



Life Around The Table: Life Groups

There are so many ways in which people can connect to the Rayleigh Baptist Church family. But Life Groups provide a way to go deeper together. Deeper in our discipleship and love for Jesus, and deeper in our relationships together. Through those relationships we are able to serve and support others on our good days and to assist others on their bad days, and in their times of need. This is the value of "Doing Life Together".




We've looked at Acts 2:42-47 a number of times in the last year. When preparing to speak I printed the passage out and highlighted different parts according to aspects/categories. As a group, work out how you would describe each highlighted category.



Acts 2:42-47 - The Fellowship of the Believers

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who 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 favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.



Here are the answers you're looking to come up with together - though of course you might label them differently:

 Characterises their fellowship/relationships
 Things they did/put into practice
 Context of their fellowship

 Outworking of their love for one another
 Fruit of their discipleship & growing relationships

Questions:

Spend some time discussing and answering the following questions for your Life Group...

- What qualities characterise your Life Group? [Green]
- What do you do/practice in your Life Group? [Yellow]
- What contexts does your Life Group meet in? [Pink]
- What is the evidence of your discipleship & love for one another? [Orange]
- What fruit have you seen as a result? [Purple]

Additional

One Greek word is sprinkled widely throughout the New Testament, like biscuit-crumbs on the carpet after a Gathering. The word is used about 100 times, over half of the time in the form of positive commands.

Allelon (pronounced *al-lay-lone*) is not a verb. It's not a specific "something" that we are told to do. It is *who* we are told to do many things to, for and with. The word *allelon* means *each other, mutually or reciprocally*.

Author Gordon Fee summarizes the concept:

"Everything is done *allelon*. They are members of one another (Rom 12:5; Eph 4:25), who are to build up one another (1 Thess 5:11; Rom 14:19), to care for one another (1 Cor 12:25), to love one another (1 Thess 3:12, 4:9; 2 Thess

1:3; Rom 13:8), to pursue one another's good (1 Thess 5:15), to bear with one another in love (Eph 4:2), to bear one another's burdens (Gal 6:2), to be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another (Eph 4:32; cf. Col 3:13), to submit to one another (Eph 5:21), to consider one another better than ourselves (Phil 2:3; cf. Rom 12:10), to be devoted to one another in love (Rom 12:10), to live in harmony with one another (Rom 12:16)."

A more succinct summary is provided by Jesus:

"So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets." Matthew 7:12

Life Group = "one-anothering"

[but our one-anothering shouldn't be limited to our Life Groups - it should be an attitude to the whole of our lives]

