

1) What is a GCR LifeGroup?

A GCR LifeGroup is a group of eight to twelve adults, and possibly their children, that meet on a regular basis to experience community by journeying together, encouraging one another's growth, supporting each other through life's challenges and celebrations, and serving the Lord in a collective purpose through the collaboration of their gifts.

2) How does one build community?

Building and experiencing community simply means opening your heart, maybe even your home, and welcoming others in a spirit of friendship. The bond between LifeGroup members, and the objectives of LifeGroup, occur rather naturally as people come together in Christian love seeking to grow in the Lord.

3) What is the purpose of LifeGroups?

GCR LifeGroups exist to insure that every member is edified, equipped, and engaged in outreach in the context of a small, covenant community. Said in other words, the LifeGroup exists to support one's growth in their relationship with God, one's relationships with others in the LifeGroup, and one's relationships with the lost.

4) What is GCR's vision for LifeGroups?

We envision a day when every person at GCR actively participates in a LifeGroup and enjoys the benefits and blessings of community. Presently, approximately half of those who attend GCR belong to a LifeGroup.

5) What do you actually do in a LifeGroup meeting?

LifeGroups typically meet on a weekly basis. However, there are different types of LifeGroups, and each has its own format. In the traditional Family/Intergenerational LifeGroup, the weekly meeting provides a time to build community. Most meetings have four basic parts. The first part of the meeting is the Welcome, a time to greet each other and catch up on the week, usually over munchies of some sort. Next is generally Worship, a brief interlude of singing, praising, and worshipping the Lord. After worship comes the Word portion of LifeGroup, which is a time to reflect on the sermon and apply it to your lives. Finally, there is the Works portion of the meeting, a spending time in prayer for the lost, or planning a LifeGroup outreach or other special events. The four components, Welcome, Worship, Word, Works, or the 4W's as we call them, serve as a skeleton around which the traditional LifeGroup meeting is built.

6) How long is a LifeGroup meeting?

Most meetings last 1 ½ to 2 hours. It is not unusual, however, to have to pry people from your house, as they love to visit after the meeting.

7) When do LifeGroups meet?

There is no appointed time that all LifeGroups gather. The majority of GCR LifeGroups meet weekly, on Sunday evening. A few meet on other days of the week. It is up to the individual LifeGroups and the availability of their members.

8) Where do they meet?

Most GCR LifeGroups meet in members' homes, often rotating turns to host on a weekly or monthly basis. Sometimes, though, one house is more suited for the LifeGroup group. Other times, people choose a public location to meet. This decision, too, is up to each LifeGroup and its members.

9) What do you do with children?

GCR desires to see children incorporated into the life of the LifeGroup. That may take on various forms. Some LifeGroups share the responsibility among adult members, each taking turns to work with the children. Other LifeGroups pitch in and hire a baby sitter. Often times, the children participate with the meeting. Much depends on the age of the children and how many young people attend your group.

10) Who can come to a LifeGroup?

Everyone is welcome. LifeGroups are open to visitors. Feel free to invite your neighbors and coworkers and out-of-town guests.

11) What do I do if I don't connect with the LifeGroup I visit?

The same thing you do if you take your car to mechanic and it doesn't get fixed—you find a new mechanic. If you don't connect with one LifeGroup, for whatever reason, visit another. Keep visiting until you find a LifeGroup that makes you feel at home. We believe God has a place for you to give and to receive. It is important for you to find that place.

12) How do I get invited to a LifeGroup?

Don't wait for an invitation. You are always free to invite yourself to any LifeGroup you like. If you attend a weekend service, fill out the blue LifeGroup Referral card you find in the pew, then place it in the offering plate or drop it at the Welcome Desk in the West foyer. In the coming week, someone from our LifeGroup office will call you with an invitation to visit a LifeGroup that might be a fit for you. If you'd like to find your own LifeGroup, a listing of the contact information for each LifeGroup is available at the information desk and on our website—www.gcrcc.org.