

LIFEGROUPS

Why do we need LifeGroups?

Our goal is to align the mission and ministries of ECC with our mission (*To become a community of people who know God, follow Jesus, and pursue God's purposes in the world.*) and our three ECC Touchstones of *WELCOME*, *TRANSFORMATION*, and *PRESENCE*. While each Touchstone is vital to our mission, *Transformation* is key to both *Welcome* and *Presence*, as well. That is, without *Transformation*, the hospitality, grace, and community of *Welcome* will be shallow; and the *Presence* of God in us and through us for the sake of others may be obscured.

Connection, community, and intentionality are essential for spiritual *Transformation*. They are the DNA of Transformation.

- By *connection*, we mean connection with God—through God's word, the Holy Spirit, prayer, and in and through one another.
- By *community*, we mean relationships with one another as sisters and brothers in Christ, as we share in life together and care for one another along the way. We need a place and a people to whom we belong.
- By *intentionality*, we mean that we do not simply drift into spiritual maturity, or what we call *Christofornity*—Christ *formed* in us (Galatians 4.19). We need a plan that engages the resources and relationships necessary for transformation.

ECC LifeGroups are the core of that plan. Over time, we believe they will prove vital to the faithfulness and success of our mission. Our intent is that Life Groups will be truly transformative for all who take part, and that through them, ECC will become a community of people who more fully know and experience God, more faithfully follow Jesus, and more passionately pursue God's purposes in the world.

What is a LifeGroup?

By design, LifeGroups sit at the intersection of our ECC Touchstones: We *WELCOME* one another into community, intentionally embark on the journey of *TRANSFORMATION*, and practice being the *PRESENCE* of God to one another and to our neighbors.

Ideally, LifeGroups will consist of 8-10 people who meet no less than bi-weekly. Life Group gatherings will consist of authentic sharing of life with one another, prayer for one another, engagement in God's word, and sensitivity to the leading and work of the Holy Spirit in our midst. They will be a safe place where we can be ourselves, where we can know and be known by one another, and where we can be vehicles of God's grace to one another.