

# What's the difference between a **Life Group** and a **Group Bible Study**?

*Life Groups and Bible Studies promote personal growth and build up the church, though in different ways.*

**Life Groups** exist for members to live in mutually accountable relationships which provide support and encouragement. Spending time in God's Word and understanding how it applies to us in our daily lives is a key component. Time spent in fellowship and in prayer are also vital to growth as well as serving together to spread God's love.

**Bible Studies** offer opportunities for spiritual growth through a focused study of God's Word. Over the years, they have taken several forms, and typically can be broken into two categories: short-term studies and long-term studies. Short-term studies usually have a smaller group size (ex. a 12-week topical study may have 10 people). Long-term studies typically have a larger group size (such as a weekly men's study may have 30-40 men).

## What about Bible School?

Bible School can be considered a long-term study; however, classes also provide a level of support for members. It is not uncommon for people to participate in a Sunday morning Bible School class and another group.

	Life Groups	Bible Studies
Purpose	Personal growth through sharing lives with others. Includes studying God's Word together, serving together, fellowship and a commitment to praying for one another.	Personal growth through digging deep into Scripture and praying with each other.
Who	Groups consist of adults, and may be ladies, men, couples, or a mix. Ages range from early 20's to ...	
When	Meets weekly from September to June	Meets weekly. Short-term group studies are mostly 6, 8 or 12 weeks while long-term studies may meet for 10 months to ongoing.
Where	In homes	In homes or at church
Size of Group	About 12	Varies. Most short-term groups are 6 to 15; while long-term groups can be 25 or more.
Commitment	10 months	Length of study
Bible Study	Studies focus on "life application" and are either topical or a book of the Bible.	Studies are topical or a book of the Bible.
Preparation	Advanced preparation not required. Some studies offer the opportunity for outside reading and answering questions.	Some studies may require readings, private devotional time, or other preparation. In-depth studies require weekly coursework. Some studies may not require any advance preparation.
What happens at the end of the commitment period?	Participants are encouraged to maintain relationships during summer months. These groups are designed to multiply in order to grow ministry.	Short-term group participants may choose to start up another study right away, take a break, or switch to another study.