



Living by Intentionally Faithful Encounters (L.I.F.E)

An I.C.C.C. Small Group

Group,

We would like to personally invite and welcome you to the **Living by Intentionally Faithful Encounters (L.I.F.E)** group at Indian Creek Christian Church. This group has been put together in order that our families can connect with one another and come to a place where we intentionally, genuinely and authentically care for one another and live life together the way Christ has called us to. (Romans 12:10, Romans 14:13, Romans 15:14)

Our encounters (gatherings) will be held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at Indian Creek Christian Church in the Preschool area from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM*. Each of these encounters will be led by Keith Wagar and/or Nathan Cecil, both of whom you will get to know more during our first encounter.

So what is an encounter? We anticipate a typical encounter will include the following activities:

1. Table Fellowship (eating) ~ 50 minutes**
2. Group Fellowship (group discussion / Activities) ~ 30 minutes**
3. Men/Women Breakout Fellowship (Discussion / Accountability) ~ 20 minutes**
4. Group Prayer/Praise Requests and Intentional Group Prayer ~ 20 minutes**

During our time of table fellowship we look forward to having our kids (16 total between the 5 families) fully integrated with us, however during our times of group fellowship (breakout sessions and prayer) it is our suggestion that our kids enjoy playing together within the preschool playground area (located in-doors and just outside of the room(s) we will be occupying), as some of our discussions may not be appropriate for the younger audience. In order to ensure that safety and security of our children during these times, we have hired a young adult, Jennifer Henery (19 years of age) who is studying to be an early education major, to watch over them. This of course does not come free, so we are asking that each family faithfully provide \$5.00 per encounter (just \$10.00 per month) to help make certain that our children are well cared for and ensure that there are a minimal number of interruptions.

With all of this being said, let us take a moment to provide you with a bit more information about what we have planned during each of these above noted activities:

Table Fellowship:

The food for our encounters will be provided via potluck/pitch-in, so everyone's participation in this will be greatly appreciated. Each week we'll have a theme for our food. The theme and suggested items for each family to provide will be sent out (or placed out on our website) the week before, allowing everyone plenty of time to prepare the necessary items. As for this first week, it will be the pleasure of the Wagar and Cecil families to provide the entirety of the meal for you and your families, so please just plan to show up and enjoy. The menu will consist of the following items for this coming Sunday:

- Shredded BBQ Chicken
- Sloppy Joes
- Potato Salad
- Lettuce or Pasta Salad
- Assorted Chips
- Assorted Soda

If you have any special dietary needs (i.e. vegetarian, etc) please let us know ASAP in order to ensure we can accommodate your needs appropriately.

*We realize that this time may interfere with napping schedules, both adult and children's, and although I don't have an answer for the adults, Jennifer and I are planning to bring a pack-n-play for our youngest in the hopes that we can get him to sleep in an adjacent room (dark and quiet), so please feel free to do the same if you would like to.

**Times are just approximations and will most likely change over time as we become more comfortable with each other and the group as a whole.

Group Fellowship:

Although we will potentially go through some sort of devotional (Rob Bell Nooma DVD type series) we will not be initially going through a formal Bible study. Why? It has been our experience that a Bible study is rarely useful (its related inter-group discussions are non-existent or superficial at best) until the point at which we as a group become extremely comfortable sharing the intricacies of our lives with each other, allowing us all to feel secure while sharing the following types of information without feeling scared, anxious, or alienated.

- Questions about God the Bible or other religious/beliefs
- Misunderstandings or Disagreements with Biblical Concepts (Salvation, Baptism, etc)
- Previous Life experiences
- Personal / Family Struggles, etc.

It is only at this point, when all of the group members are able to genuinely and authentically share in each other's lives that we can truly know what to study from the Word of God and have the opportunity for all us to grow from it.

So what will we be doing during group fellowship? We'll be participating in activities that will help each of us to grow closer together as a group. These activities will promote a safe and secure environment for each of us to share who we are, what makes each of us tick, and what struggles we live with, just to name a few. There may be times that we, as mentioned above, will promote discussion using either a Rob Bell video or other devotional type materials. The overall goal of this group fellowship time initially is to learn about one another, encourage one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11), and comfort one another (1 Thessalonians 4:18).

Men/Women Breakout Fellowship:

Men and women have different struggles in life and that is what this time is setup to talk about. As the men and women meet separately, an inherently safer environment emerges where the comforts of the same gender allows for further subject matters to transpire allowing us to once again encourage and comfort one another. In addition, it also provides a safe environment where accountability relationships can begin to materialize.

Group Prayer/Praise Requests and Intentional Group Prayer:

This one is pretty simple, we're going to get back together as a group and lift our praises and prayers to the Almighty God. The piece that I do want to point out is that we want to be, just like with everything in this group, intentional about what we're praying for. In addition, we're going to keep a log of both praises and prayers on our website where we can go back later and note how God did in fact answer our prayers.

Speaking of the website, we have setup a group on facebook that we will use in order to communicate with each other when we're not physically together. In addition this site will be used to upload photos from various other encounters that we do (i.e. fall festival on the farm, quarterly service opportunities, etc), prayer request log, and much more, so if you do not yet have a facebook account I would highly recommend that you sign-up for free at <http://www.facebook.com>. You will also be receiving a second email from me (through facebook) with a request to sign-up and this should also automatically sign you up for our group page as well.

If in the meantime you have any questions, comments, or concerns please feel free to email us at lfeaticcc@att.net or you can call Keith directly at 317-306-5379 or Nathan at 317-294-9951.

Thank you again for your interest in this new L.I.F.E Group and we look forward to living life with you!

Keith Wagar & Nathan Cecil