

Life Group Study Questions

For the week of September 19, 2021

WELCOME TO THE FALL QUARTER OF LIFE GROUPS!

This week we kick off our Fall Life Group Quarter. Your first gathering is designed to give you time to get acquainted, enjoy a meal together and connect with each other, as well as time to discuss how to make your Life Group meetings great! The study questions have been shortened this week to allow ample time to accomplish all of this. To prepare for your first meeting, take some time to focus on the questions below and be prepared to share your answers with the group.

As we start this new quarter of Life Groups, please help us continue to keep group members safe by staying home from group if you are not feeling well. We hope you have a great time together as you connect, encourage one another to grow and see how God might work!

Online Groups - If your group is meeting online, your leaders will be sending you the link for your group. Use this link for tips on meeting with your group online: lifegroups.northcoastchurch.com/pro-tips/

LEADER NOTES

GETTING READY FOR YOUR FIRST MEETING

Each week in this section you'll find the most important information for your group.

⇒ GOALS OF THE FIRST MEETING

- Re-connect with existing members and meet new members
- **Cast vision for the quarter with your group**
- **Clarify your group's direction / expectations / commitments** [using the Life Group Commitment Form](#)
- Briefly discuss the sermon topic (if there is time)
- Pray for the building of relationships and spiritual growth of the group



⇒ Items Needed for the First Meeting

- **Life Group Commitment Form**– Review this with your group. This was mailed to you last week in your leader packet, and can also be found online here: lifegroups.northcoastchurch.com/life-group-covenants/
- Nametags for in-person groups (print or write them out ahead of time).

⇒ Contact Your Group in Advance

- Contact all members one week before the first meeting to welcome them to the group. You can check your roster online to see all the members of your group and their contact information. You can find instructions on how to check your roster here:

lifegroups.northcoastchurch.com/how-to-view-your-roster/

- **IN-PERSON GROUPS** - Inform members of the location and time of your group and how you're handling food.
- **ONLINE GROUPS** – Make sure you send the link to your meeting well in advance and preferably again on the day you meet.

PRO-TIPS TO MAXIMIZE THE ONLINE GROUPS EXPERIENCE

- 1) **Shorten meetings to 75 minutes or less.**
- 2) **Use break-out rooms to personalize conversation.** (If possible, try to do this at least 5-10 minutes every meeting.)
- 3) **Coach people on how to engage and speak up online.** (Practicing this can really help.)

* More how-to's at this link: [Pro-Tips & Facilitation Tips to maximize your Online Experience.](#)

AGENDA FOR YOUR FIRST MEETING

Looking for more guidance on your first meeting? You can find the “First Night Agenda” on how to make your first night great on the Leader Tools page of our website. (lifegroups.northcoastchurch.com/make-your-first-night-great/) You can also listen to [the audio version of the leader guide here](#).

HOW WE MEASURE OUR SUCCESS WEEK TO WEEK: Hearing from everyone at every meeting and keeping God’s Word at the center.

Make sure you leave plenty of time to go over the Life Group Commitment Form with your group.

- **Welcome & Eat** - Potluck is a great option. Online groups can try a virtual dinner option if they would like.
- **Group Sharing** – Discussion Note: You can transition from the “Getting to Know You” section to the “Taking it Home” section.
- **Study Questions Discussion** (optional)
- **Go over the Life Group Commitment Form** – Use the last question in the Leader Guide to Study Questions below to transition into reviewing the Commitment Form.
- Close in prayer.
- Mingle afterward.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Discussion Note: Add these questions if you have new people in your group or a completely new group. If it hasn’t come up in conversation before the meeting officially starts, have everyone in the group share how long they have been attending North Coast, if they have been in a Life Group before and their favorite hobby.

Discussion Tips: These are effective for both in-person and online groups. Remember to set time limits to ensure everyone has an opportunity to answer the questions. Possibly use the “Tag— You’re It” method to ensure everyone can share. Once one person is finished sharing, they select the next person to share.

One of the great parts of being in a Life Group is getting to know others better. Take a moment to jot down your answers to the questions below and be ready to share with your group. *Have fun with this first question. Have everyone answer.*

Would you rather ...

... be chronically underdressed or overdressed?

... have all traffic lights you approach be green or never have to stand in line again?

... be able to teleport anywhere or be able to read minds?

How was your summer? It was nice to have a little bit of “normal” back this summer. What are one or two normal things you enjoyed this summer? *Good question to have everyone answer. You may want to transition from this question to the “Looking Ahead” section to ensure you have time to hear what each person is hoping to get out of your group time and to go over the Life Group Commitment Form.*

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged or confused you? *Based on time, you can decide if you want to ask this question. You can easily transition from this one to the “Looking Ahead” section also.*

DIGGING DEEPER

Discussion Note: Because of the extra time spent getting to know each other or re-connecting, make sure you have enough time to spend on the “Looking Ahead” section. You may not have time to cover the “Digging Deeper” section this week.

This weekend’s message gave us some great insight on the call as followers of Jesus to live out both truth and love. It’s no surprise balancing those can be tricky. What insight do the following verses give us on how to do this? [Another good question to have everyone answer if you have time.](#)

John 13:35 New International Version (NIV)

³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

2 Timothy 3:16-17 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

1 Peter 3:15-16 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁵ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

Ephesians 4:15 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.

1 Corinthians 16:13-14 New International Version (NIV)

¹³ Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. ¹⁴ Do everything in love.

When it comes to balancing truth and love, most of us find ourselves leaning one way more than the other. What would you say is your tendency? Which of the verses above helps you balance that out?

As a follower of Jesus, God’s Spirit compels us (2 Corinthians 5:14-21) to live out His truth and love, not only giving us purpose and meaning, but also helping others see God’s love through us. As you think about this, which one of the verses might be a good theme verse for you this next quarter? [You can use your group members’ answers here to transition into “Looking Ahead” section below.](#)

Discussion Note: One option would be to make a list as a group and do a check-in on your group’s answers halfway through the quarter and at the end of the quarter, or to make it an ongoing check-in throughout the quarter.

Additional Verse: Use [2 Corinthians 5:14-21](#) above to dig in further on how God uses us as ambassadors for Him.

LOOKING AHEAD

Life Groups meet every week to gain the encouragement and support we need in life as we follow Jesus. Take a moment to jot down some of the reasons you joined a group this fall, along with what you are looking forward to the most. [Important to question to hear from everyone.](#)

Transition Statement to Life Group Commitment: “It’s great to hear what each of you has said about what you want to get out of your time in our group. One of the great benefits of being in a Life Group is the opportunity to have help from others as we seek to be strategic and intentional about our spiritual growth. The Life Group Commitment is designed to serve as intentional guidelines to help us make the most of our time together.”

[Link to the form for people in your group](#)

Go over the Life Group Commitment Form with your group. See below, or you can download the [Leader Guide to the Life Group Commitment](#). Use this as a guide to keep your group healthy in communicating and caring for one another each week. (The leader audio will give you more details on how to do this effectively.)

CLOSE IN PRAYER: If you have anyone new in your group and you don’t know them, it is recommended to close with your host or one person praying. Next week, the Study Questions will include an introduction to praying in a group, so if you have a new group or a lot of new members, it’s suggested that you wait until week two to do any group prayer.

Mingle with everyone after the meeting. Even if you’re online, stay on an extra 10 minutes to see if anyone wants to connect and hang out just like you would at an in-person meeting.

THE PURPOSE OF LIFE GROUPS

Life Groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth through meaningful Christian relationships and the study of God’s Word. (Romans 8:29 & Hebrews 10:24-25). Here’s how it will happen:

SHARE

Each week we’ll take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first this sharing will include planned “sharing questions.” But after the first few weeks, it will become more informal and personal as we feel more comfortable.

STUDY

Each week we’ll study a section from God’s Word that relates to the previous weekend’s sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life.

SUPPORT

Each week we’ll learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (John 15:9-13). This care can take many forms, such as prayer, encouragement, listening, challenging one another and meeting real needs.

SERVE

Spiritual growth is fostered not only by what we gain through the support and input of others, but also through service to others. The role each of us fills is important to the health of the church and for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the community in which we live (Ephesians 4:11-16). Throughout the quarter, it is our hope that you can find and/or be affirmed in the ways God has designed you to serve and make a difference in God’s Kingdom.

**NORTH COAST MEN’S CONFERENCE is a great opportunity for the guys in your Life Group to team up and do something together. There is also a discount for sons.*



MEN’S CONFERENCE

Join us Friday, October 22 & Saturday, October 23 for the first ever North Coast Church Men’s Conference held at the Vista Campus! Come ready to relax, recharge and refocus on God’s call for us with teaching led by pastors Chris Brown and Mark Clark, along with worship and games! Register at northcoastchurch.com/2021-mens-conference/.



LEADERS GUIDE - LIFE GROUP COMMITMENT

- **DOWNLOAD** this and other Commitments: lifegroups.northcoastchurch.com/life-group-covenants
- *When discussing – use the proactive leadership style – clear direction, yet flexible*

Leaders _____ Ph.# _____
Hosts _____ Ph.# _____
Station in Life _____ Campus _____

Small groups thrive on participation! The purpose of this Commitment is to help you to discuss and clarify your group's goals, expectations and commitments.

LIFE GROUPS: THEIR PURPOSE

Life Groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth through meaningful Christian relationships and study of God's Word (Romans 8:29 & Hebrews 10:24, 25). We'll do this by focusing on four primary activities:

SHARE

Each week we'll take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first this sharing will include planned "sharing questions," but after the first few weeks, it will become more informal and personal as we feel more comfortable.

STUDY

Each week we'll study a section from God's Word that relates to the previous weekend's sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life.

Our goal is to interact interpersonally on the topic and how we can practically follow Christ, not to answer all the questions.

SUPPORT

Each week we'll learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (John 15:9-13). This care can take many forms such as *prayer, encouragement, listening, challenging one another and meeting real needs.*

SERVE

Spiritual Growth is fostered not only by what we gain through the support and input of others, but also through service to others. The role each of us fills is important to the health of the church and for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to our community (Ephesians 4:11-16). Throughout the quarter, it is our hope that you can find and/or be affirmed in the ways God has designed you to serve, and make a difference in God's Kingdom.

FIVE MARKS OF A HEALTHY GROUP

For our group to be healthy, we need to...

- 1. Make spiritual growth our number one priority (Romans 8:29).**
⇒ Tangents – they are okay sometimes, but sometimes we need to be refocused. We'll need to keep spiritual growth our focus and stay on topic.
- 2. Accept one another (Romans 15:7).**
⇒ We will have different preferences.
- 3. Take care of one another (John 13:34).**
⇒ When crisis happens we're there to help with support, prayer, encouragement, listening, meals etc.
- 4. Treat each other with respect (Ephesians 4:25-5:2).**
*⇒ Listening to one another, if one's talking let's all listen, nothing worse than two conversations going on at once.
⇒ Our goal is to listen, not give advice. (Advice is given when asked for) We are not here to judge or fix – unless someone asks. An example of giving advice is by saying, "Well this is what I think you should do." On the other hand, that doesn't mean we can't question what is said or what someone is doing.
⇒ Some of us have the gift of gab, also known as a dominator – be careful, I as a leader might have to help you.
⇒ Be careful of gossip prayers. For example, "we need to pray for (person's name) because they are doing this ..."
⇒ No put-downs.
⇒ What is said here, stays here – of course we never promise confidentiality if something shared would be harmful to yourself or someone else and/or if I, as the leader, need to seek counsel on how to respond to an issue in the group.*
- 5. Keep our commitments to the group (Psalm 15:1-2, 4b).**
⇒ Please give us a call if you can't make it to Life Group so we know what's going on and how to pray for you.

GUIDELINES & COMMITMENT

1. **Dates** We'll meet on _____ nights for _____ weeks. Our final meeting of this quarter will be on _____. *Fill in blanks*
2. **Time** We'll arrive between _____ & _____ and begin the meeting at _____. We'll spend approximately _____ minutes in singing (optional), _____ minutes in study/discussion, and _____ minutes in prayer/sharing. *Fill in blanks*
3. **Children** Group members are responsible to arrange childcare for their children. Nursing newborns are welcome provided they are not a distraction to the group!
4. **Study** Our studies will focus on the same topic covered in the previous Sunday's sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to hear from everyone every night and keep God's Word at the center. *Not to answer every question.*
5. **Prayer** Praying for one another. *You'll go over tips on topical prayer the second week of group. Remember - being forced to pray in group or just the idea of it can cause people to not want to come to your group. If you have new people in your group, you might want to say something like this: "It's exciting to see how God works in our lives through prayer. We also realize prayer in groups is something many have never done. Know that you will never be forced to pray." Let them know you'll talk more in the weeks to come on how we do group prayer and that we break a lot of the stereotypes of what it means to pray.*
6. **Homework & Attendance** Joining a Life Group requires a commitment to *attend each week and do the homework ahead of time*. Obviously, allowances are made for sickness, vacation, work conflicts, and other special events—but not much more!
This commitment is the key to a healthy group.

If we cannot come to a meeting, we will call or text _____.
⇒ *Emphasize the importance of the commitment to attendance and preparation. (A good group starts with good preparation)*
⇒ *Make sure that everyone is with you. (Do we agree? Is this what we want? Make eye contact, etc.)*
⇒ *Most weeks require 20-30 minutes of homework to prepare for the group study and discussion.*
7. **Desserts** *Have everyone sign up for a night to do dessert.*
8. **Social & Service Project(s)** *Emphasize the importance of a quarterly social and service project. As a leader and host, have 2 or 3 suggestions ready and 2 or 3 potential dates. Choose a date or ask the group to bring their calendars next week. New groups are preferred to have their social by mid-quarter.*

We agree to honor this commitment throughout the quarter.
(To be decided by each person on or before the third week.)

2 John Truth Matters

The Who, What and Why

The Who & What:

The Why:

To address the rapid rise of **COUNTERFEIT** Christianity

Two Key Words

2 John 1-6

(1) **LOVE**

1 John 4:10

(2) **TRUTH**

John 14:6 & 14:15-17/ John 17:17

Three Lies to RUN from

2 John 7-11

(1) A Different **JESUS**

2 John 7-8/ John 14:6/ John 5:18/ Acts 4:12/ Galatians 1:6-9

(2) A Different **DICTIONARY**

Isaiah 5:20/ 2 Timothy 4:3-4/ Mark 7:5-8 & Colossians 1:20-21
Genesis 3:1 & 2 Peter 2:1-2, 12, 18-21

(3) A Deeper **MESSAGE**

1 Corinthians 1:19-20, 26-29/ 2 Peter 1:3-4/ 2 Corinthians 1:13/ Proverbs 30:5-6
Titus 3:9-11 & 1 Timothy 1:3-7