



LIFE GROUP

FAQ

What is a Life Group?

At Harris Creek, we define a Life Group as a group of 6-12 Harris Creek members with the goal of living authentically, biblically, and committed to one another. We structure our groups primarily by life stage (Single young adult, newly married, pre-k families, etc.). For college students and single adults, we keep the group same-gender.

Why do I have to be a Harris Creek member to be in a Life Group?

As a leadership team at Harris Creek, we feel the responsibility for “shepherding the flock” that is under our care (1 Peter 5:2). We understand our “flock” as those who have chosen to submit themselves underneath the leadership and elders at Harris Creek through membership. Life Groups orient around the vision and teaching of the leadership of Harris Creek. Because of that, it’s vitally important that Life Group members have fully submitted themselves underneath that leadership.

Who is my Life Group’s leader?

You are! At Harris Creek, we have a shared-leadership model*. We want everyone in the group to share the weight of spurring one another on towards love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:24).

Each group will have a point of contact for logistical purposes, and a shepherd who will be a resource for your group, but the bulk of caring for one another well and counseling biblically will be the shared responsibility of each member of the Life Group.

Note: Our College Life Groups do have appointed leaders who have been interviewed and placed by our College Community Team.

What system of care and oversight exists over Life Groups?

We have a shepherding model for groups that is drawn from Exodus 18. Our intention is that every Life Group would have a shepherd who knows and cares for their group. Each shepherd is cared for by a member of our Community Team (each of whom oversee all the Life Groups for a particular stage of life). The Community Team is lead and cared for by the Community Pastor, who is under the leadership and care of the Harris Creek Elders.

What is a Life Group Shepherd?

A Life Group Shepherd is someone who cares for and provides support to a group. Their primary role is to be a resource to your group: helping you navigate issues or conflict, providing wisdom and insight, or offering suggestions when your group gets stuck.

What do we talk about?

Everything! Pray together, make decisions together, encourage one another, resolve conflict, etc. For structure, have everyone answer these 3 questions. Go one at a time, when one person is done, pray for them and the go on to the next person. Here are the 3 questions:

- **Input** – How did you feed your soul? What are you learning in God’s Word?
- **Output** – How did you feed others? Did you share the gospel or spend time discipling someone or serving?
- **Confession** – How did you feed your flesh? What sin do you need to confess?

In addition, your group may choose to work through a resource together like discussing the sermon, following the Bible Reading Plan, watching through a topical series on RightNow Media, or reading a book together.



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I've heard that groups process and discuss very sensitive things like personal finances, sex/intimacy, etc. What exactly does that look like?

Scripture tells us that "wisdom comes from the counsel of many" (Proverbs 11:14). If wisdom is going to mark our lives, we must be people committed to sharing all aspects of our lives with other Christ-followers who can offer biblical counsel. Generally, the places in our lives that are "off-limits" or uninspected by others, are the places most vulnerable to the attacks of the enemy (Proverbs 28:13).

This seems like a huge commitment, how could I prioritize this?

Life Group is a big commitment, and the most effective means by which we can become more like Christ. A yes to Life Group will certainly mean saying no to other, great things. There is a cost to be counted, but we believe the benefit will be well worth it.

Does Harris Creek have Life Groups for Newlyweds (Married 0-3 years)?

Yes! We call them Newly Married Life Groups (NMLGs). Most of what is described in this FAQ document applies to NMLGs with a few minor differences (i.e., formation of groups, leader couples, curriculum). Email marriage@harris creek.org if you're interested in joining a NMLG or if you have any questions.

How do Life Groups navigate childcare?

One of the most common challenges for Life Groups at Harris Creek is how to navigate childcare. Groups have the freedom to decide what works best for their group, but here are a few examples of what groups have done/are doing:

- Every couple hires babysitters when they have their weekly meeting
- Rotate houses every week, and the couple who is hosting puts their own kids down without sitters
- The group hires 2 sitters (or however many necessary) and hosts all kids at one house each week
- All kids are in a playroom/in backyard during Life Group with sitters

How do I join a Life Group?

Our Membership process is the best place to start. At the first gathering, you will hear from one of our pastors about the vision for Life Groups and why it is such an important part of our mission. They will also guide you on the next steps to form a group. The class meets for a few weeks at the church, and then your group will be equipped with the resources and support needed to begin meeting on your own.