



GATEWAY GROUPS

“Experience Community”

LIFE GROUPS

Why do we do Life Groups?

Our Vision for Life Groups:

To provide a group experience where people can connect relationally to grow spiritually.



Acts 2:42:

Life Groups devote themselves to:

- The apostle's teaching (study God's Word)
- Fellowship (doing life together)
- The breaking of bread (sharing meals)
- Prayer (dedicate time to seek God's Will)

Acts 2:43-44

Life Groups will be unified (believe in Jesus Christ as Lord)

Acts 2:45

Life Groups will meet the needs of one-another (mutual care)

Acts 2:46-47

Life Groups will be devoted to missional living (make disciples)

What are Life Groups?

To make things simple, Life Groups do three things.

1. Meet regularly
2. Build relationships
3. Study biblical content

We believe that these three components will help your Life Group feel like your extended family. To further the family-like analogy, we encourage Life Groups to:

1. Meet weekly or bi-weekly in homes
2. Hang out monthly
3. Serve together quarterly



This kind of community and fellowship was modeled for us in the early church (Acts 2:42-47)...so why should we stop doing those things now?

What does a typical Life Group meeting look like?

Most Life Groups typically meet for about 60-90 minutes. During that time, the schedule will look similar to the following:

1. Fellowship & maybe some food (10-20 minutes)
2. Read God's Word or Watch a Video (10-20 minutes)
3. Discussion (15-40 minutes)
4. End with prayer (5-10 minutes)



Remember to take a break from the norm every so often and:

- Hang out monthly
- Serve together quarterly



How do I start a Life Group?

It's simple!

- Just grab a few friends
- Choose a place to meet
- We have suggested curriculum for you
- And we'll help you get trained



You will need to join the Dream Team to become a Life Group Leader at Gateway. Please complete the Dream Team Application and select Discipleship to apply to become a Life Group Leader.

You must be a member of Gateway to be a Life Group Leader

You can also contact the Groups Director, Josh Mouser, to talk about any details before you choose to start a Life Group.

Once you do that, we will:

1. Contact you back
2. Set-up a meeting
3. Go through some training

We will help you along the way!

How do I get people into my Life Group?

Personal Invite

This is your Life Group, so you should be inviting people who you would want in your group! This is the best approach to invite your friends, neighbors, family members, co-workers, or whoever else you think of.

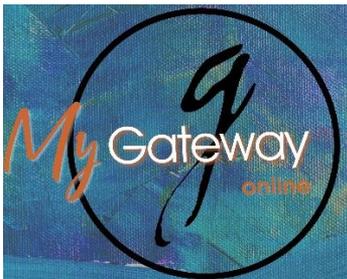
Promotional Events at Gateway

Gateway would be more than happy to promote your group, along with many others, to the congregation if your group is open and looking for members. Gateway will promote groups at least 3 times a year and they may also hold special events certain seasons of the year. This is a great opportunity to open you group to the public and give people a place to experience community!

Groups Management Software

Gateway uses an online database, MyGateway Online, where you can manage your group, email, take attendance, and most importantly for this section, add members into your group. All the basic information about your group will be listed on here so people can see it and join your group!

We provide training for you in order to utilize this software



What will we study?

Gateway has a Group Resources area that has reviewed and appropriate content for small groups to study. These studies are located at the Next Steps area.

Instructions for checking out curriculum

1. Find your study
2. Complete the Sign-Out sheet
3. Once you're finished, place the study in the bin

We encourage you to use the content we have, but if you want to study something we don't have...feel free to do so! Just keep in mind that you may have to pay for the curriculum, and you will need to choose content that is biblically sound. If you ever have questions about what curriculum you should choose, please contact the groups@gateway-community.org.

Utilize RightNow Media!

RightNow Media is like the "Netflix of Video Bible Studies" and has a HUGE library of faith-based videos that you can access whenever and wherever you want—on your phone, iPad, computer, or at home on your TV.

How to get your Free RightNow Media Account

To get your free RightNow Media account, go to Gateway's *Find It* page on Gateway's website and click the RightNow Media link. On that page, click the link to sign up for access to RightNow Media and simply follow the instructions, or type the following into your web browser:

rightnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/Gateway

How do Life Group Leaders stay connected?

Emails

Our Groups Director will send out emails from time to time to inform you about any information you need to know. Information such as when an event is happening, when group sign-ups begin, training videos, helpful tips, new curriculum, etc.

Meetings

Gateway will gather Life Group Leaders when needed to provide some combination of fellowship, training, vision casting, and food. Our hope is that you will not only learn tips on how to lead your group, but that you will also build meaningful relationships with other Life Group Leaders so you can encourage one another.

Check-ins

We try to keep things informal, so just checking-in and having a brief conversation is an excellent way to stay connected. The Groups Director will check-in with Life Group leaders from time to time. Always feel free to check-in with them whenever you have any questions, concerns, ideas, or comments.



Additional goals for your Life Group

Open Chair Policy

Know that you can always add members into your group. A simple practice could be to leave a chair open during your discussion time to remind the group that there are a lot of people out there who are longing and searching to experience community within a small group. Invite your unconnected friends!

Hang Out Monthly

Hang out together outside of typical group meetings! This allows your group to deepen their relationships with one another and to do something fun like a dinner, hang out, or social event.

Service Projects Quarterly

This is a great opportunity to have fellowship with your Life Group as you follow the commands of Jesus by serving your world together.

Contact our Missions and Community Outreach Ministry for recommended serving opportunities.



FAQs

Do Life Group leaders do everything?

No! We suggest that each member of the group should take on a small role. Someone can write down prayer requests, someone provides the host home, someone brings the food, someone leads the discussion, someone plans the social events.

What if a member brings up a serious personal issue?

Although you should be supporting and caring for one another, it's important to know when someone needs additional or professional help. If it becomes clear that someone needs more help than your group can provide, please let us know so we can refer them to our pastoral care team.

How many people are in a Life Group?

Ideally you should have no less than 4 and no more than 16 members. If you have less than 4, try inviting some more friends. If you have more than 16, we suggest your group splits into two smaller groups during the discussion time, so everyone gets an opportunity to talk. Our ideal number is about 12!

What do we do about childcare?

The first thing you should do is discuss with your group what will work best for everyone. Some groups hire a babysitter together and keep the children at a member's house nearby. Other groups will bring their kids with them or find their own babysitter.

Currently, Gateway does not offer childcare at times that do not fall under our current childcare programming.

You can also meet online through a platform like Zoom! With busy schedules, meeting online can make things less busy during a season & you don't have to worry about a babysitter!

Stay in contact with us!

We are always here to help you in any way possible, so please don't hesitate to ask us any questions at groups@gatewaycommunity.org. We want to support, encourage, and pray for you and your group!

Finally, please share any cool or encouraging stories from your Life Group with us. We want to let others know the difference it can make in your life when joining a Life Group!

CONTACT US.

[we'd love to hear from you]



/gatewaycommunity



@g8waycommunity



gateway-community.org



g8waycommunity / #g8way



vimeo.com/video4gateway

281.286.1515



GATEWAY GROUPS

“Experience Community”