

Life Group Vision 2025

The primary vision of Life Groups is to be **disciple makers**. This is in response to Jesus' command to make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28). Life Groups should have the spiritual growth of its members and those who are yet to know God as its primary concern.

Disciple making is the prerogative of all believers in Jesus (Matt. 28) and is to be worked out in loving, faith-filled community (Col. 3:12-17). It is not reserved for 'the mature' or leaders but as believers engage in a discipleship community they too are disciplined.

Making disciples through a Life Group can be broken down into 5 areas;

Growing	Releasing	One Anothering	Unified	Purposeful
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Growing

Following Jesus means to grow in relationship with Him based on the fertile foundation of Word & Spirit. Life Groups must be grounded in the study of God's Word and an engagement with the Holy Spirit.

The purpose of growth is to reach maturity as a body of believers (Eph. 3:13-16) representing Christ and building each other up in love. Growth is therefore both an individual and collective aim. This growth is based on a revelatory understanding and application of faith and knowledge of Jesus Christ combined with the operation of spiritual gifts to build up the church.

Simply, growth is expressed in Loving God and Loving Others (Matt. 22:34-40).

Releasing

Life Groups are to help members identify their spiritual giftings and to see them released to function in their giftings in the knowledge that;

- spiritual gifts are given for the building up of the body of believers (Eph.4, 1 Cor. 12)
- all have been given gifts according to the grace given us (Rom. 12:6-8)
- creating space for members to express their giftings in a safe, understanding environment enables growth

To release members to function in their spiritual gifts means that group leaders must be sensitive to the work of the Holy Spirit and to encourage members by identifying and modeling the operation of their gifts within the group setting.

One Anothering

Life Groups should be an environment where the many one-anothering instructions of the bible are to be worked out (Rom. 12:6, 15:5/7, Eph. 4:32, Mk. 9:50 etc.). They are the frontline of pastoral ministry within Grace City and the primary place of prayer and support for church members.

Life Groups must be places of grace, love and understanding, and where members teach and encourage one another to follow God wholeheartedly (Col. 3:16).

One Anothering is primarily focussed within the Life Group and church but also applies to our attitude to visitors (Rom. 15:7). Life Groups should be places of radical inclusiveness where anyone is welcome to join the community and we go out of our way to integrate them in.

Unified

Life Groups are places of deep, intentional relationship where doing life together is worked out. There is no expectation that all members will have this relationship with everyone but creating a unified, supportive environment where Grace City's culture of authentic, family can be worked out is essential.

Life Groups are to respond to the exhortation to continue to meet together regularly (Hebrews 10:24-25) and to continue to express the unity of relationship outside of meetings through prayer and messages / calls of support.

Life Group members are also to express a gospel-like devotion to each other as seen in Acts 2:42-47.

While Life Group leaders have the freedom to lead and encourage their group in studies or programmes that would benefit their group, Grace City Life Groups should be clearly unified with Grace City's vision, values and mission. This could be worked out in taking part in the life of the church (prayer meetings, evangelistic / community events, Sunday and non-Sunday ministries etc.) or during group meetings through prayer for Grace City and / or the Regions Beyond family of churches.

Purposeful

Life Groups are to be missional communities that care for each other while fulfilling the calling to 'go and make disciples'. Being a loving community first is a powerful representation of the Gospel to those who don't know Jesus (John 13:35) so Life Groups are encouraged to engage in mission together.

It is important that Life Groups maintain a wider kingdom focus (Matt. 6:24) in encouraging members in their mission fields of work, study and family, seeking restoration and renewal of God's purposes.