

Continuous Connection: Engaging LifeGroups Throughout the Week



"Every day they continued to meet together... They broke bread in their homes... and the Lord added to their number daily."

Acts 2:46-47

The number one reason the church grew so rapidly in the first 300 years is because of hospitality – Rick Warren

Discipleship is not a weekly event; it's a daily rhythm.

Why do connections throughout the week matter?

- Build deeper trust and real friendships
- Provide <u>support</u> during <u>trials</u> and <u>celebrations</u>
- Foster <u>accountability</u> between Sundays
- Encourage spiritual growth between Sundays (John 15:4 "Abide in Me")

Meaningful relationships are formed, not found — they take commitment, consistency, and connection

Five Principles for Weekly Connection

1. Pursue Personally

- Reach out individually via text, call, or coffee
- Celebrate <u>birthdays</u>, <u>anniversaries</u> & graduations
- Keep a care calendar or spreadsheet to track needs
 - Utilize Shepherd Group leaders

2. Provide Pathways of Connection

- GroupMe is a great form of communication
- Encourage serving together through Serve Saturday or other mission opportunities

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- Organize smaller, informal meetups like men's or women's coffee, game nights, or lunches after church
- "The yearning to attach and connect, to love and be loved, is the fiercest longing of the soul." – John Ortberg



3. Pray Persistently

- Keep a group <u>prayer</u> list
- Celebrate answered prayers and keep the group updated
- "When the Church becomes a body of praying believers, the power of God will be unleashed in ways we've yet to see." A.W. Tozer

4. Promote Participation

- Give away <u>leadership</u>: prayer leaders, prospect coordinators, social coordinator, & Shepherd Group leader
- Empower everyone to <u>care</u> for one another
- Giving someone a <u>role</u> even a small one can create ownership and deepen their sense of belonging.

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together... but encouraging one another."

Hebrews 10:24-25

5. Plan Purposefully

- Proverbs 21:5 "The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance..."
- Don't let the weekly <u>rhythm</u> happen by accident prepare in advance for both the teaching and <u>relational</u> moments
- Create a monthly or quarterly plan for socials
- Plan to connect with new guests how will they be contacted, welcomed, and integrated into the group



Like redwoods in a grove, believers grow tallest when they stand together, connected below the surface.



DIVISIONAL BREAKOUTS

A1: Atrium - Peyton Coker

A2: Rooms A101-A109 - Dietrich Blakes

A3: The Commons - Mark Matthews

A4: The Commons - Jonathan Adkins

A5: West Wing - Alan Moore

Open: Connection Room - Matt Mullins

Young Singles: Worship Entrance B - Peyton Coker

Single Adults: Sports & Fitness Center - Brandon McFarland



