

Life Groups

Facilitator Overview

Grace Fellowship, York Pennsylvania

www.GraceYork.com

Character & Gifts

- Strong history of loving God and people
- Humble, teachable spirit
- Steadfast, hardworking, loyal
- Self-starter, finisher
- Positive attitude, flexible

Experience & Passion

- Strong history of working well with people
- Attends Grace regularly
- Attended or on track to attend Partnership
- Passion to be a part of a team that helps those in need take their next steps in encountering God

Commitment

- A long-term commitment to loving God and people in a large church
- Excited about our Vision, Mission, and Values
- Passion to ensure the successful support ministry of the entire Pastoral Team

The Role of Life Groups

What is the Purpose of a Life Group?

The purpose of a Life Group is to help people become spiritually maturing disciples who love God and people in practical and tangible ways, put the Bible into action, and replicate. Life Groups have an outward-inward focus where we care for one another, go deeper with God in increasing surrender, and reach out to those who do not yet know Jesus. You will be comforted, encouraged, and challenged to grow in your faith alongside other Christ followers of various ages and experiences.

Who is in a Life Group?

Each Life Group consists of **6-12 people** who are either actively part of Grace Fellowship or who are not yet part of a local church.

When do Life Groups Meet?

Life Groups are semester based and gather together in the spring and the fall. Each group meets **2-4 times per month** for about 90-120 minutes.

What Happens in a Life Group Gathering?

A typical gathering consists of the following four elements: **1. Fellowship** **2. Discussion** **3. Prayer** and **4. Action**. Each group will also prayerfully reach out to those who do not yet know Christ through one targeted **impact project** and one **invite event** each semester.

How do Life Groups Help Us Fulfill our Vision and Mission?

Life Groups follow Grace's overall Vision, Mission, and 5 Vital Values. **Grace's Vision** is to be a church of local, regional, national, and international impact. **Grace's Mission** is to make disciples by intentionally loving God and people. Life Groups are an overflow of what happens on a Sunday morning. They enable us to have a local and regional impact right here in York. **Life Groups empower people to grow in community, put the Bible into action, and join God on His mission to seek and save the lost.**



Grace Fellowship's 5 Vital Values

Movement

Humility

Relationships

Simplicity

Replication

The Role of a Facilitator

In our society very few men have been mentored on how to be spiritual leaders in their homes, families, churches, and communities. **We are committed to fulfilling this biblical mandate by intentionally mentoring and training men to become the spiritual leaders that God has called them to be (Dt. 6:1-6, Josh. 24:14-15, Eph. 5:25-33, 1 Pt. 3:7).** One practical way to accomplish this is to train men to facilitate Life Groups. **If the man is married, his wife plays a vital part in this process as she prayerfully supports her husband in this potentially new role.**

As such, we are looking for humble men who exemplify the character traits of a true man of God as found in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. Potential facilitators must have completed or be scheduled to complete Partnership. They must also be excited about Grace's Vision, Mission, Values, Doctrine, and Culture (referred to as Core Ideology hereafter). **This enables us to remain unified as we partner with God to build His kingdom.**

Facilitator Responsibilities

All Life Group facilitators operate under the direction of the Next Steps Pastor. The Primary role and responsibilities of a Life Group facilitator are listed below.

- 1. Champion the Essentials** – It is vital for facilitators to continuously advance the purpose of Life Groups. They must embrace, support, and implement Grace's Core Ideology into their ministry. Facilitators will also ensure that the four elements of a Life Group (fellowship, discussion, prayer, application) are incorporated into each gathering.
- 2. Facilitate Focused Discussion** – The goal is to include everyone in the discussion. As a general guideline, this means that facilitators should speak approximately 30% of the time during the discussion. Facilitators will also follow the weekly sermon based discussion questions.
- 3. Shepherd Up, In, and Out** – People need a place where they are loved, cared for, and challenged in their faith. Facilitators will shepherd upward by directing the group to God and His Word. They will shepherd inward by organizing practical ways for the group to care for one another. Finally, they will shepherd outward by encouraging and organizing individual and group outreach by following the i3 Strategy (invest, invite, impact).
- 4. Replace Yourself** – Facilitators will champion our value of replication by training future Life Group facilitators. They will accomplish this by following a simple apprenticeship process. Facilitators will also encourage, direct, and celebrate the multiplication of their Life Group under the direction of the Next Steps Pastor.
- 5. Don't Do It Alone** – Facilitators are responsible for coordinating the logistical aspects of the group such as meeting time and location, the food schedule, and recording group attendance. They are encouraged to equip others to oversee some of these logistical pieces. Remember, many hands make light the load.
- 6. Be Teachable and Accountable** – Facilitators will exemplify our value of humility by remaining teachable and accountable to their Coach and the pastoral team. They are asked to attend the four training sessions offered each year. Facilitators will implement the vision of Life Groups under the direction of the Next Steps Pastor, along with other pastors engaged in the process.