

## WHY LIFE TOGETHER GROUPS ARE IMPORTANT

*The mission of Quail Lakes Baptist Church is “To win and build passionate, lifelong followers of Jesus Christ.”*

### Life Together Groups are Biblical

**Acts 2:42-47 NIV**

**42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. 46 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, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.**

In order to experience the kind of dynamic spiritual life described in Acts 2 we must be in shoulder-to-shoulder and face-to-face relationships with other Christians that is found in small groups. At Quail Lakes Baptist Church small group interaction is a vital necessity if faith is to be nurtured in those who come to Christ and follow him. Isolation and anonymity are the enemies of spiritual growth. Because the Bible is full of words that encourage us to do life with one another, we believe small groups fill a critical role in seeing faith birthed, life-change happen and spiritual maturity develop in the life of each individual.

### Life Together Groups are the “Heartbeat” of the Church

In this sense, “heartbeat” means “vital force”. Life Together Groups are the heartbeat of Quail Lakes Baptist Church. LTG's are the primary disciple-making tool at QLBC. It's through LTG's that we learn to love God and trust him in our everyday life. It's through our LTG's that we find the care and nurture we need from our community of faith. It's through our LTG's that we go with God into our community and world to share the message and share the love of Jesus. Life Together Groups are the primary way that people connect and lives are transformed at Quail Lakes Baptist Church.

### LTG's Have Three Purposes

#### 1. Grow (Grow in a Continuing Love Relationship with God)

A man asked Jesus what the greatest commandment was. In other words he was asking, What is the most important thing that God wants me to do? Jesus replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind," (Matt 22:37 NIV). God desires a continuing love relationship with us that is real and personal. Knowing and obeying God are two key qualities of a healthy relationship with Him.

##### ▪ Know God

The Bible is God's word and it contains the truth that leads to freedom. The Bible is the foundation of our faith and practice. (Hebrews 4:12, II Timothy 3:16-17). Jesus' teachings about God, holiness, sin, salvation, values etc., shaped the world-view of his disciples. God speaks to us by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, circumstances and the church to reveal Himself, His purposes and His ways.

##### ▪ Obey God

Jesus did not want disciples who just knew “stuff” about God. His followers loved God, trusted God, loved one another, and loved the “unconvinced” and the “least of these” the way Jesus did. For example, Jesus wrapped up his longest recorded teaching in the Bible (Sermon on the Mount) with these words, “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock,” (Matt 7:24 NIV.) (See also John 14:15.)

Spiritual Growth is more than knowing “stuff” about God.

## 2. Care (Love One Another)

Jesus gave his followers a new commandment: John 13: 34-35 NIV

***"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."***

If a member of your Life Together Group is sick, hospitalized, or in physical or spiritual need the other members should seek to come alongside that member or family and provide personal care, practical support and encouragement.

## 3. GO (Love the "Unconvinced" and the "Least of These")

### Ordinary People GO

Jesus came and told his disciples, ***"I have been given complete authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age,"*** Matt 28:18-20 NLT.

Jesus invested himself in twelve disciples. He taught them that God would save the world through his sacrifice on the cross and that a loving relationship with God and forgiveness of sins begins with faith in him. He taught them how to love God and love each other. He taught them how to live together as the family of God. He taught them how to work with God to make disciples. Jesus met with them after the resurrection and he told them to "GO" and make disciples. Those first disciples were ordinary people like you and I. Ordinary people "GO".

### People Who GO Grow

People who "go" grow. God matures disciples as they work with Him to meet the physical and spiritual needs of people. For example, compassion is the defining quality of an authentic Christian faith. Christians are people who are learning to love the way Jesus loves. They are learning to love their neighbors, their brothers and sisters in Christ, the lost, the poor, the outcast, and even their enemies the way Christ loves. Paul wrote that faith expressed in love matters to God, ***"The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love,"*** (Gal. 5:6.) Taking the risk to love will make you feel vulnerable and uncomfortable, but we believe that God works in and through people as they join him in mission. It's through the challenges of working with God to meet the spiritual and physical needs of the "unconvinced" and the "least of these" that we grow. People who "go" grow.