

How does the Community Life vision apply to me and fit into what I'm already doing?

The Community Life vision will help all of us simplify and focus on three key values that will transform our personal growth. As you actively live out the values of Learn, Love and Live, all areas of your life will be reoriented to the life of Jesus Christ.

Community life is a culture shift for us as a church. The Community Life vision seeks to create a culture that produces disciples who actively engage in learning from Jesus in an

scatter to be involved in a LifeGroup made up of people who really share their lives. They live with their eyes open to the opportunities Christ brings them to simply live the Gospel.

What is structure/curriculum of LifeGroups?

The ideal structure of a LifeGroup is a group of 15-25 people, building deep relationships with God and each other. This multi-life stage, coed group will focus on the values of Community Life: Learn, Love, and Live, and will be led

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interactive relationship that inspires imitation. It creates a culture of disciples who embrace the relational nature of the Kingdom of God and take risks to love people in the context of community. Community Life will produce a culture of people who strive to intentionally live the Gospel by sharing Jesus Christ in the spaces and places of their everyday lives – at work, home, school, etc. This culture will result in us becoming and reproducing disciples of Jesus as the natural outflow of our lives.

Describe a month in the life of E91 people who are living out Community Life.

Their lives look very intentional and integrated. They attend E91 weekend services regularly to celebrate Jesus and be encouraged by other believers and their stories. In the “gathered” setting, they are inspired and instructed through common vision and values from the Bible. They are actively learning from Jesus about what it means to be His disciple. They also

by a leadership team. A multi-life stage group has people in different phases of life including singles, empty nesters, college-age, parents of young children, divorced etc. We feel it's very important that we learn from and teach each other as we experience life at different stages.

We believe the Bible should be our primary discipleship tool. With that value in mind, the Bible will be the main curriculum of LifeGroups. We know groups will occasionally choose to read a book together or do a specific topical study, but our preferred curriculum will be the Bible. The group leadership will be structured around our Ephesians 4 five-fold ministry roles (APEST). We encourage all of you to invest your time in our Spiritual DNA workshops.

Who leads LifeGroups?

LifeGroups are led by a team of regular, everyday people who are called and equipped to start and/or lead a group. Part of the E91 family, they are connected with E91 through area shepherds and area pastors. They will have completed the

Spiritual DNA workshop, LifeGroup training, and be a part of an ever-growing leadership community. They will be expected to attend regular training and equipping meetings for leaders and will be encouraged to identify and raise up new leaders. Leaders will adhere to a leadership covenant to help them be accountable to our beliefs and core values.

Where do LifeGroups meet?

The preference is to meet in someone's home within your community to establish deeper connections through a more comfortable and intimate atmosphere. This is not to say that you cannot meet somewhere else; creating a more closely connected atmosphere is what is most important.

How do I start a LifeGroup?

If you are interested in starting a LifeGroup, we encourage you to attend a Spiritual DNA workshop. There you will learn more about how God has designed you, discover how you could lead, and meet others who live in your area. At the end, we'll share your next step in getting involved in leading a LifeGroup. After you are an established leader, you will be encouraged to invite people from your circle of life into your group, and open it up to E91 newcomers who live near you.

How do I get into a LifeGroup?

If you would like to get into a LifeGroup, we encourage you to attend Spiritual DNA. You'll meet others in your area and perhaps natural relationships will form there. Otherwise, groups will be formed from leaders inviting people to their groups, as well as our staff ushering people into groups as they open up or form. Right now, we don't have enough LifeGroups for everyone, but God is moving!

How is a LifeGroup connected and supported by E91?

LifeGroup leaders will be supported in various ways. Support includes ongoing training and leaders' gatherings, various resources and tools, equipping opportunities, connections and ideas for outreach, and a shepherd who oversees their leadership team and provides a connection to a staff member. Our staff and elders are dedicated to live this out and to pray for our community.

How does a LifeGroup reproduce?

The ideal way for a LifeGroup to reproduce is for the leaders in the group to constantly be reproducing themselves. At some point, your group will become too large to keep meeting the way it is. If leaders are reproduced within the group, those leaders can say, "I would love to lead a LifeGroup and give to others what we have been experiencing." People from that LifeGroup would have the opportunity to go with them to a new group and/or pray for and support them on their new journey. You can equate it as being similar to 'church planting.' Since most groups end up in the same area, those groups are encouraged to stay connected through activities, serving the community, helping each other, etc. It's a beautiful picture of community.

What about existing groups and ABFs?

Many of our ABFs/groups are modeling the values of Community Life and we will continue to encourage that by way of communication, encouragement, and equipping. However, we also recognize that some may be more focused on one value over another. (i.e.... learning is the main component and living it out in the context of the group is not happening) We want to shepherd groups intentionally and purposefully

as we equip, pray, and move where God has called us to with Community Life as one body.

How does this fit in with my personal outreach/ministry passion?

This is different than an outreach program because it is about living in community. We want this to be a philosophy within all our people, not just another option for some of our people to select. We want to be a church OF LifeGroups not a church WITH LifeGroups. Many ministry or outreach opportunities come and go and maybe are just needed for a season, or in response to a need or problem. This isn't one of those....this is about living life with others. However, many groups may take on an outreach or be very passionate about a certain ministry, which is great...but these groups will primarily be about living, loving and learning.

Can I invite people who do not attend E91 into LifeGroups?

The purpose of Community Life is to demonstrate to the world a foretaste of what the eternal Kingdom of Christ looks like as a group of people who learn from Jesus, love in community, and live the gospel. We absolutely want to invite those who do not attend E91-- or those who do not attend any church. We also believe LifeGroups are a great place to invite non-Christian friends. What a better way to invite them into a relationship with Jesus than inviting them to enjoy Christian community? The primary leader(s) of a LifeGroup must be a member of E91. ●