

Why take Roll for LifeGroups?

From an email to a LifeGroup leader who asked. It's a good question!

Hope it goes well tonight! Good question about roll. At it's most basic it's like the shepherd counting the 99 and realizing one is missing. Every time I review my group's roll it's a set opportunity to specifically pray for and also consider how to encourage or build up that individual. Like personal accountability. It keeps me focused and honest with myself. I have to look any "absent" mark square in the face (well, they don't have faces, but you get the idea). It represents a person God loves, and I have a chance to pray for, call, encourage, and minister to them. We're not talking about the person who came once 8 months ago, but the people who are more active and I know really need the growth. I've found that as I look over them I sometimes am impressed by God to just jot an email, or call and see how it's going, or other touch. It's like God renews my shepherd's heart and I see them from His view. I have some of those who "*make it as they can*" too and I try to see them as some of the ones who have the most potential for radical life change to the *really committed*.

Roll is also vital for us as a church. First, as a LifeGroup leader you are an essential part of our church's way to help people move from the "Community" (maybe on the fringe of Woodland) to the Congregation (people who have trusted Christ and are now active here in worship/membership) to the Committed (members who are also active in LifeGroup), to the Core (members using their gifts to minister to others...and not skipping out on Group to do it...I added that one, but it's true!).

Tim leads us staff to be accountable for everyone in our ministry and have ways to help them move from the Community > Congregation > Committed > Core. Your taking roll not only benefits you, it let's us know what's happening in the lives of these people precious to God, and how He's giving you a ministry with them. And it's good when helping you look for people to develop to come along side to help when life gets busy, as in the case of a baby on the way.