

LIFE GROUPS RMPC

GOVERNING CONVICTIONS

- God is at work by the Spirit to cause his people to die to sin and live to righteousness.
- God's word is his primary means of doing this. This is the word preached, the word taught and discussed, and the word read.
- We are to hear the word and use it as a mirror to look at ourselves and be doers of the word.
- We do not do this alone. Sanctification is a community project. God uses others to encourage us, help us see our blind spots (correction), and support us in the work of putting off and putting on. God uses others to carry our burdens.
- The fruit of this is believers who know, live, and proclaim the Gospel.

CONVICTIONS APPLIED TO LIFE GROUPS

- Life Groups reflect a specific and intentional way the members of Rincon pursue sanctification and mutual care in a context of Gospel shaped relationship.
- Life Groups are about LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL together, with a **Quality of Life** in which we seek to “present everyone mature in Christ” and to live out the “one another’s” commanded by the NT. The purpose of Life Group is sanctification or “growing up into the likeness of Christ”.
- Life Groups are primarily about **Truth applied** to life in fellowship with others.
- No one at RMPC should walk alone.
- Life Groups are for all generations to walk together in pursuing Jesus and his glory. Our culture has never been more fragmented and isolated, leaving us yearning for real community even as we seek it in the wrong places.
- Life Groups should reflect a continuity and content of practice consistent with our Vision and Guiding Convictions, led by godly men with divergent personalities and measures of gifts.

CHARACTERISTICS OF A LIFE GROUP

- We gather as people **In Christ**. We know each other in a way only possible because we share the life of Christ together, led by mature, trained individuals or couples.

- Because we are all sinners accepted in Christ, a Life Group has atmosphere of **safety**. I can be honest with my brothers and sisters about my life without judgement. In a life group I can increasingly **know and be known**.
- An atmosphere of **care and love**. Where it's ok to not be ok but it's not ok to stay there.
- An atmosphere of **"redemptive walking together" side by side** as Christians towards Christ. Doing so with a **"gospel centered"** view that all roads in our life lead to Jesus.
- An atmosphere that is unapologetically **biblical**.

Life groups can be messy because people are messy. The good news is that the gospel is big enough to transform the neediest person. God uses us to do that, to help each other "grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ..." (Eph 4:1)

STRUCTURE IN LIFE GROUPS

- Optimal size no larger than 15.
- Gather together as couples and as men/women separately. The purpose is to provide a context of relationship not possible with both genders together.
- Frequency of meetings should be minimally once per month.
- The application of God's word should be cultivated at a "heart level" because that is the systemic central nervous system of all of our behaviors and our fight for faith against unbelief.

***The content used for application may not look the same. The leader of a particular group is in the best position to "exegete" his group to determine what God might be leading him to do as he serves them. This should be done in a context of support provided by the leader of Life Groups to provide wisdom and direction.

FORMATION AND TRAINING

- Future life group leaders are identified, cultivated and encouraged by their LG leader with the assistance of the Leader of Life Groups and the elders. Being identified, groomed and trained as a LG leader provides a training ground for future elders in the church. To be a life group leader is to learn how to lead, teach, and love at the heart level. To be a LG leader is to "know" your members.
- Ongoing training and encouragement are provided for existing group leaders with a full curriculum of training provided for new leaders.