

WELCOME

ROOTED WEEK 1 | WHAT IS A LIFE GROUP?

WELCOME TO ROOTED!

We're so glad you're here! Thank you for taking this step of faith and choosing to join a Life Group. Whether this is your first group experience or you've been part of one before, our hope is that this group becomes a place where you feel known, supported, and encouraged as you grow in your relationship with Jesus and with one another.

Over the next 11 weeks, your engagement with the discussions and experiences of Rooted will welcome God to work in your life as the foundation of your Life Group is formed. When Rooted concludes, your group will continue to meet as a Life Group.

WHAT TO EXPECT THIS WEEK:

- Begin getting to know one another
- Understand what you can expect throughout Rooted
- Explore what a Life Group is and how Rooted sets the foundation for group life
- Review and sign the Rooted Covenant

WHAT IS A LIFE GROUP?

A Life Group is a community of disciples intent on loving God, loving others, and making disciples in order to connect people to Jesus.

Commitment to a Life Group is a spiritual discipline, a commitment to your formation into Christ's likeness. Our journey with Christ is not meant to be traveled alone. We need others to encourage us, pray for us, and remind us who God is and how being created in His image informs our identity. Through Rooted, you'll begin cultivating the rhythms, trust, and shared experiences that will shape your group going forward.

WHAT LIFE GROUPS DO:

Life Groups typically...

- Gather weekly in one another's homes
- Spend time in Scripture, prayer, and discussion
- Pursue lives of abiding in Christ that reflect the fruit of the Spirit
- Care for and pray for one another
- Serve together in the community
- Share meals, laughter, and meaningful conversation

During week 10, you'll be invited to spend time examining the Life Group Covenant and prayerfully deciding if you're prepared to make the commitment to covenant community through your Life Group.



DURING ROOTED, YOUR GROUP WILL PARTICIPATE IN:

- Weekly Discussion based on reading and work found in the Companion Guide and Rooted Workbook.
- A Prayer Experience
 - Scheduled by your group outside of normal Rooted meetings.
 - Children's programming NOT provided.
- A Serve Experience
 - Scheduled by The Creek outside of normal Rooted meetings during April 11-18
 - Children's programming NOT provided although some ministry partners welcome the participation of children.
- The Creek Partnership Class
 - Tuesday, April 14 or Sunday, April 19
 - Children's programming provided.
- Rooted Celebration
 - Saturday, May 2, 4:30-7:30pm
 - Children's programming provided.

ROOTED RHYTHMS

Engaging in and practicing the Rhythms of Rooted will help you grow in your faith individually and as a Life Group. All of these practices are evident in the scriptures about the early church in Acts 2.

- Daily Devotionals - reading, meditating on and applying God's Word.
- Prayer - Communicating with God, sharing your heart, and listening to Him.
- Repentance - Confessing sin, turning toward God, and seeking freedom from strongholds.
- Sacrificial Generosity - Joyfully giving time, resources, and kindness as an act of dependence on God.
- Serving the Community - Demonstrating faith through action by serving others.
- Sharing Your Story - Confidently telling others how God is working in your life.
- Worship - Consistently setting aside time to give God glory and remember His works.



LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT WEEK

- Begin Week 2: Who Is God?
 - Complete the assigned daily devotionals in Rooted Workbook.
- Come ready to engage in discussion.





ROOTED

COVENANT

It is our desire to promote a safe environment for sharing the most important things in life. We want to provide a place where people can reveal openly and confidently the broken areas of their lives without judgment or condemnation. We are not here to “fix” one another. We encourage openness, vulnerability, and intimacy during discussion and prayer times. In order to ensure a safe haven for personal sharing, we ask that each Rooted participant enter into an agreement of confidentiality.

To get the most out of this experience, our hope is that you make a commitment to attend all sessions and participate in the group discussions. If you cannot be there, group dynamics will be impacted. If you know you will miss the group meetings more than two times, we ask that you have a conversation with a member of the Formation Team to discern whether this is the best season for you to commit to Rooted.

While everything in this group is confidential, according to Indiana law*, we do have a duty to report abuse or neglect of a person whether they are a child or an adult.

In addition, information may be shared with ministry leaders solely for the purpose of resource recommendations, accountability, discipleship, or for legal or safety reasons.

I agree to attend group meetings and will keep all things shared by my group members confidential.

SIGNATURE

DATE

PRINTED NAME

*Everything in a group is to be kept confidential, but according to Indiana law[1], we do have a duty to report abuse or neglect of a person whether they are a child or an adult. If you feel like harm is going to happen to any individual let a leader on staff at The Creek know. In addition, information may be shared for the express purpose of resource recommendations, accountability, discipleship, or for legal and safety reasons. [1] Indiana Code 31-33-5-1, Indiana Code 12-10-3-9(a) and 12-10-3-2(a)

YOUR STORY

Our story is God's story alive in us. The gospel of Jesus Christ is making eternal changes and we get to share how He is transforming our lives. In one of the weekly discussions, you'll be given the opportunity to share your 3-5 minute faith story with your group. Even if you're not yet a follower of Christ, you have a story to share.

Working through this card will help you to discover and deliver your story. Our story can be broken down into three parts: Before, Commitment, After. Spending some time reflecting on these questions and using this framework will help to keep your story concise, clear and compelling:

BEFORE:

- Before knowing Jesus, what was your life focused on? What were you most concerned about? How did you deal with setbacks or failures? What gave you credit for who you were? In what ways were you dissatisfied with life?
- Additionally, if you've believed since childhood, was there a season when your faith was deepened or became more real to you?
- If you are not a follower of Jesus, what is your life most focused on now?

COMMITMENT:

- When did Jesus disrupt your life? What led up to it? What happened? How did the gospel message compel you to trust Jesus and into a deeper relationship with Him?
- What was it like surrendering to Jesus as Lord?
- If this hasn't happened, you may consider answering: Who is Jesus to you today? or What led you to you to this Rooted experience?

AFTER:

- What is one difference trusting and following Jesus has made in your life (identity, confidence, peace, hope, purpose, healthy relationships, freedom, etc.)? What are you still learning today? How is God helping you experience freedom and abundant living? Why is trusting Jesus worth it?
- Additionally, if you've believed since childhood, describe how your relationship with God has changed over the years and seasons? How has God formed you to become more like Christ?
- If you are seeking out what following Jesus is all about, please share what you hope to get out of this Rooted experience.

YOUR STORY

Using the questions from the other side, try writing a few lines for each section below.

BEFORE: focus of your life before Christ and how you realized you needed Him

COMMITMENT: Share why, how and when you decided to trust and follow Jesus

AFTER: Describe the specific differences in your life (attitudes, thinking, motives, relationships, etc.) because of knowing, trusting, and living in Christ.

Here are some tips for making your story compelling and Christ-centered:

- Your story should point to change - Does your story clearly convey a transformation? Does your story share the impact the Gospel has had on your "before" and "after"?
- Your story should point to Jesus and His work in your life. It's not important to share every life event, but rather how your experiences led to your surrender to Christ. Is Jesus the central character in your story or are you?
- Practice your story by sharing it with family, friends, or your Life Group.
- Remember that God is not done writing your story, so you may find that as you practice sharing your story, God will bring other pieces about your journey that you can share with others.