

FAQ about Group Formation Season

Commonly Asked Questions and their Answers

What is Group Formation Season?

Group Formation Season is the time of year where we invite people to move beyond the *rows* of our weekend experience to *circles*, forming community groups. This season occurs twice a year; in the spring and in the fall. During this time, all available community groups will be posted online where group seekers can choose which one they would like to join.

When is the next Group Formation Season?

We will form groups here in the spring of 2019. The next opportunity to join a community group will be in the fall of 2019.

How do I join a group?

Visit journeyrva.com/groups between **March 10 - March 31** to join a group. In order to join a group, group seekers will be required to attend the Group Launch event at the Journey Campus on Saturday, April 13.

What types of groups are available?

Our typical group types include Men's, Women's, Couples, Mixed, or Young Adults. Available group types will be dependant upon the volunteers who sign-up to facilitate and/or host in their home.

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?

No. We are piloting a new way of forming groups in order to meet the growing demand for group formation, which has outgrown the current GroupLink model. This season, online group formation will take the place of the GroupLink event. There will be a Group Launch event which is designed not as a place where group seekers attend to discover or choose their group, but as a collective kick-off event for the new groups which were formed online.

What is the Group Launch event on Saturday, April 13?

Group Launch is our kick-off for the new groups that were formed online during the group formation season. Here, group members will meet each other. This is considered their first group meeting together. At the event, group leaders will guide their group through Part One of *Circle Up*, our newly-formed group curriculum.

Are kids allowed at the Group Launch 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?

Yes, light refreshments will be served.

Do I need to register for the Group Launch Event?

If you join a group online during group formation season, the information about the Group Launch event will be presented to you during that process. At that time, you will be asked to commit to attend the event on April 13.

What if I can't make the Group Launch Event?

We ask that group seekers make every attempt to attend the Group Launch event. However, if you joined a group during group formation season and cannot make the event, you will need to communicate to your group leader your intention to maintain a roster spot and participate in the group moving forward.

What if the group I sign up for doesn't fill up?

If there are groups that do not fill by the March 31 deadline, those individuals will be invited to join other available groups prior to the Group Launch 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, available group types will be dependant upon the volunteers who sign-up to facilitate and/or host in their home. If you are open to facilitating and/or hosting, please email our GroupLife team at groups@journeyrva.com. 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. Available group types will be dependant upon the volunteers who sign-up to facilitate and/or host in their home. If you are open to facilitating and/or hosting, please email our GroupLife team at groups@journeyrva.com,

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 *Circle Up* study. From there, groups typically decide together what type of study they will do next. Recommended study tracks are available to group leaders online at insidejourneyrva.com.

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, the groups will decide whether to continue on as a community group for 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.