



Basic Information

A Life Group is a collection of about 4-15 people who meet to share life together and discover how we are all being called to walk with Jesus!

Our Life Group ministry is built on 4 foundational pillars:

*Acts 2:42 And they [the early church] devoted themselves to the **apostles' teaching** and the **fellowship**, to the **breaking of bread** and the **prayers**.*

WELCOME (*breaking of bread*) - Successful Life Groups become welcoming environments over time as group members become more acquainted with each other's lives.

WORSHIP (*the prayers*) - Successful Life Groups set apart time to grow in their relationship with the Lord as group members engage in different spiritual disciplines together.

WORD (*apostles' teaching*) - Successful Life Groups dedicate time to discovering God's word alongside one another through pre approved curriculum and respectful conversation.

WITNESS (*fellowship*) - Successful Life Groups explore how to utilize spiritual gifts to build up the local church body, reach your neighbors off of the hill, and multiply the group.

Supporting Scripture: Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 10:24-25; John 13:34-35; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Matthew 28:16-20; 1 Peter 4:8-11.

**For an expanded theology of Life Groups,
see part 1 of our training series**

Visit 3crosses.org/lifegroups (Resources Box)

Life Group H.O.S.T. Standards and Requirements

Transformed by Jesus Christ: At 3Crosses, we are all about life transformation through following Jesus Christ. In order to guide others towards life transformation through following Jesus, we expect that a Life Group HOST is currently following Jesus and has experienced life transformation for themselves.

Engaged in the Life Transformation Process: At 3Crosses, we believe life transformation through following Jesus happens when we *gather* together to worship as one church community, *grow* in our relationship with God and others by means of participating in our church community life, and *go* wherever God may be calling us to build up the church and edify the surrounding community. In order to guide people into deeper life transformation, we expect that a Life Group HOST is actively engaged with or developing a growing desire to participate in these 3 categories.

Determined to become a Member of the Family: At 3Crosses, we desire to journey towards life transformation as a church family united in Christ. In order to guide people towards becoming a part of the family here at 3Crosses, we expect a Life Group HOST to have already become, or express a desire to become a member of the 3Crosses family. If you have not become a member of our church, we highly encourage you to check out our upcoming discipleship courses!

A Model of Good Works: As a Life Group HOST, you will be given the *tremendous* opportunity to represent 3Crosses church. In fact, your Life Group may be the first introduction to 3Crosses for many people in our community! With this in mind, our church staff led by our pastoral elders reserves the right to intervene when necessary as those watching over the souls of 3Crosses Church (Hebrews 13:17). These discernments will be made according to passages describing the character of higher-level servants in the church (1 Timothy 3:8-13), reputable role models (Titus 2:1-10), and the overall character of Christ.

Commitments of a Life Group H.O.S.T.

A H.O.S.T is someone who has a **H**eat for people that can **O**pen a space, **S**erve a snack, and **T**alk through a prepared Study Guide.

I have a Heat for people, but I don't know who will join my group! What should I do?

One of your roles as a H.O.S.T. will be to extend an invite to the people who are already in your closest circle of friends. Additionally, 3Crosses can come alongside you to publicize your group so that our church members can find your group. It's okay if you are not familiar with everyone who signs-up because we know that the Lord orchestrates all things!

I don't know if I have an Open space! Where should I meet?

This *open space* could be your home, but you could also meet at a workplace, coffee shop, restaurant, online, or any other venue. The 3Crosses campus will be made available under special circumstances and on a case-by-case basis, so we highly encourage you to meet "off the hill". Our suggestion is to determine your maximum capacity and consider your group FULL once you have gone 3-5 people above that number anticipating that some group members may not show up. It can be amazing to see what the Lord can do with your space!

I don't know if I will be able to serve Snacks! Will people still come?

In the early church, the apostles broke bread with one another as a crucial part of sharing life together. One suggestion would be to work together as a group to supply food by assigning the responsibility of snacks to some of your group members. Make sure to address any food allergies beforehand!

How can I Talk through a prepared study guide if I don't know my Bible well enough?

As a H.O.S.T., you will be equipped with resources that include a prepared study guide. We even have our own Sermon Study Guide that follows our Sunday Sermons! These study guides normally include icebreaker questions, sample prayers, a wide variety of Scriptures to read, and questions each week. You can prepare for your Life Group by reviewing the study guide, listening well in the group conversations, loving the members of your group, and asking questions about how the Lord is speaking to members of your group! Over time, you will grow more confident to introduce your own questions as you see the Holy Spirit guiding the conversations. If you have difficult theological issues arise in your group, feel free to reach out to someone on our church staff and we are happy to offer support.

What are My Next Steps?

Step 1: Pray: Our encouragement is that you HOST at the Lord's leading! We encourage you to review the scriptures provided and explore their context to see if the Lord is leading you to become a HOST this season!

Step 2; Let's set up a 1-on-1 meeting: If the Lord continues to lead you to become a HOST, let's continue the conversation! We would love to get to know you more and encourage you as you step into our process of becoming a Life Group Host!

Step 3: Register the Details of your Life Group: Once you have committed to becoming a new HOST in our Life Group Ministry, you will be asked to fill out our group registration form. This will ask more questions about your group's vision and specific details so we can promote your group to the church!