A Church **of** Life Groups or Church **with** Life Groups!

Building a church **of** Life Groups! A place where nobody stands alone!

Acts 2:42-44
42 All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. **43** A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. **44** And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had.

Motives of having Life Groups (Banana Example: Paradigm Shift.)

1. Knowledge
2. Skill
3. Motivation

What is the difference between a church **of** life groups and a church **with** life groups?

Churches have focused more on the program and systems of life groups then on the actual purposes of what, why, and how we do life groups.

- Life Groups are for caring for people not trying to grow a church.
- Life Groups are for taking people through Spiritual Transformation!
- Life Groups are for helping people grow in their Relationship with God and others.

We are called to follow the Great Commandment and do the Great Commission!

Mark 12:30-31
30 And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.'
31 The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself. No other commandment is greater than these."

2 Corinthians 5:18-19
All this newness of life is from God, who brought us back to himself through what Christ did. And God has given us the task of reconciling people to him. [19] For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. This is the wonderful message he has given us to tell others.

John 13:34-36
34 So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. **35** Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

We are a generation that is "Experience – Rich" and "Relationship – Poor!"

The Trend of our day is to get involved in activities and experience life because we don't want to miss out on anything in life. We spend our time and resources collecting, going, wanting, saving so that we can experience Life.

Now don't misunderstand what I am saying because I am not saying we shouldn't experience life but we need to know the richness we all want to experience is really found in and through relationships.

Life is more about relationships then anything else on planet earth.

No Spare Parts: Everyone plays a role in our church.

C^3 Christ Follower:

Celebrate (25%) – Connect (50%) – Contribute (25%)

Five Focuses in our Church

1. Celebrative Service
2. Life Groups
3. Children's Ministry
4. Students Ministry
5. Missions (locally & globally)

Practical parts of life Groups

Leadership philosophies: Rod – Noodle – Vertebrae.

Leading out of… Need – Passion – Interest. (free market)

Service Groups – Receiving Groups

Running in a series of sprints that equate to a marathon with breaks built in.

Control versus Freedom – Fear versus Faith. (God loves Babies but He can't use babies.)

How to structure life groups:

There are different variations depending on the type of Life group.

1. Loving groups
2. Interest groups
3. Volunteer groups
4. Enjoy groups

Questions and Answers: