

# LIFE 167



## **Life 167 Group FAQs**

(Frequently Asked Questions)

### **What is a Life 167 Group?**

It is a small group of believers meeting regularly in a home or another space other than the church building (usually). An ideal group would consist of at least three or four family units and would be intergenerational (10-20 individuals, including children). In addition to meeting, the groups would ideally “do life” together by staying connected between meetings, helping each other with needs, and reaching out to unbelievers. “167” refers to the number of hours each week the group members are to live out their Christian faith apart from Sunday mornings.

### **Why are we doing this?**

We are venturing down this path based on God’s call for us to focus on the intentional spiritual equipping, training, and empowering of individuals of every generation. In Matthew 28:19-20 Jesus gave what is called “The Great Commission,” commanding His followers to make disciples. As modeled by Jesus with His disciples, an important part of discipleship is involvement in smaller group settings where relationships can form and people can help each other grow in the Lord. We believe there is the potential for deep spiritual and relational growth to happen in this kind of setting. Last fall and spring some pilot groups were started, and we’re planning to launch some new groups this fall.

### **What does a Life 167 Group meeting look like?**

A meeting ideally functions like a “spiritual potluck” where the participants bring something to share; e.g., a praise, a song, a Scripture passage, a prayer, an “It’s a God Thing” story, a serving opportunity, a kid lesson, etc. This concept is based on the notion that everyone has something to contribute and that we can learn from one another, not just learn from one. Group time also includes Scripture interaction and prayer, and considering ways to bless/serve others.

Resources and service helps would be provided for coordinators. Materials would also be available for groups to include kids into the meeting.

**What will my kids do during Life 167 Group meetings?**

Kids are integrated into the group meetings (when possible). Certainly there will be challenges and distractions at times, but there is value for kids to see and hear their parents (and others) sharing reflections from the Word and their lives. Kids also have something to contribute (a song, a drawing, a verse memorized, a favorite memory). We can learn from each other across the generations. Additionally, our Children's Discipleship Ministry team will offer resources so groups can integrate kid time into their meeting. Sometimes those kid illustrations, experiments, and stories will be something even the adults will remember and from which they will learn.

**What will the teaching component look like?**

The teaching consists of engagement with the Scriptures, either through facilitated discussion of a Scripture passage, or discussion based on the Sunday morning church sermon. Coordinators will be resourced with Bible study materials and group questions to ensure a Biblical focus of each group.

**When and where will Life 167 Groups meet?**

They will meet at the times and places that best suit the groups. The length of the meetings will differ from group to group based on the unique components of the group (especially if a fellowship meal is included); anticipate 1.5 to 2 hours generally.

**How will the Life 167 Groups be organized?**

A volunteer will be asked to coordinate each group. Groups will be based on the available home spaces (or other designated locations) and the number of individuals with whom the host is comfortable. Additionally, consideration will be given for groupings that suit individual health safety preferences, as well as age, neighborhood, size of family, and existing friendships (not relatives). People are asked to make a three-month commitment to the group; however, anyone is free to withdraw at any time.

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