



LifeGroup FAQs

What are the prerequisites to being a LifeGroup leader?

NorthEast Owner, cleared background check, completed LifeGroup Leader application

How will existing groups be handled?

We've reached out to all existing groups that we're aware of and the hope is that this model will provide welcomed direction and help group leaders thrive. If any existing groups are open to new folks joining, that should be communicated as soon as possible.

How will new groups be established?

There's a lot of behind-the-scenes work going on to identify new group leaders and to seed those groups with 1-2 families (we want to leverage existing relationships as to prime groups for growth). Those families decide how often they'd like to meet and narrow down available meeting times.

In September (18 + 25), we'll have a groups initiative along with a 2-week sermon series where we'll encourage folks to sign up for a LifeGroup. During sign up, they'll share pertinent information (family make-up, ages, kids, location, availability, etc.) We'll then do our best to connect individuals and families with LifeGroups.

Two helpful directives we'll use are stage-of-life and geographic location.

For example: Josh and Sarah are leading a group and Matt and Hannah have committed to join. Both families have kids and will need childcare. After September 25th, 3 families - who also need childcare and live in surrounding neighborhoods - are placed with Josh and Sarah's LifeGroup. At their first gathering in October, they introduce everyone, decide on their fall schedule, and figure out how they'll do childcare (Amount each family with pay, who will handle payment, etc. We can assist in connecting groups with baby sitters.).

When will new groups launch?

Groups will be encouraged to launch within the first 2 weeks of October for fall 2022 and then again during the first two weeks of January 2023 for the spring.

Do we have to use the weekly NorthEast Group Discussion Guides?

While groups do not have to use the guides, we do encourage them to. There are many benefits for our church family to be studying, unpacking, and diving deeper into the same content on a regular basis. However, especially for an existing group, ensuring spiritual growth through Bible study is most important. If your group chooses to not utilize NorthEast content, please communicate that with our Associate Minister, Philip Carroll.

What if we need childcare?

When people sign up for a group, they will communicate if they need childcare, so before you ever meet, you'll have an idea. Upon your initial group gathering, that will need to be a topic to figure out based on how often your group will need childcare, how many kids, ages, etc. We can assist in connecting your group with potential baby sitters, however, at this time, we have limited resources to actually pay for childcare for groups. *But please* do not let finances get in the way of your group's growth! Reach out and let's have a conversation to explore options.

Can our LifeGroup meet in the church building?

Our facility is a great asset for ministry. However, we do encourage LifeGroups to gather in homes. If you need to use the building to meet, please contact Philip for next steps.

Are we supposed to have food at every gathering?

Totally up to you and your group. Food certainly helps break down barriers, but based on the dynamics of your group (timing, frequency, etc.), that may not always work out. Rotating snacks, appetizers, or desserts with group members can work well, too!

Ok. So we make it to next summer, what then?

With the chaos of summer schedules, it's a great time to pause the weekly or bi-weekly flow and plan just a few gatherings (like cookouts or move nights). This is also a great time to assess how the group is going and make any necessary tweaks.

What's the end-game with LifeGroups? Are these really just growth-engines?

Good LifeGroups consist of good relationships and good relationships take time to build. That's why we want to leverage existing relationships and we celebrate groups who've been faithfully meeting over time! So, to be clear, yes - groups are growth engines...but not necessarily numerical growth engines. We're more interested in your group growing deeper than using them as multiplication tools to continuously launch new groups. The reality is, that's very exhausting and the by-product can easily lead to shallow groups over time as people can start to feel like *"we'll just be splitting again soon."* Now, all that to say, if and when we have folks rise up who are ready to launch and lead a new LifeGroup, we'll absolutely explore and navigate that opportunity at that time!

Who do I go to if my group has needs or issues?

As the Group Leader, you play a critical role in caring for and communicating on behalf of your group. Should any needs or issues arise with your group, please contact Philip.

What happens if my group flounders or completely bombs?

We get it. Sometimes groups don't jive and it's just not working. Sometimes there's tension and unexpected relational dynamics at play. If you feel like your group is struggling, please reach out to Philip to explore options (navigating issues, reassigning folks to a different group, or - as a last resort - dismantling the group and moving folks to another area of community: different group, volunteer role, etc.)

How do I apply to lead a LifeGroup?

Or...I'm already a leader, do I still need to apply?

We're asking all existing and new leaders to fill out the LifeGroup Leader Application so that we're better able to serve, equip, and communicate with groups. You can find the application here: <https://ncclex.churchcenter.com/people/forms/410096>



Still have questions?

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