
Kings Church Horsham

Group Life: Quick Start Guide

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Overview

Kings Church Horsham (KCH) is a family of families with group life at its core. We want to be a community of disciples who make disciples.

It is our passion to see groups emerge that facilitate mission in three key ways:

- Going on Mission to see People Saved
- Develop People for Mission
- Caring for and encouraging those already on Mission

We know that there are, as many diverse ways of doing this, as there are people and so we want to create sense of community within KCH that allows us all to connect at the level and frequency that works for us. We want people to connect in a context that creates space for discipleship in many and varied ways, around a geographical location, an interest or a develop need.

Some of these groups will meet weekly, some fortnightly and some monthly depending on the desire and availability of the leaders and the participants.

We believe that developing *Group Life* in this way allows for the many and varied needs of both leaders and participants in, and outside, of the church. We want to develop a model that caters for the majority of people, situations and needs with the church and then tailor specific solutions for those whose needs remain unmet by the general solutions provided within the *Group Life* model.

Joining a Group

The biggest change to *Group Life* will be that we will operate on four twelve week terms and each group will get 2 weeks off in each term. During those two weeks off we will have time for mid-week corporate prayer, develop for group leaders and most importantly everyone will be asked to sign up for the next group that they will be committing to for the coming ten weeks. Don't worry! You can keep signing up for the same group if you wish but if there is some develop, a course, or a new interest based missional community that you would like to take part in then you can go and try that out. Then the following term you can go back to a previous group, stay in the same one or try another or take some time off.

Equally, if you are leading a group you don't have to run it for longer than ten weeks unless of course you want to. Remember, we want people to engage at the level that works for them and signing up every term allows leaders and participants to do just that. Groups only operate if people want to lead them and participants sign up for them.

Missional Communities

A Missional Community (MC) is a group that exists primarily to make new disciples. To see people who don't yet know Jesus, come to know Him.

Each group will gather based on an activity, interest or location that would enable those from KCH to invite friends, neighbours, work colleagues and contacts who may also be interested in that activity. Examples could be:

- Weekly Football
- Bi-Weekly Film Club
- Monthly Wine Tasting

Develop Communities

A Develop Community (DC) are groups that provide develop and instruction to equip people, in the main, for mission:

- Ministry Team Develop
- Prophesy 101
- Evangelism Develop

There may be some develop groups that could be both a TC & MC if they serve those inside and outside KCH:

- Marriage Based Courses
- Parenting Courses
- Alpha Courses

Connect Communities

A Connect Community (CC) is what we might consider a more traditional home or connect group. These groups continue to provide community, family, care and support for those already in church but with a clear focus and encouragement for mission and making disciples.

Caring for One Another

The term, “pastoral care”, carries a wide meaning which is as varied and individual as the people you ask. It can begin with what we sometimes call “one anothering”, based on the 100 verses that use the single Greek word, which we translate to “one another” and then expands to include all the specialised counseling on specific topics or complex mental health matters.

Whatever the group, MC, TC or CC those who lead as well as those who are already disciples of Jesus are expected to “one another”, each other; to be at peace with one another, be kind, tender-hearted, and forgiving to one another, love one another, bear with one another, care for one another, etc, etc.

When the time, abilities or specialised skills do not exist in the group to meet a specific pastoral need then each group leadership team can turn to their **Group Coach** who is there to help locate the necessary care, assistance and pastoral expertise needed by referring the situation to the **Pastoral Team**.

Pastoral Team

The pastoral team assists the elders with their responsibility for all pastoral care within the church. They are supported by the **Pastoral Support Team** who are trained at various levels on many and varied aspects of pastoral care. They also have access and connections with external support groups, counselors and agencies which can also be recommended and utilised as and when necessary.

Members of the pastoral team have years of experience in social work, professional counseling and between them have over 50 years of professional pastoral care.

Pastoral Support Team

The pastoral support team are a group of volunteers who have a heart and passion for pastoral care. Each of them have graduated both Pastoral Care 1 & 2 from our pastoral academy and some have gone on to complete further academic studies in specific areas.

Group Coaches

Group Coaches are assigned to each group. The coach is there to encourage and support the leadership teams of each group as they look to outwork their groups vision through the 3D lifestyle of Up/In/Out.

Group coaches are there to cheer on each team and, when necessary, connect them to other people and resources in the church. This could be, but is not limited to, connecting them to the **Pastoral Team** when pastoral assistance is needed either for members of the Group leadership team or its members.

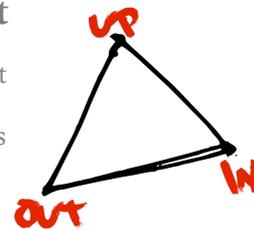
Belong: A Special Type of Group

The challenge of operating by “sign-up” to 10 week groups is if people come to the church and want to engage but have missed the 2 week sign up window. **Belong** is a group especially for them. This group is part of what we have traditionally called our **Connections Team**. The group will have a weekly meal together and is designed to connect new people into the life of the church, to prepare them for the next cycle of Group Life and ultimately make them feel welcome so that they too can **Belong**.

Up – In - Out

All of the groups at KCH will be following our 3 C’s of Connection.

Connecting to Jesus (Up),
Connecting to One Another (In) and
Connecting to our Community (Out). All of life should be lived like this. Our lives should be ones of worship, growing and sharing/serving and making disciples.



We have three types of Groups at KCH and each one has a stronger emphasis on one of these attributes but never to the exclusion of the others.

Each Group has a Vision

We want each new group to have a clear objective and purpose. The purpose, or vision should be a simple answer to the question “*What is God saying to you and what are you going to do about it?*”

Team Leadership

We believe in the value of team, or what we call plurality of leadership. Each group will be led by a team of 2 or more and will be a mix of Ground Takers (Pioneers) and Ground Keepers (Developers)

Low Control, High Accountability

We want each group to be accountable to their stated purpose and vision as well as to the Up/In/Out elements of group life.

How that vision and those elements are achieved will be as diverse and unique as the team leading them.

We are not looking to create a structure for group life, but a space for group life. Just as no two families are the same, neither will two groups be entirely the same.

We are a family of families and we want this to be expressed in the diverse methods of group life while maintaining the essence of the wider KCH family DNA.