



FAQ's

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY GROUP?

Community Groups are where people have the opportunity to pursue authentic community and spiritual growth.

WHAT DO COMMUNITY GROUPS DO?

Groups commit to spending a predetermined amount of time together for authentic community and spiritual growth. A group experience includes time for both relational connection and studies that challenge members to grow spiritually. A typical group meeting will consist of social time, study, and prayer. Groups also share Communion together and occasionally substitute the typical meeting for a social outing or a community service opportunity.

WHAT TYPES OF GROUPS ARE AVAILABLE?

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

WHAT IS A MIXED GROUP?

A **mixed group** is a group composed of members not organized by gender, marital status, or stage of life.

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 4-week starter period of a new group.

HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE IN A GROUP?

Couples groups are composed of 4-6 couples. All other groups are composed of 5-12 individuals.

WHERE DO COMMUNITY GROUPS MEET?

Most groups meet in homes and are formed based on the leader's location. The majority of groups meet in the areas closest to the church. 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. We also have groups that meet virtually.

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.

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.

HOW LONG DO GROUPS LAST?

Community Groups are designed to last 12-24 months.

WHAT WILL WE STUDY?

Groups who launch during Group Formation Season will begin with a 4-Part Study called Circle Up. Groups who launch during Open Enrollment Season will begin with ReLaunch, where they will spend 10 weeks socializing, doing a service project, celebrating and participating in studies designed to cultivate relationships. After that, groups typically decide together what type of study they will do next. Recommended study tracks are available to group leaders.

HOW DO I LEAD A GROUP?

Visit journeyrva.com/cgleader to apply.

HOW DO I JOIN A GROUP?

Visit journeyrva.com during Open Enrollment seasons and Group Formation Seasons.

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; March and August. During this time, all available community groups will be posted online where group seekers can choose which one they would like to join. At the end of Group Formation Season, all new groups will attend GroupLaunch.

WHAT IS GROUPLAUNCH?

GroupLaunch is where all of the new Community Groups who formed during Group Formation Season come to the church to have their first group meeting together. Our GroupLife team will walk the groups through what to expect at their group meetings and they will begin Part 1 of Circle Up. This event is two hours and will typically happen on a Saturday. The date of GroupLaunch will be posted online when signing up for your new group.

WHAT IS OPEN ENROLLMENT?

During our Open Enrollment seasons, existing groups may open up available spots to receive new members. With their new members, they will go through a 10-week ReLaunch program. Open Enrollment happens in January, March, and August.

WHAT IF THE GROUP I SIGN UP FOR DOESN'T FILL UP?

If there are groups that do not fill by the deadline, those individuals will be invited to join other available groups prior to GroupLaunch.

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 dependent upon the volunteers who sign-up to facilitate and/or host in their home. 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 OTHER TYPES OF GROUPS DO YOU OFFER?

Short-Term Groups are like Community Groups, but meet weekly for a short term (3-6 weeks) here at the Journey campus to explore one topic. They are meant to provide a glimpse into what our long-term Community Groups are like. In a Short-Term Group, those who attend will interact with the same people each week to connect relationally while also growing spiritually by discussing the topic and serving the community together. Short-Term Groups are offered twice a year; May and July.

Rooted is an 11-week catalytic experience that will jump start or deepen a person's faith and their impact in the world. The Rooted experience will deepen your connection with God, His church, and your purpose in God's epic story. Together, in a group of 10-15 people from all walks of life, you'll meet at the Journey campus to explore the Bible, engage in prayer and serve experiences, share stories, and practice rhythms essential to a healthy spiritual life. We will provide you with a facilitator who is trained to come alongside your group to help you get the most out of the experience. We offer Rooted once a year in January.

Starting Point is a conversational environment where people can explore faith and experience community. Starting Point groups are a safe place for people with questions about faith as well as those who want to learn about the Bible and Christianity. Groups meet here at the Journey campus for 5 weeks and explore the Bible's story while helping one another find their place in it. We offer Starting Point in February, August, and October.

Interest Groups are groups that form seasonally around a common interest or activity (ie. running, softball, hiking, cycling, motorcycles, etc...). These groups are short-term in nature (3-10 weeks) and focus more on relational connection than spiritual growth. They are designed as an early step toward following Jesus more closely. Interest Groups also provide some entry level leadership opportunities for volunteers.

STAY CONNECTED TO GROUPLIFE

- Text **GROUPLIFE** to **81411** to stay connected with updates from our team (this is one-way communication)
- Email groups@journeyrva.com