

*Lifegroups
of Living Water
Anglican Church*



1. What are LifeGroups?

LifeGroups is the name we have settled on to describe the network of small groups of the church, that regularly meet together during the week either in homes or on site at church.

2. What is the purpose of LifeGroups?

The name LifeGroups is aimed at capturing the idea of sharing our lives with one another (koinonia-fellowship) as we share in the eternal life God has given us through faith in Jesus Christ. The purpose is ultimately maturity in discipleship.

3. What are the core elements of Living Water's LifeGroups?

We have 4 core elements that we expect to be taking place with varying degrees of emphasis in our LifeGroups. They are:

- Fellowship
- Studying Scripture
- Prayer
- Mission/Serving



Fellowship

From the Greek word, Koinonia, which means a common life or shared participation, it points to meaningful friendships of love and care. Allowing time to listen to and love one another in practical ways in order to build relationships.

Studying Scripture

As disciples of Jesus, like the early church, we are to devote ourselves to the Apostles teaching, keeping Scripture central to our ongoing growth in the knowledge of God and his gospel.

Prayer

For one another, our church, our city and our world. Allowing time for prayer each week is vital. Some lifegroups pray **together as a group**, some groups have found that **same sex prayer times** encourage deeper levels of vulnerability and friendship. We encourage Lifegroups to create a '**group chat**' where prayer requests can be shared and referred to during the week. Also, keeping a **journal of prayers** and from time to time to reflecting on past prayers in order to discern the Lord's answers and his working in our live

Mission/Serving

Together serving in the mission of the church and perhaps a worthwhile community based project the group decides to pursue. How does a group decide what to do? As a start, a good question to ask might be, '**How can we be a blessing to the church or broader community?**' Here is a great opportunity to get creative! (See below for ideas on how to serve together as a LifeGroup.)

What are the expectations of members of LifeGroups?

We ask the group leaders to begin each year discussing with the group and establishing some agreed ground rules in terms of:

- Attendance frequency expectations
- Venue
- Start and end times
- How new members are to be added to the group
- What the level of confidentiality in the group might be as well as the level of sensitivity of topics.
- What study preparation if any is expected
- How meals will work if applicable etc.
- Discussing the expectation that all church lifegroups, as far as possible, attend the corporate Pressing IN prayer evenings.

Some further questions:

What discipleship materials are the LifeGroups to be using?

We encourage our LifeGroups to use the sermon based study guides that are published on the church website along with the sermon each week.

We will also publish a list of recommended resources that align with the teaching themes of the year for LifeGroups to use together.

We also recognise that people and groups are in different places in their walk with God and so group leaders are able to propose study material for their groups, subject to the minister's approval before use.

Examples of church based ministry could include:

As a LifeGroup:

- Assisting with church lunches at our Church Together Sundays.
- Organising to assist in the Community Garden on a Saturday morning.
- Attending the Church Busy Bees when they are scheduled.

Examples of Community Projects could include:

As a LifeGroup:

- Organising a fundraiser, or raising funds for a good cause or mission programme.
- Scanning to see if there's a need in the local community that you as a group could assist with in any way.

Ideally, we would encourage each LifeGroup to pursue a church based ministry endeavour and a community based mission endeavour in a year.

