

Some of you are getting excited about “Enabled Boldness” and the potential of God using you to make a difference in this world. But your excitement comes to a screeching halt with the thought, “Wait a minute, I would like God to use me, but I’ve got issues.” You are right, but so do I. We all have issues. The best way to work through our issues is by telling someone and getting some help. You can try, but you can’t work through your issues on your own; you need help. We need each other. This is where small groups are very beneficial. Choosing Bold Community will make a huge difference in your life.

The Four Why’s and Eight How’s of Small Groups – Life Groups

Why Life Groups?

1. Because Small Groups are a Biblical Model

Acts 5:42 Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.

In the Temple Courts (corporate settings) and House to House (small groups).

The Bible is written in a relational context. A relationship with God and with each other.

CIRCLES VS ROWS

- The Hebrew model for learning was in a relational setting. Sitting in circles, talking and discussing, asking questions, and having input. These are Round Table settings. Circles.
- The Greek model of learning is more of one speaker lecturing to rows of hearers. No feedback, questions, or input. (Our Education Systems) Rows.

Life is a journey, not a classroom. We do life together. Preaching and lectures cannot change someone’s life; it can be a catalyst for the change. The true change is lived out in relationships.

Be careful with Life Groups that revert more to the Greek model and leave very little time for talking around the circle. (i.e., 45- 50 min lectures, 10-15 min of discussion.)

2. Because People Need to Be Known (People need to be needed and known.)

3. Because Real Life Change Happens in the Context of Relationships

A sermon can give you the content and biblical instructions, but you can work it out and work through it in your small group. People’s greatest hurts are relational hurts.

James 5:16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other (not God in this case) **so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.**

The **Johari Window of Relationships** teaches us.¹

- **Arena** – I know, and you know. (Public, Open)
(This one can happen in church/corporate settings, but the next three can only happen in a small group setting.)
- **Mask** – I know, but you don’t know.
(We will stay emotionally sick proportionally to our secrets we keep about ourselves.)

EX: Psalms 51 David repents of his sin with Bathsheba only after Nathan the Prophet confronts him. He had been exposed.

Psalms 32 David talks about wasting away because he kept silent about his sin. But when he confessed and came clean, he was forgiven, and his sins were covered with grace.

¹ <https://www.communicationtheory.org/the-johari-window-model/>

- **Blind Spot** – You know, but I don't know. (Spinach in your teeth, everyone sees it but you.)
- **Potential** – I don't know, and you don't know.
(The team works together, and we all reach our fullest potential even if it's unknown at first.)
This is the exciting to discover as we group together to encourage and build one another up.

4. **Because Growth Happens in Relationships**

Proverbs 27:17 As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

Leaders of Life Groups don't need to be Bible scholars. They just need to:

- Pray for their group daily
- Host a weekly gathering
- Identify where people are spiritually
- Help them take the Next Step

How Do We Do Life Groups?

1. **Groups are Built on Common Interest or Felt Needs** (Free Market System)

- Content doesn't change lives, relationships change lives.
- The curriculum or subject is the HOOK.
- Life App Groups could be considered common interest or felt need.

2. **Intentional Formation of Needed Groups / Anchor Groups**

General Life Groups are Free Market Life Groups based on Common Interests and Felt Needs.

Anchor Groups (Like big box stores at the mall)

Couples / Men / Ladies / Financial / Students / Outreach and Serving / Prayer

3. **Use Big Events to Promote the Life Groups**

Youth Conference or Ladies Conference would promote the importance of youth or ladies Life Groups. They would encourage people to be in one or lead one.

A men's dinner would be a kickoff to several men's Life Groups. (Rally Week Dinner Events)

4. **Groups Meet Weekly**

Groups meet for what The Highlands Church calls ESPN

- Encouragement
- Scripture
- Prayer
- Next Steps

5. **Groups Occur Quarterly – Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall**

They have a clear starting and stopping point with a break in between.

- Allows on ramps for new people. (The number one reason people don't join a small group is because it already exists.)
- Allows "outs" for others. Chance to change groups.

We will try our best to keep the start times natural. First of year, etc.

6. Groups are Covered in Prayer by Pastors and Coaches

Messy Church = Great Church (If nothing else, group members will know they are prayed for daily.)

7. Never Stop Recruiting and Training New Leaders

This is our job to develop and train people for works of ministry. Therefore, we will continue to cast a vision that these groups add value.

It's our joy and privilege to lead and share our faith with others.

8. The Church Must Have a Total Commitment to Small Groups

Turn everything into a small group because relationships change lives.

Wednesday Night Service VS Life Groups

- We will stop competing with Life Group participation with Wednesday Night Services.
- Wednesdays - 6-6:30 PM Prayer
Believing Kids and Promise Land - 6:30-7:30 PM. Doors Open at 6:00 PM for Sanctuary Prayer.
EDGE - 6:30 -7:30 PM. Doors Open at 6:00 PM for Sanctuary Prayer.
- Four Life Groups on Wednesday Night 6:30 -7:30 PM.
 - Life App Groups (2) in Sanctuary
 - Two Anchor Groups (That require childcare) FPU Life Group in Red Room (Amy de la Cruz) / Believing Couples Life Group in Blue Room (Billy and Christi Smith)

NEXT STEP CLASSES – Wednesday Nights in the Pavilion 6:30 -7:30 PM

1 st Wednesday	Off due to 1 st Sunday Newcomers Social	
2 nd Wednesday	Life Groups Class	
3 rd Wednesday	Membership Information Class	
4 th Wednesday	Ministry Teams and First Serve	(Repeat every Month)

Ministries VS Life Groups

- We will still have the BIG 3, but they will now be expressed in Life Groups. Couples Life Groups, Men's Life Groups, and Ladies Life Groups.
- Once a year they can have a Celebration event. (Maybe Quarterly Kick Off Nights)
- Ladies and Men's Group should not meet on Wednesdays. Don't want to pull away for groups where Mom and Dad need to group together and need childcare. During a men's group, mom can watch the kids. During Ladies group, Dad can be at home watching the kids.
- Single parent groups or Singles with children may need to meet on Wednesdays too.

Online Life Groups can be conducted safely and securely on Believers Chat App.

- Life Group Leader ongoing training, teachings, and encouragement will be posted on Believers Chat as well. We will have a room in the App called Life Group Leaders.

2021 Winter Life Group Walk Through (in day order)

2021 Life Group Calendar

Winter Quarter (11 Weeks)

Monday 1-11-21 thru Sunday 3-28-21

LG Spring Break Monday 03-29-21 thru Sunday 04-11-21
(Good Friday 4-3-21 / Easter Sunday 4-4-21)
(Two Weeks including Good Friday and Easter Sunday)

Spring Quarter (9 Weeks)

Monday 04-12-21 thru Sunday 06-13-21

LG Summer Break Monday 06-14-21 thru Sunday 07-04-21 (Three Weeks)
(VBS) June 14th – 17th

Summer Quarter (8 Weeks)

Monday 07-05-21 thru Sunday 08-29-21

Fall Break Monday 08-30-21 thru Sunday 09-12-21 (Two Weeks, includes Labor Day, 9-6-21)

Fall Quarter (10 Weeks)

Monday 09-13-21 thru Sunday 11-21-21

Holiday Break Monday 11-22-21 thru Sunday 01-09-22

Chanukah Blessing Wednesday 12-01-21

Church Wide Christmas Party / Kid Jam Christmas 12-8-21

Christmas Eve Friday, 12-24-21

Christmas Day Saturday 12-25-21

New Year's Eve Friday 12-31-21

- **Next Step: Life Groups**
 - 2021 2nd Wednesdays, 6:30 -7:30