

# life GROUUPS//

monthly newsletter

## Leader Training

**MAY 2011**

If you've ever used a cookie cutter for a batch of cookies or as a template for tracing outlines, you've noticed that the end results, though *nearly* similar, are never perfectly identical. At Overlake, we have hundred's of life groups with the very same core "DNA" of caring connection and spiritual formation – but no two groups are identical! One reason this is so, is because you as a leader are different from other leaders. You are uniquely you – the group that comes together under your roof or meeting location is a unique group compiled by God for his specific purposes.

So at OCC, you won't find an identical covenant agreement for you and your group to complete and check off the list of things to do. Instead, you are encouraged to complete a group VALUE STATEMENT. The end result of creating a Value Statement is that you have a useful tool that is owned by the group providing framework within which the group interacts. The PROCESS for creating the Value Statement becomes a value in itself. It's your very first collaborative effort as a leader in your group! There are a variety of methods for creating a Value Statement. Here is my favorite method:

- Provide a list of 100 "value" oriented words on a sheet of paper. Words like 'community, punctuality, loyalty, spirituality, trust, fun...etc' You can find value lists on the web using a keyword search. Give a list to each person in your group.
- Every group member, on their own sheet, highlights only 10 words that are of highest value to them personally. Give as much time as needed.
- Every member then circles only the top 3 words on their own sheet. Give only 2-3 minutes.
- Each member writes their 3 top words on a separate post-it.
- Leader takes 3 post-its from each member and places on flat surface where all can see
- Leader categorizes the most common responses
- Process with the group until you arrive at 8-10 value words that you all completely agree upon listing them in order reflecting the number of responses for each word. Be sure to invite discussion when words have the same number of votes.
- Write the words on a new sheet of paper and add a 2 sentence Value Statement for each word. Some groups find supporting scripture for the words they choose.
- Give everyone a copy of the end result to OWN as the GROUP VALUE STATEMENT.

This process will reveal elements of your leadership style in addition to providing a viable tool. Pay attention to how you respond to people as they make suggestions or discuss. Be sure to read the VALUE STATEMENT discussion in the Life Group Basics training guide beginning on page 9 for more thoughts on why your group should have a Value Statement.

**CONTACT us at:**  
[Elainem@occ.org](mailto:Elainem@occ.org)  
[Karriew@occ.org](mailto:Karriew@occ.org)

## New Life Group:

Stout–Motorcycle Life Group begins 5/21! Larry and Cindy Stout are recent transplants from Texas to the NW. They jumped right in to group life. If you have a friend or coworker who rides a motorcycle, then be sure to connect them to Larry or Cindy. This lovely, easy-going couple live in Woodinville and are ready to break out the BBQ. Go to [occ.org/lifegroups](http://occ.org/lifegroups) to find the Stout Life Group for complete details.

## Calendar:

### Let's Connect - MAY 26th

We will be hosting this event in our Lobby areas located by the Auditorium. With this new venue comes..... catered refreshments, the OCC Espresso stand, a new 'look' for the setup. We are really excited about this new and improved Let's Connect!

What do we need from you? We need ALL Leaders to RSVP that they are attending this event! RSVP to [Karriew@occ.org](mailto:Karriew@occ.org).

## Volunteer:

Central Lounge - We need Life Group Leaders to spend some time with us at the Central Lounge on Sunday mornings! We would love to introduce our FANTASTIC Leaders to all the people who stop by to chat about Life Groups! Contact us at [Lifegroups@occ.org](mailto:Lifegroups@occ.org).

Love God, Love People, Serve the World are the stated purposes of Overlake Christian Church.

Life Groups exist to fulfill the purpose of Love People.

*The vision of Life Groups is to bring connection, caring and spiritual growth to every adult at OCC, providing genuine community, quality curriculum and trained leaders through affinity based Life Groups.*



## Curriculum

**The Story.** Read the Bible as one seamless story from beginning to end. **The Story** reveals the unfolding grand narrative of the Scriptures. Using clear, accessible text, this rendering of the Bible tells “the story of the Bible” – God’s great love affair with humanity. Included: DVD resource guide, Adult Edition, Teen Edition, Kids Edition. For more information find **The Story** at [www.thestory.com](http://www.thestory.com). Life Groups has one complete copy to loan.

**Small Group Insights.** Before you choose your next study topic, consider completing the **Small Groups Insights Profile**. This exercise will help you to get the MOST out of your study, prayer and interactions. *“The better the connections, the better the group.”* **Small Group Insights Profile** provides you with a fast-track to authenticity and meaningful connection.

Three simple steps:

1. Each member obtains an access code from the life group leader to complete the Small Group Insights Questionnaire.\*
2. Each member completes the Small Group Insights Questionnaire (less than 10 minutes), prints their results and brings them to the group.
3. Members share their Small Group Insights Profiles in the group using three included exercises.

The **Small Group Insights Profile** is a 10-page personalized report, generated instantly after completing a 10-minute online questionnaire. The profile is divided into three exercises:

### Exercise 1 - SHARING YOUR GROUP STYLE

The Doer // The Listener // The Talker // The Thinker

### Exercise 2 - GOING DEEPER WITH MY PERSONAL STYLE

The Value You Add to Your Small Group // Where You Might Get Bugged // What You Want in Your Small Group // If Tension Arises // How You Approach Time // Your Small Group Theme

### Exercise 3 - MY PERSONAL COMMUNICATION PREFERENCES

How You Like to be Communicated With // How You Don't Like to be Communicated With

\* If you are interested in this exercise, email [Elainem@occ.org](mailto:Elainem@occ.org) for your list of personal codes.

## Resources

- Check out the monthly Newsletter from the [Serve the World](#) dept. on their web pages. If you would like to receive this newsletter, email Andrea at [Andream@occ.org](mailto:Andream@occ.org).
- Check out our [Pastors' Blogs!](#)

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