



Growing Disciples through

Life Groups

God's people have always been in the habit of meeting together. Acts 2:46-47 says, 'Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.'

The Purpose of Life Groups

Life groups at Huon Anglican Church exist to help us make *All of Life All About Jesus*. They will usually consist of between 6 and 12 people who gather frequently to encourage, challenge and care for one another for the purpose of growing in their love for Jesus Christ.

They are groups of people centered on knowing, believing and living out the implications of the gospel together. They are groups of people that are deeply known and loved, transformed by God and the gospel, and inspired to share the good news of Jesus with people around them.

In order for individuals to grow in their love for God and one another, a solid foundation of God's Word through teaching is vital. Knowing God's Word is one thing; putting it into practice is another. Through meeting together regularly, sharing God's word together, and being open and honest with one another, the groups will promote spiritual growth and accountability.

Life Groups at Huon Anglican Church are committed to growing in maturity. They are not closed, with new people encouraged to join and welcomed into the groups. The group is a safe space where everyone in the group is encouraged to investigate and share what it means to be a disciple of Christ.

Leadership of Life Groups

Each Life Group is led by one or two people who have been appointed by the Senior Minister of Huon Anglican Church. Leaders are not necessarily going to be the fount of all knowledge, but they are the people responsible for guiding the group and ensuring that the culture of the group is healthy. They are to determine and advise members where, when and how the group will meet.

It is likely that the leaders will lead the majority of Bible study times, or they may delegate some roles within the group. They are responsible for ensuring that sound doctrine is taught in the group. Leaders are encouraged to help members of the group explore their ministry gifts, such as teaching, hospitality etc.

Leaders are expected to have an active and personal relationship with Jesus Christ, of sound Biblical character, and an ability to lead others. They will be regular attenders and active members of Huon Anglican Church.

The Senior Minister is responsible for oversight of the Life Group leaders and the point of contact for addressing any concerns related to the life group under their care. The leaders will work together with the ministers of the church to promote effective discipleship.

What goes on in Life Groups?

At its most foundational level, groups will read and discuss the Scriptures and pray together. There will also be space and time for fellowship.

Groups are also encouraged to:

- Enjoy meals regularly with one another
- Look for and pray about opportunities to serve and connect with the community
- Pursue accountability with one another to listen to what God is saying, and being obedient to his calling in our lives.
- Actively nurture one another's relationship with God.
- Invite new people in.

Some Life Groups will be focussed around a particular geographical area or interest group, and other groups will be more general in nature.

While weekly meeting is encouraged, some groups may wish to meet every second week.

A study which generally follows the sermon series at church will be sent out each week to the group leaders. Leaders will be able to choose or develop their own studies outside of this in consultation with the Senior Minister.

What are they not?

They are not simply academic discussion groups.

They are not simply social clubs.

Membership will not remain stagnant. If the group grows beyond 12 people, the group leaders should consider splitting the group.

How will they grow?

Life groups will be promoted by the church leaders, and all people in the church will be encouraged and given the opportunity to join one.

Life group leaders are responsible for communicating with their members regarding details specific to their group.