



# KNOW YOUR GROUP

At River Oak Church we recognize three different types of groups that are important to a person's spiritual growth—Life Groups, Bible Study Groups, and Resource Groups.

## What is a LIFE GROUP?

### **A healthy, successful Life Group is:**

- Primarily focused on *relational discipleship*
- A place to connect to the heart of God and the heart of people
- A place where people pray for one another and hold each other accountable
- Ideally smaller in size (less than 20 people)
- Meets in a warm environment (someone's home or on campus)
- More than just a once-a-week meeting—should provide frequent opportunities to cultivate friendship and deeper relationships through fun and support (BBQs, parties, meal trains, etc.)
- Intentional about fulfilling the Great Commission by multiplying and planting new groups
- A commitment to long-term relationship building with others seeking spiritual growth
- Measures success by seeing participants move deeper into the discipleship process

### **A Life Group is not:**

- Topic or curriculum driven
- Limited by a start and end date
- Seasonal
- A lecture style class
- Optional in the discipleship process or to spiritual growth

## What is a BIBLE STUDY?

### **A healthy, successful Bible Study is:**

- Primarily focused on *gaining deeper Biblical knowledge*
- A place to ask questions and learn from others
- A place to develop personal understanding of biblical truths
- A place to build confidence in what we believe and why
- Varies in size from small to large groups
- Generally meets on campus
- Centered around a certain curriculum, topic, or set of Bible passages
- Can be classroom, lecture, or conversational style
- Meets weekly and follows a predictable, structured format (generally more formal than a life group setting)
- Does not necessarily emphasize relationship-building, but it does provide a friendly, warm, and open atmosphere
- Has a specific start and end date
- Measures success by seeing participants come to a deeper understanding of the subject matter

### **A Bible Study is not:**

- A place where accountability is found (typically)
- Focused on replicating itself among the community or planting new groups
- The primary place for discipleship
- Easily reproduced
- Open-ended in curriculum or meeting dates

**LIVING EVERY DAY CAPTIVATED  
AND CHANGED BY JESUS**

# What is a RESOURCE GROUP?

## **A healthy, successful Resource Group is:**

- Primarily focused on *meeting a specific need for a specific audience*
- A place to find support, care, and wisdom
- Often developed in response of a growing need that has been identified within our church family
- Operates between a specific set of dates, typically once a week
- Highly dependent on carefully selected curriculum that approaches human issues with solid Biblical truth
- Highly repeatable
- Participants can fluctuate depending on the season or as their needs dictate
- Can have high accountability, specifically around the application of material taught
- Measures success by seeing group members apply resources to their particular situation

## **A Resource Group is not:**

- Focused on deeper Biblical knowledge (typically)
- More than a once-a-week gathering (typically)
- Built around a relational environment
- Built to be a long-term group
- Casual in what it teaches