

FAQ about Summer Group Formation Season

Commonly Asked Questions and their Answers

What is Summer Group Formation Season?

Summer Group Formation Season is from April 15-May 21. During this time, we will be receiving registrations at journeyrva.com/groups and forming groups. This is the primary way for group seekers to join a group this summer.

How do I join a group?

Visit journeyrva.com/groups to register. The GroupLife team will be using your information to place you in a group. Registration will be open until 4:00pm on Monday, May 21.

What types of groups are available?

When you register you will be asked to select the group type that interests you, including Men's, Women's, Couples, Mixed, or Young Adults.

Are children allowed at the group meetings?

Some Couples groups elect to have children in the same home during the meeting (typically on another floor with a babysitter(s) hired and paid for by the group) while others elect to have only adults present.

Will there be a GroupLink event?

GroupLink is an event we use to form groups and kick-off the spring and fall group formation seasons. However, in the summer we use a formative process where we gather data from the registration of group seekers and form groups based off the information provided to us. After groups are formed, there will be a Kick-Off Event for those group seekers who were successfully placed in a group. This will be a time for them to meet the other members of the new group.

***Our Fall & Spring GroupLink Events are where group seekers attend to **discover** their group. In Summer, group seekers will be placed in groups through the registration process and this Kick-off Event is where they will **meet** their group for the first time.*

What is the Kick-off Event on Saturday, June 2?

The Kick-Off Event is where group seekers attend to meet their new group for the first time. At the event, groups will be guided through Part One of *Connect and Grow*, our newly-formed group curriculum.

Are kids allowed at the Kick-Off Event?

No, childcare is not provided. And because it is an adult environment only, children are not allowed to attend the event with their parent(s). Infants are the exception - a parent can bring their baby, if needed.

Will food be served?

Hors d'oeuvres will be served at the Kick-Off event.

Do I need to register for the Kick-Off Event?

Only if your group forms will you need to RSVP for the event.

If I register for a group online, am I guaranteed to be placed into a group?

Couples/Mixed groups typically have 8-12 members while Men's/Women's/Young Adult groups have 5-10 members. If and when there are enough people seeking the same type of group, we will place them in a group together. In the event there is not a sufficient amount of people to form a group in your preferred group type, our team will reach out to you to present other options you may be interested in. If one of those options are suitable to you, you will be placed in that group and then invited to the Kick-Off Event. If you do not join a group, there will be no need to attend the Kick-Off Event.

Is there a guarantee that my preferred group type will be available?

(For example: Do you have a homeschooling moms group? Do you have a men's group that meets on Wednesday mornings?)

Our hope and desire is to have new groups forming in as many areas of town and group types as possible. However, our ability to do so is dependant upon volunteers who commit to facilitate and/or host in their home. Ultimately, the logistics are finalized once the group forms. If you are open to facilitating and/or hosting, there is a space to indicate so on the registration form. While some group seekers find value in looking for a group of people in the same stage of life, we encourage all group seekers to consider the possibilities of engaging with a more diverse community.

What is a Mixed group?

A *mixed group* is a group comprised of members not organized by gender, marital status, or stage of life. These groups typically gather around belonging to a common area of town or are launched as a continuation of a Short-Term Group. The availability of these group types is dependant upon volunteers who commit to facilitate and/or host in their home. If you are interested in facilitating and/or hosting a mixed group, please indicate so in the notes section of your registration or contact our Groups Director Kambui at ktendaji@journeyrva.com.

What if I can't make the Kick-Off Event?

If you were placed in a group, but cannot make the Kick-Off Event, you will not lose your spot in the group. A contact person from your group will reach out to you about future meeting logistics.

What is a formative group?

A **formative group** is a group that forms without a pre-appointed leader. In order for a formative group to be established, the group will need a contact person and a host home to commit for the 8-week starter period of a new group.

How often do the groups meet and for how long each time?

Typically, groups meet weekly (the same day/time) for between 90 minutes and two hours; the group decides this together.

What do groups do during a meeting?

Each time a group meets they spend time building relationships (social), exploring Truth (Bible/study/discussion), and supporting each other in prayer. Groups also share Communion together (after the 8-week starter period), and occasionally substitute the typical meeting for a social outing or a community service opportunity.

What will we study?

All groups begin with our 8-week Connect and Grow study. From there, groups typically decide together what type of study they will do next.

How long do groups last?

Community Groups are designed to last 12-24 months, following an 8-week starter period. At the end of the 8-week starter period, you decide if you want to continue with the group for the remaining 12-24 months.

How many people are in a group?

Couples groups are composed of 4-6 couples. All other groups are composed of 5-10 individuals.

Where do Community Groups meet?

Typically, 2-3 members of the Community Group will volunteer to host in their home on a rotational basis. The exact locations will be determined once the group forms.

Do any Community Groups meet at the church?

No. (See the previous question.)