

THE PURPOSE OF LIFE GROUPS

Life Groups exist to promote spiritual growth through authentic Christian relationships and study of God's Word.

Hebrews 10:24-25, NIV ²⁴ *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*"

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.

SUPPORT

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

John 15:9-13, NIV ⁹ *"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.*

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.

Ephesians 4:11-16, NIV ¹¹ *So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. 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. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."*

A YEAR WITH JESUS

Rev. Brandon Babcock, Ph.D.
April 12, 2026
A Year with Jesus: Part 15
springfieldfaithcenter.org/sermons

THE WINDS AND WAVES OBEY

Matthew 8:23-27

The Miracle on the Lake:

Matthew 8:23-27, Jonah 1-4, Psalm 65:5-7, Psalm 89:9-11, Psalm 93:3-4

- Miracle stories are all about **Jesus**.
- This miracle is a sign of Jesus' **authority**.
- This miracle reveals Jesus' **identity**.

Questions from the Story:

1. How do we **regard** Jesus?
2. When facing storms will I choose **fear** of circumstance or **faith** in Jesus?

LIFE GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

For the week of April 12, 2026

Welcome to the Spring Session of Life Groups

This week we kick off our Spring Session of Life Groups. Your first gathering is designed to give you time to get acquainted, possibly 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 the first session 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!

Be Friendly

Tell us a little about yourself...

- If you were taking a boat trip to a location, and you could only invite one person (living or dead), who are you taking, where are you going, and why?
- As we kick off this Spring session, what is one hobby, project, or habit you are hoping to 'bring to life' or start fresh this season (e.g., gardening, a new fitness goal, finally cleaning out the garage, or learning a new skill)?
- What is your most random 'claim to fame'? This could be anything from winning a 3rd-grade spelling bee, to meeting a celebrity in a grocery store, or having a secret talent that no one here knows about yet.

As we continue the year, what are one or two things you're grateful for from 2026 so far?

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Be Open

The sermon highlighted that miracle stories are primarily about Jesus' identity. When you face a storm in life (stress, loss, uncertainty), is your first instinct to ask Jesus to *change the situation*, or to ask Him to *reveal more of who He is* through it? Why do you think that is?

Be Vulnerable

The sermon asked: "*When facing storms, will I choose fear of circumstance or faith in Jesus?*" Fear is often just faith in the wrong thing—faith that the storm is bigger than the Savior. Is there an area of your life right now where you are "worshipping" the storm by giving it more of your attention and emotional energy than you are giving to Jesus?

What can you do this week to change your focus? How can your Life Group support you in that?

Looking Ahead

One of the key reasons we meet in Life Groups every week is to gain the encouragement and support we each need to honor God in all we do and keep our focus on Jesus. Before you go over the Life Group Commitment in your group, take a moment and write down your responses to the questions below:

What are you looking forward to in your Life Group this quarter?

Is there anything specific you need prayer for, or is there any other focus you would like to have in order to grow this first session?