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# LIFE GROUP MANUAL

KENTUCKY CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY



"FOR WHERE TWO OR THREE ARE  
GATHERED IN MY NAME, THERE I AM AMONG  
THEM"

MATTHEW 18:20

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WE TAKE THE WORDS OF THE APOSTLE PAUL THOUGHTFULLY WHEN HE SAYS IN ROMANS 13:8, "LET NO DEBT REMAIN OUTSTANDING, EXCEPT THE CONTINUING DEBT TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER." MEANING BECAUSE CHRIST FIRST LOVED US WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS, WE ARE CALLED TO LOVE EACH OTHER WELL IN ALL WE DO. IN OUR LIFE GROUPS WE WANT THOSE INVOLVED AND SERVING TO KNOW THAT WE LOVE, AND LOVE WELL. OUR HOPE IS THAT ANYTIME YOU ENGAGE WITH US IN CAMPUS MINISTRY, YOU LEAVE KNOWING, ABOVE ANYTHING ELSE, THAT YOU ARE LOVED BY JESUS CHRIST.



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# Life Group Leaders

## Welcome

Welcome life group leaders! We are so blessed that you have chosen to partner with the campus ministry here at KCU. We are prayerful in the process and believe that God is moving throughout the lives of those on this campus and in the community. Your involvement in the development and discipleship of the students are vital to the building of the body of Christ. We thank you for the time, hospitality, and love you express in your life group.

## Life Groups

As you read throughout this manual, we will discuss key principles and core values we want to instill within our life groups and what does it look like to be a leader of a life group. However, as you read through these items, I want to be sure you know the foundation for all we do: Jesus Christ's love for you and His Church. And, in case nobody has told you today, Jesus loves you more than you could ever know, and we do too.

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# Mission

Working in conjunction with the mission and vision of KCU, campus ministry's mission is to aid student's in their spiritual journey with Jesus Christ by thinking critically, loving tangibly, and living faithfully the core tenets of the Christian faith.

# Vision

The vision of the life groups partnered with Campus Ministry is that every KCU student would become lifelong disciples of Jesus. Through the partnering of discipleship groups students will be able to connect, grow, and walk alongside faithful followers to do the work of the Kingdom of God.



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# Core Values

## Spirituality.



The Campus Ministry of KCU strives to provide all students with a means to be transformed by the renewing of their minds through spiritual formation and disciplines, guided by the Holy Spirit and rooted in the example of Jesus Christ (Rom. 12:1-2).



## Inclusivity.

The Campus Ministry of KCU emphatically desires to include all people in the spiritual body of campus recognizing that we have been uniquely designed with different gifts and actions to accomplish the unified goal of lifting Christ's name to the world (Rom.12:3-8).

## Hospitality.



The Campus Ministry of KCU strives to cultivate a spirit of hospitality on campus. As the church, we are called to be brothers and sisters, dwelling in our true home, namely, the Kingdom of God. We do this by lifting one another up, loving well, and selflessly serving one another. (Rom.12:9-13).



## Unity.

The Campus Ministry of KCU pursues and promotes unity amongst all believers; focusing on overcoming evil with good (Rom. 12:14-21).



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# Be A Leader Who Is...

## Authentic

Always be real, always be you. “People would rather follow a leader who is always real, than one who is always right” (Craig Groeschel). The students that are involved in your group want to see the real you. Don't be afraid to be transparent and vulnerable with your students. When you create an atmosphere of authenticity, we begin to see the students connect and open themselves up in a way that is life changing, not just for them but to yourself as well.

## Progressing

Progression, not perfection. Seek to make the daily efforts to develop. There may be times within your life group that you feel you have hit a brick wall. During those times focus on progressing and taking the small steps with your students. Do not always have the thought of perfection on your mind, but instead shift your focus from perfection to excellence. When we seek excellence, we see ourselves progressing.

## Dynamic

Being comfortable in the uncomfortable. Allow yourself to think outside the box for lesson plans and activities. Embracing the charisma, and creativity during the process. Create an environment for imagination to be running wild for your group.

## Visional

We must understand our *why* because everything we do flows from it. If we do not understand why we are doing what we are doing, then the reason we are doing it simply is not enough.

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# Do NOT be a leader who is

## Domineering

A domineering leader leads from a place of control, not encouragement. Others who are around a domineering leader may begin to feel overwhelmed, pressured, verbally and mentally exhausted.

## Aggressive

An aggressive leader continues to lead but in a way that forces others to do what they are told. A lot like the domineering leader, the aggressive leader seeks to tell people what to do, rather than guide them.



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# Example Devotion

## How to give a good devotional

- **Start with scripture**
  - This will determine where you will go with your story. PLEASE make sure that you know the context of the scripture. Who, what, when, where, and why! Know this before you teach others. It's so easy to make scripture say what you want it to say.
  - Pick Scriptures that speak to you personally.
- **Personal story**
  - This can be something small, something that happened to you in the past, or a story of a friend.
  - Make sure it's interesting and has a point that aligns with your scripture.
    - Adjust your story to the scripture
    - Do not adjust scripture to your story
  - How God worked through your story
    - What is something that God revealed to you through this story. Try not to stretch scripture or what you want to teach to fit the story.
- **Where you are now**
  - What has God has taught you since then?
  - Is what happened changed the course of how you think or live out your Christian walk.
- **How this applies to their life**
  - How can your audience learn through your story? Keep it light and short. Then always open up discussion!
  - This is where a connection may happen with someone new.



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# Model Prayers

## A.C.T.S Prayer

### A - Adoration

Praise God for Who He is (Ps. 48:1)

### C - Confession

Confess your sins and struggles to God (1 John 1:9).

### T - Thanksgiving

Thank God for what He has done, what He is doing now, and what He is going to do (1 Thes. 5:18)

### S - Supplication

Ask God, request and bring your needs to Him (Phil. 4:6-7).

## Things to Pray for at all times..

Safety, future spouses, health, school, spiritual growth. Families, and friends.

Local and universal church, prayer for the congregations, upcoming events,





# STUDENT-LED LIFE GROUPS

## PEOPLE, PIZZA, & PHILIPPIANS

### Group Description:

People, Pizza, and Philippians is a life group dedicated to fellowship, modern-day Christianity, and well, food! In this life group, we will be diving into the book of Philippians. This group is designed to provide an introductory look into studying scripture, as well as allowing others to take a deeper dive into what the Word has to offer. Along with this, one of the fundamental aspects of the group is to build a community of students bridging gaps created by sports, majors, etc. Anybody is welcome, and I would love to see you there!

- **Group Leaders:** Brett Ferguson
- **Leader Email:** bmferguson@kcu.edu
- **Group Demographic:** Open to anyone.
- **Size Limit:** No limit
- **Start Date:** TBD
- **Meeting Times:** Tuesday, 6:30PM
- **Meeting Location:** McKenzie Student Life Center

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## HOOP & HALLELUJAHS

### Group Description:

This is a life group dedicated to building relationships with local churches, and just playing some basketball. We will have time dedicated to dive into the Word and then we will have some fun playing ball!

- **Group Leader(s):** Shawn Mountcastle
- **Leader Email(s):** smmountcastle@kcu.edu
- **Group Demographic:** Open to anyone.
- **Size Limit:** No limit
- **Start Date:** TBD
- **Meeting Times:** TBD
- **Meeting Location:** Local Churches in Carter County

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## THE WELL

### Group Description:

The purpose of this group is to live a life based on what Jesus said in John 4:14b, "Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." As we go through scripture, we are going to draw closer to God as we seek what he gives us and not what the world gives us.

- **Group Leader:** Ethan Gossage
  - **Leader Email:** ebgossage@kcu.edu
  - **Group Demographic:** Open to anyone.
  - **Size Limit:** No Limit
  - **Start Date:** TBD
  - **Meeting Times:** Wednesday, 7:30pm
  - **Meeting Location:** Chapel
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# STUDENT-LED LIFE GROUPS

## WALKING IN THE SPIRIT

### Group Description:

Take a deep dive into understanding the third person of the Trinity, The Holy Spirit. We will be studying biblically how the Holy Spirit moves through us and how our lives are to be shaped by His fruit and gifts. Also, we will examine practical ways that we as Christians engage to live a life walking in the Spirit.

- **Group Leaders:** Isaiah Jones
- **Leader Email:** iejones@kcu.edu
- **Group Demographic:** Open to anyone.
- **Size Limit:** No limit
- **Start Date:** 8/28/23
- **Meeting Times:** Mondays, 8:30pm
- **Meeting Location:** Chapel

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## ECKERT LIFE GROUP

### Group Description:

Navigating a romantic relationship during college can be difficult and a bit overwhelming at times. Whether you're married, engaged, dating on campus or long distance, we would love to be in community together during this season of life. We don't have all the answers, but we would love to walk alongside you as together we discover what the Bible has to say about healthy, holy relationships.

- **Group Leader(s):** Ethan & Cherish Eckert
- **Leader Email(s):** ckeyser@kcu.edu
- **Group Demographic:** Open to anyone.
- **Size Limit:** No limit
- **Start Date:** TBD
- **Meeting Times:** Tuesday, 6:00pm
- **Meeting Location:** Nook and Cranny Coffee House

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## THE FOURTH C

### Group Description:

At The 4th C, we believe that serving others is serving God. We know that KCU focuses on helping student's develop in Christ, Character, and Career, but at The 4th C, we want to help student's grow to be dedicated to their Communities as well. Our life-group aims to do this through building relationships with one another, and then as a group, partnering with local and regional organizations to help meet the needs of those around us. We would love to have you join us as we strive to be the hands and feet of Jesus this semester!

- **Group Leader:** Madelyn Forbes & Kaitlin Caudill
  - **Leader Email:** mbforbes@kcu.edu & krcaudill@kcu.edu
  - **Group Demographic:** Open to anyone.
  - **Size Limit:** No Limit
  - **Start Date:** TBD
  - **Meeting Times:** Every other Saturday
  - **Meeting Location:** TBD
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# STUDENT-LED LIFE GROUPS

## MADE FOR THIS MOMENT BOOK STUDY

### Group Description:

In *Made for This Moment*, we will be diving into the book *Live Original* by Sadie Robertson. This book will encourage you to:

- Decide who you want to be before you step into your Big Moments
- Claim your confidence so you can get out of the comparison game
- Learn strategies for dealing with your past so it won't hinder your present
- And much more!

- **Group Leader:** Maggie Keeton
- **Leader Email:** mvkeeton@kcu.edu
- **Group Demographic:** Open to anyone
- **Size Limit:** 10
- **Start Date:** TBD (Leader will contact you)
- **Meeting Times:** TBD (Leader will contact you)
- **Meeting Location:** TBD (Leader will contact you)

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## THEOVISION

### Group Description:

TheoVision: Season 3 is a life group focusing on finding God and theology through the culture and themes shown through television shows. This semester, we will be watching a variety of different kinds of shows. Each week at life group, we will watch an episode of a tv show, and spend time in grouped or partnered discussions/activities, having fellowship with one another. I hope that those attending this life group will leave with a new and fresh perspective on the ways God is present in every aspect of our lives, even in the everyday entertainment of modern television.

- **Group Leader:** Ally Collins
- **Leader Email:** amcollins@kcu.edu
- **Group Demographic:** Open to anyone
- **Size Limit:** None
- **Start Date:** TBD
- **Meeting Times:** Mondays, 7:00PM
- **Meeting Location:** Bible and Ministry Conference Room in Smith

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## GODLY GAMING

### Group Description:

Hey! My name is Colton Lewallen, and if you're looking for a fun place to hang out, talk about the Bible, and game with each other, then Godly Gaming has you covered! I plan on diving into the Gospels, asking and discussing questions and being in fellowship with one another. Then we will have a time for us to hangout and just play video games. This is a place where anyone, gamer or not, can come and hang out! There'll be Mario Kart, Smash Brothers, and more, so come on down and get ready to mingle!

- **Group Leader:** Colton Lewallen
  - **Leader Email:** cdlewallen@kcu.edu
  - **Group Demographic:** Open to anyone.
  - **Size Limit:** None
  - **Start Date:** TBD
  - **Meeting Times:** Thursday, 7:00pm - 8:30pm
  - **Meeting Location:** Lusby
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# STUDENT-LED LIFE GROUPS

## GRACE VANSKOY'S LIFE GROUP

### Group Description:

This group will be going over a book study on building a healthy relationship in Christ and finding hope in God. Examining the true crimes founded in the pages of the Bible. Exploring some of scriptures most shocking tales.

- True Crimes of The Bible by Dr. Bruce Becker

- **Group Leader:** Grace Vanscoy
- **Leader Email:** gmvenscoy@kcu.edu
- **Group Demographic:** Open to Anyone
- **Size Limit:** 15
- **Start Date:** TBD
- **Meeting Times:** Tuesday, 8:00pm
- **Meeting Location:** Dale Lobby

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## RAYBURN LIFE GROUP

### Group Description:

Hey! my name is Aaron Rayburn. My Wife and I want to invite you to our life group. Discipleship is vital in our walk with Christ and we as followers of Christ must be intentional in it. This life group will dive into the Word of God and talk about the hard questions and things that life throws at us. We would love to have you, also we will be providing deserts! Hope to see you soon!

- **Group Leader:** Aaron Rayburn
- **Leader Email:** arayburnefoundationky.church
- **Group Demographic:** Open to anyone.
- **Size Limit:** N/A
- **Start Date:** TBD
- **Meeting Times:** Mondays, 8:00PM
- **Meeting Location:** TBD

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## BASEBALL DEVOTIONAL

### Group Description:

A life group dedicated to the baseball team. We will be diving into scripture and discussing the Word of God together. Also, we will be discussing practical applications that we can take and use for our daily lives.

- **Group Leader:** Joe Elam
  - **Leader Email:** jelam@kcu.edu
  - **Group Demographic:** KCU Baseball team
  - **Size Limit:** No Limit
  - **Start Date:** TBD
  - **Meeting Times:** TBD
  - **Meeting Location:** TBD
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# FACULTY/STAFF LED LIFE GROUPS

## MINISTRY HACKS

### Group Description:

Ministry Hacks will cover a wide variety of simple things we can do in ministry that will create big waves in the Kingdom. There will be a "Replicate" weekly bible reading and discussion.

- **Group Leader:** Jake Ratliff
- **Leader Email:** jratliff@kcu.edu
- **Group Demographic:** Open
- **Size Limit:** 20
- **Start Date:** Leader will contact you
- **Meeting Times:** Tuesdays 7pm
- **Meeting Location:** TBD

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## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS FELLOWSHIP

### Group Description:

This fellowship is intended to meet and share the Word and pray for one another. Students are also giving guidance and support as they integrate into the new environment and education system that confront most international students.

- **Group Leader:** Dr. Juliana Akinsete
- **Leader Email:** jakinsete@kcu.edu
- **Group Demographic:** International Students
- **Size Limit:** None
- **Start Date:** TBD
- **Meeting Times:** Tuesdays, 3PM (bi-weekly)
- **Meeting Location:** Trinity 101

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## THE FATHER'S WISDOM

### Group Description:

The wisdom of a father can be a timeless blessing. Come and share with the lessons I have from my father, as a father, and about my heavenly father!

- **Group Leader:** Donald Damron
  - **Leader Email:** dmdamron@kcu.edu
  - **Group Demographic:** Open to anyone.
  - **Size Limit:** 20
  - **Start Date:** 8/23/23
  - **Meeting Times:** Wednesdays, 9:30PM
  - **Meeting Location:** Back room of the Cafeteria
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# FACULTY / STAFF LED LIFE GROUPS

## KNIGHTS OF THE ROUNDTABLE

### Group Description:

This Life Group is for men and women who want to be disciples in the Words, Ways, and Walk of Jesus. Together, we will learn and live out what it means to be Missional Disciples of Jesus. The group will cap at 10 students.

- **Group Leader:** Dr. Shoaff
- **Leader Email:** reshoeff@kcu.edu
- **Group Demographic:** Open to anyone
- **Size Limit:** 10
- **Start Date:** TBD
- **Meeting Times:** Thursday, TBD
- **Meeting Location:** KCU Apartment #125

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## BOOK OF REVELATION SEEN THROUGH THE EYES OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

### Group Description:

Old Testament prophecies from Isaiah, Amos, Daniel, King David as he wrote the Psalm and more. What did the Israelites know about the book of Revelation and the 2nd coming of Christ? What does the nation of Israel know today about Revelation? What do you think? What do modern churches say about Christ coming again and is the nation of Israel missing this OR will they finally believe in Jesus as THE MESSIAH? Are we prepared to see Christ as the book of Revelation states in His glory with angels and swords? What does that mean?

- **Group Leader:** Dr. Sarah Brown
- **Leader Email:** sdbrown@kcu.edu
- **Group Demographic:** Open to anyone.
- **Size Limit:** No Limit
- **Start Date:** TBD
- **Meeting Times:** Thursday, 6:00pm
- **Meeting Location:** Nash Chapel Choir Room

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## MCCLURE'S LIFE GROUP

### Group Description:

A little house near campus trying to be the most hospitable place in the galaxy. Come for some fun, encouragement, and weird accents. Oh & the food is on us. We believe your time at college is one of the most important times in your life. It's a time of new surroundings. New experiences. New friends. It's a time when you begin to set many of the patterns and habits that will shape the rest of your life. Each week we discuss important issues facing college students. Gather. Eat a free meal. Connect. And figure out where life with God fits into life at college.

- **Group Leader:** Kyleigh & Thomas McClure
  - **Leader Email:** kmperrymcclure@kcu.edu
  - **Group Demographic:** Open to anyone.
  - **Size Limit:** No Limit
  - **Start Date:** TBD
  - **Meeting Times:** TBD
  - **Meeting Location:** TBD
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# FACULTY/STAFF LED LIFE GROUPS

## YOUNG LIBRARY CHESS CLUB LIFE GROUP

### Group Description:

Let's play Chess! This life group is open for all interested tabletop gamers. It will take place every Monday at 7PM in Young Library.

Whether you're a seasoned tactician, or if you don't even know how to move a pawn, we encourage you to join in. We will learn how to play, discuss strategy, and participate in some fun, casual play.

We will also see how to apply what we learn in chess to our daily lives and in our service to God.

- **Group Leader:** Josh Blevins
- **Leader Email:** jkblevins1@kcu.edu
- **Group Demographic:** Open to anyone.
- **Size Limit:** N/A
- **Start Date:** TBD
- **Meeting Times:** Mondays @ 7:00PM
- **Meeting Location:** Young Library

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## CRAFTING FOR CHRIST

### Group Description:

Crafting for Christ is for 10 girls who love Christ and doing crafts! In this group we will go over scripture, followed by a craft to go along with it! Since Crafting for Christ has a limited number of members, it will be whoever signs up first gets a spot. We will be asking for a \$15 sign up fee (If you need assistance with money, please contact us and we will help you out!) to help cover the cost of materials.

- **Group Leader:** Lara Reener
- **Leader Email:** lcrenner@kcu.edu
- **Group Demographic:** Women
- **Size Limit:** 10
- **Start Date:**
- **Meeting Times:** Wednesday @ 7:00PM
- **Meeting Location:** Smith Building Room #120

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## WORSHIP COLLECTIVE LIFE GROUP

### Group Description:

This life group will utilize the When Heaven Meets Earth Bible Study from The Bible Project. "God crafted scripture as one unified story. It's the tragic story of how heaven on earth became heaven and earth. It's the redemptive story of God's mission to reunite those two domains once again. In this twelve-week study guide, The Bible Project lays out a blueprint for scripture that will forever change the way you read God's word and understand Jesus's work in the world."

- **Group Leaders:** Andrew & Emily Wolfe
  - **Leader Emails:** ajwolfe@kcu.edu/enwolfe@kcu.edu
  - **Group Demographic:** Worship Collective Members
  - **Size Limit:** N/A
  - **Start Date:** TBD
  - **Meeting Times:** TBD
  - **Meeting Location:** Wolfe Residence
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# FACULTY / STAFF LED LIFE GROUPS

## LEVEL UP

Group Description:

Level Up is a devotional-based Bible study that discusses the themes common to both the Bible and video games and discusses biblical and theological truths through the medium of video games. Each lesson gives the students an opportunity to discuss their favorite games and learn the different Biblical themes in video games.

- **Group Leader:** Shawn Cordle
  - **Leader Email:** swcordle@kcu.edu
  - **Group Demographic:** Open to anyone.
  - **Size Limit:** 15
  - **Start Date:** August 29th
  - **Meeting Times:** Tuesday @ 7:00PM
  - **Meeting Location:** Emma Lounge
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