

# The 5L's

Christ United Methodist Church was founded on the mission, **Bringing People into Growing Love Relationships with God and Others.**

- 1. Loving the Lord.** Worshipping God in Meaningful Ways.  
"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." Matthew 22:37. (WORSHIP)
- 2. Loving the Lord's Family.** Building Relationships in Small Groups.  
"A new command I give you: Love one another, as I have loved you, so you must love one another." John 13:34.  
(FELLOWSHIP) LIFE GROUPS
- 3. Loving the Lost.** Reaching the Unchurched Through Personal Witness.  
"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost." Luke 19:10.  
(EVANGELISM)
- 4. Loving the Least to the Greatest.** Using Our Gifts and Talents to Serve Others.  
"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40.  
(SERVICE) OUTREACH
- 5. Loving Learning.** Learning to Obey God's Commands.  
"If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching." John 14:23. (BIBLE STUDY)

## QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?



**We would love to hear from you. So if you need assistance in starting an Encouragement Group, have a question or a comment please contact Jordan or Joan Matejcek at [cumclearningteam@gmail.com](mailto:cumclearningteam@gmail.com). You can also drop by the Resource Room (in the Son Room) on any Sunday morning! If we are not there you can leave a message with the Learning Team member staffing the Resource Room and we will get back to you.**



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## ENCOURAGEMENT GROUPS



**Growing Deep Relationships**

# ENCOURAGEMENT GROUPS



Jesus had twelve disciples in his "life group", and a larger group of followers and friends that traveled with him during his ministry. The gospels say he had a special relationship with three of the disciples (Peter, James and John). He spent more time with these men and they were with him for the most crucial and revealing moments of his ministry. This special closeness prepared Peter, James and John for their special positions at the center of the newly-born church after Jesus ascended to heaven.

Meeting together in small Encouragement Groups of two to four is powerful. Encouragement Groups provide the intimacy and safety to share life's joys and sorrows and to challenge each other to follow Christ every day in every way.

Here is how you can form your Encouragement Group: Invite at least one but no more than three other people to get together with you weekly wherever your schedules and locations allow. You may meet in someone's home or in a coffee shop, at a library or at the gym. All you need is an hour (maximum) to spend and a place where you can have quiet conversation together.

### ***How is this different from a Life Group?***

Life Groups are focused on living out the five purposes of Christian life in a learning environment where each member is cared for by a trained leader. Encouragement groups are geared to building deeper relationships where members encourage and challenge each other spiritually on a personal level.

# HELPFUL TIPS FOR STARTING A GROUP



1. Form same gender groups of 2-4.
2. One person agrees to be the "coordinator" to make meeting arrangements and make sure everyone gets the information.
3. Include in each meeting: Encouragement questions sharing (below) and a time of prayer for and with each other.
4. Agreements: No secondary sharing (share about your life not someone else's); maintain confidentiality (what happens or is said in the group stays in the group); remember that the key word is encouragement not criticism (respond to others with love and support).

## FIRST MEETING:

1. Agree on meeting location and schedule.
2. Share contact information and agree on who to call in case someone cannot attend.
3. Each member shares a summary of their spiritual history.
4. Each member shares one greatest need for encouragement right now.
5. Pray for each other before closing the meeting.

## EACH WEEK:

1. Share your answers to the encouragement questions that follow. If time does not allow discussion of all the questions discuss the questions in **BOLD** first and then the others as time allows.
2. Remember to pray for each other and to pray together as a group.



# ENCOURAGEMENT QUESTIONS:



1. In what ways did God make his presence known to you since our last meeting? What opportunities did he give you for prayer, meditation or Bible study?
2. In what ways did God allow you to grow stronger relationships with other Christians (other than this meeting!)?
3. What struggles or temptations did you face this week? How did you respond?
4. What opportunities did God give you to serve others since our last meeting? How did you respond?
5. When did you last speak to someone about your faith?
6. In what specific ways would you like to be held accountable in the coming week? How can our group pray for you?

