

*Where do you go when you are bursting with joy,
or when your heart is heavy with sadness?*

Who follows up with you when you have a need to share?

Where do you go when you want to feel challenged?

*Who joins hands with you to serve God in a mission
activity or to do a good deed in the Lord's name?*

When do you study so that you can grow as a Christian?

Whom do you talk with when you have a spiritual question?

Who joins you in prayer?

Just as Jesus gathered a group of 12 disciples to support and learn from him, we too are called to be in Christian community. But it's not always easy to feel part of a church community. Maybe we've been coming to the Sunday morning worship service for years and are familiar with many people, yet somehow we may not feel fully connected. And what about the rest of the week—what Christian support do we have during that time? How can we better continue our spiritual growth all week long?

Building Christian community through Life Groups

At Vienna Baptist Church, we believe that many of these needs are best met with intimate friends and fellow disciples, who commit to “doing life” together.

We're launching an effort to form a number of small communities that we'll call Life Groups, which are designed to foster our individual discipleship with the support of a few spiritual friends in Christian community.

In these groups, those who gather together can experience Christian community and support, grow in Christ, and share their joys and sorrows. These groups offer a way for people to connect with each other.

Life Groups aren't viewed as a replacement for personal prayer and study, nor are they a substitute for regular worship with the congregation as a whole. Rather, they would supplement other church experiences by providing a valuable source of encouragement and support to you on your Christian journey.

The impact of Life Groups on VBC

We would love to think that Life Groups would quickly become so vital to Vienna Baptist Church that before long a majority of our members and frequent attendees would be participating regularly in one of them. VBC could even become a congregation of small groups. The deacon team in charge of launching Life Groups will help shape and sustain the groups.

The purpose of Life Groups within VBC is to become intentional about our development as devoted followers of Jesus Christ, engaging in life-changing transformation. In turn, because we come to know and care about each other in the group, we would become a more supportive, cohesive body of Christ in Vienna, Virginia.



*The purpose of
Life Groups is
to become
more intentional
about our development
as devoted followers
of Jesus Christ,
engaging in life-changing
transformation.*

How will Life Groups work?

Each group will typically have 8 to 12 individuals with a Life Group leader, who will meet regularly to study, pray, fellowship, and carry out their discipleship callings. Each group will include some level of each of these activities, and groups will be encouraged to include mission action as well as a social activity several times a year.

Groups may be organized in several ways: by areas of interest, by geographic area, or by demographics. For example, parents with children of a certain age or people who are providing primary care for aging relatives may find common areas of interest that unite them as a group. Other common interests might involve an avocation, a VBC mission effort, or living in nearby neighborhoods. Group members might be couples, the same gender, or in a similar stage of life, or the group might be intergenerational.

The group members and leader will also determine the group's topic of study, which could be selected from the Bible, a devotional or inspirational book, or topics of special interest. Group leaders will coordinate these plans with the pastoral staff.

Most Life Groups will probably meet in the homes of individual members, although some may meet in the VBC church house. *(Continued)*

Find out more

Ten different Life Groups will be offered this fall through VBC. Sign-ups for the Life Groups will begin August 28 during a luncheon following the Sunday morning worship service, and will run through September 25.

If you're interested in being part of a Life Group, you'll be able to sign up at VBC in the Fellowship Hall on August 28 or in the church foyer between September 3 and September 25. If you have questions, please contact a member of the Life Group launch team listed below.

Please give this opportunity your prayerful support as we continue our journey together.

Life Group launch team

Nancy Curtis	curtisfamily5@gmail.com
Trula Duane	trulaeduane@comcast.net
Rob Ruth	mcpinch@aol.com
Kay Woodruff	kaywoodruff@verizon.net

Pastoral staff

Rev. Bob Albritton	balbritton@vbc-va.org
Rev. Ben Wagener	bwagener@vbc-va.org



541 Marshall Road, SW • Vienna, VA 22180-6449
Phone: 703-281-4400 • Fax: 703-281-3535

E-mail: officemanager@vbc-va.org • Web site: www.vbc-va.org



Support for the Journey

*Life Groups at
Vienna Baptist Church*