouragement, patient listening, speaking the truth in love, and meeting real needs in very practical ways.*

Serve

Enduring and sustainable growth in the life of the Spirit is fostered not only by what we gain through the support we receive from others, but also through the *personal service* we render to others. Every disciple of Jesus is called to serve others in his name and compassionate Spirit, and the spiritual gifts we utilize in making such contributions prove to be absolutely crucial to the ongoing health and vitality of the Church (see Ephesians 4:11-16). During the time that our Life Group will be meeting together, it is our hope that you will discover and be affirmed in the unique ways God that has gifted you to serve others by making a redemptive difference in the world.

Five Characteristics of a Healthy Life Group

For our Life Group to be and remain healthy, we prayerfully aspire to:

1. Make our personal and collective spiritual growth a top priority (see Romans 8:29).
2. Demonstrate and offer full acceptance in relating to one another just as Christ has welcomed us into his Church (see Romans 15:7).
3. Obey the command of Christ by showing love for one another (see John 13:34).
4. Treat all who participate in the Life Group with personal respect and courtesy as appropriate for disciples of Jesus who are called to a life of *visible* holiness in the world (see Ephesians 4:25-5:2).
5. Honor and maintain our covenant commitments to the group (see Psalm 15:1-3, 4b-c).

Guidelines and Covenant

1. Meeting Dates

We will meet on _____ nights for _____ weeks. Our final scheduled meeting for this study will be on _____.

2. Time

We will arrive and begin our meetings promptly at _____. We will consistently end our sessions at _____.

3. Children

Group members are responsible to arrange their own child care, but families are encouraged to consider working together to secure a sitter. We will discuss and decide together on any other related issues that arise in the group.

4. Study

Our sessions will either focus on the Life Group discussion guides covering the Scripture(s) related to the message in our weekend worship services or other approved curriculum provided or recommended by Spokane Valley Church. In either case, our goal as a group is to learn how to live out our identity and vocation as disciples of Jesus in practical ways as we experience the challenges and opportunities of daily life.

5. Prayer

We will pray daily for one another, making a special point to engage in intercession by remembering those needs and prayer requests that are shared in confidence within the group.

6. Homework and Attendance

Joining a Life Group requires a personal commitment to attend each session *unless providentially hindered* while preparing for our study by doing the necessary homework ahead of time. Obviously, allowances are made for illness, vacation, work conflicts and other special events, but we make this commitment to one another knowing that *our Life Group depends upon our consistency in showing that we value the investment of time and energy that our fellow group members make whenever we gather*. If we discover that

we will not be able to attend a Life Group gathering, we will call _____
to let our fellow group members know we will be absent.

7. Refreshments

Every time we gather the group will share light refreshments (dessert), making sure that the host household is never responsible to both “cook and clean” when opening their home for Life Group guests. Responsibility to prepare refreshments should be shared evenly by other members of the group.

8. Quarterly Life Group Social Gathering

Once a quarter (for long-term Life Groups, and perhaps as a closing activity for short-term study groups) we will gather for a time of fellowship and celebration.

9. Annual Service Project(s)

At least once a year we will work together to engage in some sort of meaningful service to others in our community as a way of demonstrating the compassionate love and Spirit of Jesus in a tangible way without cost or obligation to the recipients.

We agree together in Christ to honor this Life Group covenant (to be signed by each person joining the Life Group on or before their third week):

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| 1. | 9. |
| 2. | 10. |
| 3. | 11. |
| 4. | 12. |
| 5. | 13. |
| 6. | 14. |
| 7. | 15. |
| 8. | 16. |