



The following are questions and answers that you may have as a LIFE Group Leader about GroupLink on the Patio. Of course, we probably haven't thought of everything, so if you have any other questions or concerns, please feel free to talk to your Coach or the Small Group Administrator.

What is GroupLink on the Patio?

GroupLink on the Patio is an event held 3 times a year to connect Group Leaders with Group Seekers, and kicks off the new 12 week semester. New Life will promote this event in a huge way to ensure success for both the Group Leaders and the Group Seekers. For Group Leaders, it provides an opportunity to meet Group Seekers one-on-one and extend a personal invitation to join their group. For the Group Seeker, it provides an opportunity to discover all the groups that New Life has to offer. With the variety of groups available, our desire is to be a church where there is a group for everyone. We strongly encourage **ALL** groups to participate.

How is this event being promoted?

GroupLink is considered an all-church event, and will be promoted as such. There will be verbal announcements from the platform, program promotion and even weekend messages dedicated to the importance of Group Life. Group Life is the heart and soul of New Life. Our mission statement reflects our strong commitment to Group Life; "God has called us to invite people to find their place in the Story of God by creating space where they are inspired to explore faith, **connected to grow in grace**, equipped to serve with love, released to bring hope to the world so that we can light up our community with the presence of Jesus."

What will the weekend look like?

Food, Fun and Fellowship! We will invite one of our campus ministries to offer food for sale immediately following each weekend service. This not only provides the atmosphere to promote that 'hang-out' mentality, but also helps support that ministry financially. We will have long tables set up side-by-side on the patio for all of the LIFE Groups of course! We will also have balloons, maybe a clown or something else fun to help promote the fun!

I am a New Group Leader. Should I participate?

YES! This event strategically follows the New Leader Orientation to promote new Group Leaders. By participating in this event it provides the opportunity to really launch your new group, get the word out to New Life about the ideas God has given to you and add members to your group.

I am an Existing Group Leader. Should I participate?

YES! By participating in this event, it provides the opportunity to incorporate new members into your group. If you have room for 2 or more members, we'd like for you to participate. This event gives Group Seekers the opportunity to see all that New Life has to offer. We want to give them as many groups to choose from as possible. We believe in an "Open Door" approach in Group Life, and its health and vitality depend on new members.

I have room to add new members, but we are in the middle of an in-depth study?

Here are some options for you. Prior to GroupLink, establish a date of when you will finish your current study, and be prepared to inform Group Seekers the available open date. Take their names and contact information, so when that date approaches, you can let them know about the new study and invite them to join you. You could also invite Group Seekers to join your group now, giving them a choice to 'catch up.' Finally, as we move toward the Trimester schedule (more info on this coming soon), it will allow for an easy-in, easy-out approach for Group Seekers.

GROUPLINK FAQ'S (cont.)

What if my group is really full?

No problem. We do understand that groups sometimes grow in size and there is simply no room for new members. If this is the case, be sure to mark your group 'unsearchable' in In-Fellowship (Groups 2.0) so it does not show up on the Groups Search Page, this way you do not receive new inquires. This is very important. We don't want a group seeker to contact you and be turned away. If you have questions on how to do this, please refer to the online guide, or contact your Coach or Administrator.

What if I am out of town or can't make it?

Get help! Enlist the help of your group members! They can serve as the group representative. They are a part of the group, so why not encourage everyone to participate. This idea could also work if you are serving in a ministry area that you can not get a substitute. What about taking turns for the weekend, so the leader doesn't have to cover all services?

What will be provided?

Tables will be set up with black covers, a table tent-sign for you to write in your group name; group business cards with group information on the back, and a data form (sign up form). We will have group directional signs for group types and will provide a handout-type of group directory so that Group Seekers can get an overview of all groups represented.

What should I bring?

Get Creative! This is your chance to show what your group is all about! For example, if your group is a quilting group, bring some quilts to display, if your group is doing a Beth Moore study; bring the Leader's guide, or a member guide book. If you have a missions group, bring pictures or a digital frame. How about some candy for the kids? The ideas can be limitless. If you have a special need, such as a need for an outlet or an end table for an activity, please notify the Administrator at least 1 week in advance, so we can try and accommodate.

By the way...there **will be prizes** given to the most creative, most organized and most fun groups represented!

What do I do during the event?

Show up early and Smile! If you are attending the service, please exit quietly during the last worship songs to be available and waiting at your table when service dismisses. If you are not attending the service, be sure to be there at least 15 minutes prior to the end of the service. If you are not sure when this is, just ask, we will be dismissing early in order to provide attendees extra time on the patio for GroupLink!

The best thing you can offer a Group Seeker is a warm friendly smile. Say hello, and meet and greet as many people as you can. Invite them to join your group, but don't get pushy. If they are 'just looking', that's okay, give them a business card with your information so they can think about it. If they are ready to sign up, have them complete the New Member section of the Data form!

What is next after GroupLink?

Keep the White Copy and Turn in the Yellow Copy Data Form. You will use the original copy of the data form to update your group online (add and invite your new members to your group).

Enjoy your group! We highly recommend your first group meeting as a social time to get to know your new members!