

## **L3 Groups FAQ**

We are embarking on an exciting shift in the life of King Street Church! Over the last several years, numerous leaders from among pastors, elders, board members and lay leaders have diligently sought the Holy Spirit's leading in envisioning our next 10 years as a church. We have been led to the following 10 year vision:

In the next 10 years, KSC will create and establish clear and intentional pathways of discipleship development to equip the church for engaging and blessing our community with the Gospel. We will shift our emphasis to become a church family where everyone is purposefully using their spiritual gifts to live out God's call on their lives.

With phrases like "clear and intentional" and "shift our emphasis" it is clear that the Lord has led us to greater focus that will require some change. As we continue to praise God for how he has worked over our rich history, we see great opportunity moving forward. As we have listened, surveyed and sought the leading of the Holy Spirit, we have seen a great need in our body for people to be more connected in close community and more firmly rooted in Biblical foundations. We have the opportunity to grow in effectiveness in engaging and blessing our community with the Gospel out of an increased depth of commitment to discipleship and relationship.

We have committed as a church that our primary vehicle for obedience to the vision the Holy Spirit has given us is active engagement in an L3 Group. L3 Groups are discipleship communities of 6-12 people who meet at least twice a month for the purpose of sharing life together in 3 ways: LOVING one another, LEARNING together, and LAUNCHING ministry.

To implement this effectively across our church family, there will be some programatic changes. And along with that naturally come many questions. We are excited to engage in conversation, and we recognize that we can't answer every question before we see this begin to play out, but our hope is that this FAQ document helps to address some of the nuts and bolts questions you may have about this change.

### **Is Sunday school going away?**

No.

Current Sunday school classes may continue to meet. But we do hope that many will choose to shift their format to an L3 model by breaking into smaller groups, meeting in homes (when possible), using church-directed resources and launching one another to service and ministry. All participants of a Sunday school class are encouraged to participate in an L3 Group outside of a Sunday morning.

We intend to shift some of our "elective" offerings that previously occupied Wednesday night programming into the Sunday school format for those classes that are open to it. This will allow us to always have an open seat for visitors and new attenders and will elevate Sunday school for what it does very well: Christian education.

### **Is Adult Wednesday Night programming going away?**

Beginning in January 2020, we will no longer be offering Wednesday night adult classes or electives. We want to create a simpler pathway to discipleship without adding another program. This is to make L3 commitment more doable with an already busy schedule and to

free us up to be engaged in ministry, service and relationship to the church, our neighbors and community. In recognizing the value of content that has been presented on Wednesday nights in the past, we want to work with Sunday school classes to become a delivery vehicle for this style of biblical training.

### **When do L3 Groups meet?**

L3 Groups are asked to meet a minimum of 2x/month throughout the whole calendar year. The time and place of the meeting may be determined by each group. There will not be a church-prescribed meeting time or place. Mornings, afternoons and evenings are all great options.

### **Where will L3 Groups meet?**

The ideal setting for L3 Groups is in a home. With 6-12 participants, we recognize that this will be possible for some groups and not possible for others. KSC facilities will be made available for use on particular days of the week for those that need or prefer to meet on campus. We will work with each group to find the best solution. Being willing to host in your home does NOT mean that you must also be a facilitator. Being a facilitator does NOT mean you are expected to host in your home.

### **How will L3 Group facilitators be selected and equipped?**

We are in process right now (Fall 2019/Winter 2020) of identifying and recruiting facilitators. Many people may want to serve in this way, and we would love to hear from you if you are interested. We will utilize 3 training sessions for each new facilitator and cover things like KSC 10 year vision, purpose and goals, elements of a meeting, expectations, group dynamics, atmosphere, challenges, etc. Facilitators will meet as a large group 2-3x/year for additional training, encouragement and prayer. Individual group needs or training needs that arise will be addressed in an ongoing manner as needed.

### **How will L3 Groups form?**

Some will be a new version of existing groups, but most will be a new group entirely. There will be both paper and digital opportunities for people to express interest, availability, preferences, etc., and we will work with each group facilitator to try to build the most strategic group possible. Some groups may come pre-formed as an existing group of friends. We will work with that. Once initial launch is complete, we will always be beginning new groups as additional people express interest in getting involved. The formation of these groups will ultimately be a combination of systematic and organic. We will work with each one!

### **What does the make up of an L3 Group look like?**

L3 Groups may be diverse across different life stages, ages, couples, singles, etc. We expect some groups to share much in common and some to be more varied in their make up. There will be room for all male or all female groups, though we do encourage spouses to participate in the same L3 Group when possible. We will be available to help new groups form as strategically as possible.

### **Are L3 Groups closed?**

L3 Groups will close after an initial period of remaining open. We intend for the first 4-6 meetings of any new group to be focused on relationships and getting know one another using a curriculum to draw this out. At a strategic point, each group will close. This is to foster trust,

intimacy, vulnerability and accountability. In any group there could be turnover. We will work with each group facilitator in this case to determine the right move for the health of each group. Our Sunday schools will continue to be the “open chair” landing spot for visitors and guests.

### **When do L3 Groups begin?**

L3 Group rollout will begin as early as Fall 2019. We will have an initial push in November 2019 with a second push in Winter 2020.

### **What will L3 Groups study?**

After an initial launch period focusing on relationship building, all L3 Groups will begin with a 6-part Biblical discipleship series called Design for Discipleship produced by The Navigators. We anticipate the study of the initial series to take 9-14 months, though timing is highly flexible. Different groups will not be expected to move at the same pace.

This curriculum offers depth of biblical literacy in a format that encourages openness and vulnerability. We have been using it in some pilot groups and it has been very effective. After this initial study is complete, we will provide each group with in-depth study materials to begin investigating spiritual gifts. And eventually, there will be some flexibility for groups to choose their content from a church-vetted list of discipleship growth materials in different areas (ie, missions, marriage, evangelism, theology, etc.).

### **How long will an L3 group meet?**

There is no specified timeline, but we expect most groups to be together for a couple years at least to build depth and relationship. Some groups may hit a natural ending point and some may continue for many years beyond this.

### **Will open spots be filled if/when there is turnover?**

Sometimes yes, sometimes no. We will work with each group individually to make the best choice in each situation. L3 Groups should not expect people to be “checking out” their group. We want to keep these groups safe for people to deeply invest with others they trust.

### **What about childcare?**

Some groups will require childcare. We discourage L3 Groups from having children present in the discussion time. There are several different ways childcare could happen depending on the needs of the group. The church will not be providing childcare directly but will work with each group to develop a workable solution when the group is unable to find one on it's own (space, potential sitters, necessary clearances, etc.).

### **How does this affect Wednesday night childrens' and youth ministry?**

Both will continue to operate on Wednesday nights and each *may* implement some changes to format and vision (beginning January 2020). We believe this gives a great opportunity to these ministries to seek the Lord in how they operate and have the freedom to work most effectively in their area of focus.

**Who are my primary contacts for additional questions?**

Pastor Jay Brown ([jbrown@kschurch.org](mailto:jbrown@kschurch.org))

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