



# **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.

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# 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*.



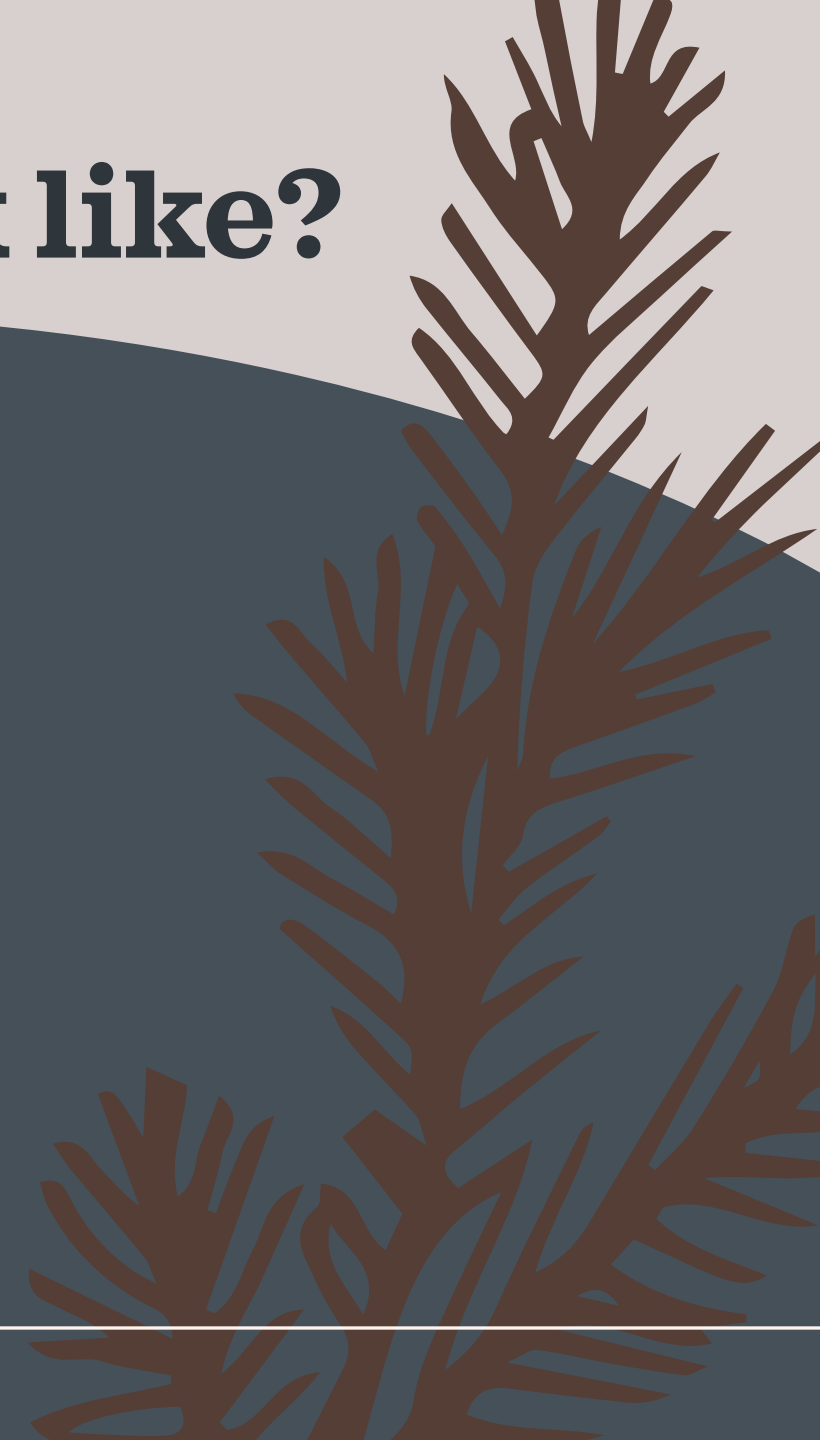
# What can Life Groups **look like?**

## **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**

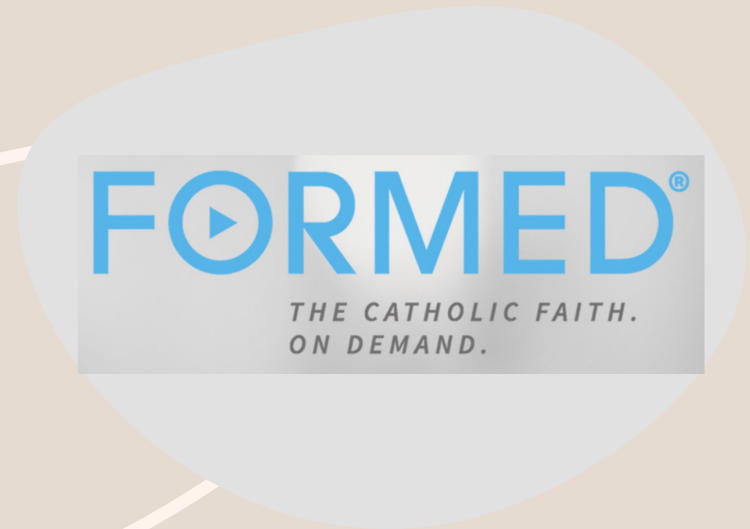
Members choose how to **start and end sessions** & what sorts of prayer forms to **explore** in between sessions.

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

Text centered in a green oval, describing a study opportunity for the 2023 Missal.



# Service: a Life Group turns **outward**

## **WITHIN THE PARISH**

- Liturgical Ministries
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Supporting Projects
- 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





**Questions?**





Thank You!

**You Belong Here.**