



Life Groups

@ Saint John Neumann

In this isolated world,
Life Groups can help people **connect with others**
in a healthy social environment.

God has created us with a deep longing for community.
Life Groups can address the **need to belong**.

Anyone who has spent time with a small group of believers
realize that we grow in the Lord best when **we live it out,**
together with others.

Life Groups can serve to **unite relationally with God,**
and with one another.

You will be **free to learn about God** and His will for our lives.
And by loving, caring for, and encouraging each other.



Purpose

TO HELP PEOPLE
TRANSFORM THEIR
RELATIONSHIPS
WITH **JESUS CHRIST**
AND WITH **OTHERS**
THROUGH
CONNECTION
PRAYER
STUDY
& *SERVICE*

Why Life Groups?

Small Groups have taken many forms and names at SJN over the last **15 years**, in Catholic parishes in the U.S. over the last **30 years**, and in other Christian faith communities for **over half a century.**



Why Life Groups?

Life Groups will become the **long-term model of ministry** for SJN parishioners, neighbors & church-seekers to form relationships, live the Catholic faith, discuss the mysteries of Christian life and become disciples and *disciple-makers*.



What can Life Groups **look like?**

WHAT THEY ARE

- Intentional and interactive
- Adaptable and accessible to everyone
- Flexible in size and time commitment
- Supportive of a person's faith life

WHAT THEY AREN'T

- Lecture-based
- A classroom model
- One or two people doing all the talking
- Something that looks or feels like *a cult*

Life Groups can take **many forms**

OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS

CLOSED – FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

MEN'S GROUPS

WOMEN'S GROUPS

COUPLES' GROUPS

MIXED GROUPS

GROUPS WITHIN NEIGHBORHOODS

YOUNG ADULT GROUPS

SENIORS' GROUPS

How we'll do it

First, **Large-Group series** (such as Fr. John Riccardo's *The Rescue Project*) will be offered on a constant basis at SJN, encouraging active, occasionally-active and infrequently-active parishioners to form groups.

Currently existing groups will be asked to take part in *The Rescue Project* to re-engage the Gospel message, and plan for future formation and study.

New parishioners and those seeking a church home (Catholics, or those taking part in OCI) will be shown how to form new Life Groups or join existing ones.



How we'll do it

Leaders & Facilitators will need support to help them answer questions, find resources and get coaching on how to make time together the most effective and fruitful.

To help with this and more, **a dedicated SJN Staff Member** will be on hand to provide resources, guidance & follow-up, and prayerful support to make all Life Groups thrive, grow, branch out and flourish!

What will a Life Group *do*?



Connection: a Life Group **forms**

- Finding common threads
- Deciding when and where to meet
- Choosing how often to meet
- Picking material for Study & Growth
- Choosing a Host and a Leader
- Registering with the Parish Office



Prayer: a Life Group **draws strength**

Members choose how to **start and end sessions** & what sorts of prayer forms to **explore** in between sessions.

Members can support **one another** and the needs of **those around them**.

They can also support each other by **attending Holy Mass** and taking part **in the Sacraments**.



Study Opportunities



2023 MISSAL
A deeper dive into
the Sunday Readings
and the Mass



Service: a Life Group turns **outward**

WITHIN THE PARISH

- Liturgical Ministries
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Supporting Projects
- Mentoring & Sponsoring new Catholics (OCI)
- Assisting in Parish Events (Oktoberfest, Festival, etc.)

BEYOND THE PARISH

- Good Samaritan Ministry (GSM)
- Big Walnut Friends Who Share (BWFWS)
- SVdP
- Direct aid (Shelters, Soup Kitchens, etc.)
- Family Promise

INTO THE WORLD

- Mission Trips
- Evangelization
- Raising awareness for causes

The background features a light grey base with large, overlapping organic shapes in muted green and brown. Stylized foliage patterns are visible in the top left and bottom left corners. A white wavy line curves across the bottom right.

Questions?



Thank You!

You Belong Here.