

# Agenda

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## We are family

How can we create deeper relationships in our Life Groups that move beyond "checking the Life Group box?" Learn how to open new levels of connection among your members through meaningful meetings and real-life connections

**Hosts:** Rick and Tracy Hunt & Mike and Sarah Pappas

### **11:20-11:30** Introductions/ Life group growth

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### **11:30-11:40** Theological framework

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- God created us to live as a family (Matt. 12:46-50; Acts 2:42-47)
- God is in control, not us (Heb. 10:36-38; 1 Cor. 3:7)
- It will not always be easy to lead a lifegroup (Gal. 6:6-10)

### **11:40-12:00** Principles/ actions

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- **Get to know each other!**
  - Icebreakers in group
  - One-on-one get togethers
- **Combination of organized and organic interactions**
  - Organized:
    - Schedule of lifegroup
    - Fun nights/ service opportunities
  - Organic:
    - Asking for help
    - Celebrating news
    - Enduring hardships
- **Gospel Intimacy**
  - Gospel listening
  - Building trust
  - Corporate prayer

### **11:40-12:00** Table discussion

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# Scripture References

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## **Matthew 12:46-50 (ESV)**

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46 While he was still speaking to the people, behold, his mother and his brothers stood outside, asking to speak to him 48 But he replied to the man who told him, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" 49 And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! 50 For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

## **Acts 2:42-47 (ESV)**

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42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

## **Hebrews 10:36-38 (ESV)**

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36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. 37 For, "Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; 38 but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him."

## **1 Corinthians 3:7 (ESV)**

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7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.

## **Galatians 6:6-10 (ESV)**

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6 Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. 7 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. 8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. 9 And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. 10 So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

# Ice Breakers

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## **Penny icebreaker**

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Get a pile of pennies with varying years in which your life group members would have been alive for. Each member draws a penny. They then share a life event or fun fact from that year in their life.

## **Who am I?**

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Give each group member a piece of paper and have them write a notable character or person down. Mix up the papers and have everyone draw one. One at a time, members will hold up their paper for the group to see (without looking at it themselves). They will then have to ask yes or no questions to figure out who they are.

## **Guess who**

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Each group member writes a fun fact about themselves on a piece of paper. The papers are then collected in a pile. Each person draws a fun fact and reads it aloud. The group then guesses who the fun fact belongs to.

## **House on fire**

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If your house was on fire, what three items would you grab and why?

## **Icebreaker questions:**

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- Did you have pets growing up, what were they?
- What is your favorite summer memory as a kid?
- Show and share about a recent photo in your phone
- As a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up/ what job did you think you'd have?
- What is your favorite book/ movie series?
- What's the best meal you've ever had?
- What is the most challenging job you've ever had?
- What's the worst haircut you've ever had?
- What is your ideal vacation?
- What was your favorite childhood movie?
- What is something you are thankful for?
- What's your favorite way to spend a day off?
- What's your secret talent?

# Organized & Organic

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## Organized Interactions

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Scheduled events such as:

- Bible study
- Monthly fun nights
  - Trivia
  - Game nights
  - Free summer concerts
  - Escape Room
  - Bowling
  - Museums (DIA, Henry Ford, etc)
  - Painting
  - Sporting events
  - Movie nights
- Serve together
- Sit together for Sunday service
- Dinner sign up for life group meetings

## Organic Interactions

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Unplanned or last minute things you do because you are family

- Celebrate life events together
- Watch a movie
- Bonfires
- Go grocery shopping together
- Babysit/ dog sit
- Game nights
- Practice a new recipe
- Concerts
- Home repair help
- Bring dinner to life group members in need (just had a baby, moving, etc)
- Mourning together

# Gospel Listening

## We are family

How can we help someone (or ourselves) get to the heart motives behind their words or actions? Consider using these 3 levels of questioning:

### **Circumstantial questions:**

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- What situation in your life is causing you stress and filling your thoughts right now?
- Tell me more about what has been going on
- Who is involved in this situation and how have those relationships been affected?
- How has the situation been affecting you?

### **Excavating questions**

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- Why is this so important to you?
- Why is this upsetting to you?
- How would God's view of you change if this did/ didn't change or work out?
- Who is ultimately responsible for this world?
- Are you finding deep satisfaction from this thing or person?
- What if that goes away?

### **Gospel questions**

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- How do you need to more deeply believe that your truest identity is found in reflecting God's image and being his child? Do you need to believe that God can give you purpose, be powerful in your life, keep you safe, ultimately satisfy you, or deem you worthy in this situation?
- In what ways are you blaming others or institutions for your problems instead of recognizing that separation from God and his ways is to blame? How do you need to name sin and confess if sin is your own or pray that God will convict others of their need for forgiveness and a relationship with him?
- In what ways are you looking to anything other than Jesus to be your solution or your savior?
- What do you need from Jesus as your savior in this situation? What has his life, death, and resurrection already made true in your life?
- How can you root your hope more deeply in God's plans of restoration for the future? In what ways can you shift your hopes for the future away from the things of this world and back to God and his promises? How does the gospel give you greater hope than your broken solution?