

# Life Group Participant Guidelines

The purpose of our small group ministry here at North Terrace is to enable each member to make meaningful application of the study and of the relationships being made. The following guidelines will make your time within the small group experience more effective.

- Please make your attendance a priority. If you are unable to attend, be sure to call the host, hostess, or small group leader informing them that you will be unable to attend.
- Please make every effort to be on time so that full advantage can be taken of the group's time together.
- During the discussion of study material, only participants who wish to respond may do so; no one is required to share responses.
- Be a part of keeping the group focused on the discussion at hand. There will be times that the discussion may veer from the subject for a few minutes, but be sure to help everyone get it back on track.
- There may be times when participants may disagree on a particular issue. Always use scripture as the final authority on whatever issue you are discussing. In all discussions be kind and gracious.
- It is important that all participants have an equal opportunity to speak. Please be respectful of each other by listening as much as speaking. Everyone should take responsibility in accommodating others.
- Make an effort to glean benefits for yourself spiritually and be sure to contribute to the well-being of other's.
- Remember the group is not about you. It is about the spiritual growth of the group as a whole.
- Most groups have an "ending" time. Please be sure to honor that time out of respect for the host and/or hostess. This is particularly important with adults who have school-aged children that need to be in bed by a certain time.
- It is recommended that you only be a part of one small group that is defined as a Life Group. Being a part of more than one Life Group may make others feel unsure as to whether or not they can talk openly. Some may feel or sense that you may share information about them with the other Life Group you are involved with.