

Life Group Training

I. Purpose of Life Groups: produce maturing disciples

Balance Intimacy, Learning, and Challenge (Belong, Believe, and Bless)

Only relational intimacy: "Holy Huddle"

Only missional challenge: Burnout

Balance both: Empowered Disciple

II. Your Group's Purpose

A. What kind of group? Sharing Life? Bible Study? Accountability? Issue?

B. What content? Curriculum, Personal Sharing, Sermon discussion, Devotions

C. Timing? How often? Start/End? How long?

D. Agenda

Share: Intimately known and Unconditionally loved

Care: "One Anothers"

Prepare: Content, Trained

Prayer

Dare: Outreach, Mission, Ministry

III. Expectations

A. Commitment level: "Open" groups; Be there, call if you can't

B. Confidentiality

C. Participation: Be willing to share, take part in discussion

D. Begin/End on time

Others? Don't interrupt or dominate conversation. Address problems openly, honestly

Your Role as a Facilitator

- Love:** Express concern
Affirm them
Create an atmosphere of trust, acceptance, and belonging: the group activities you have will be indispensable here!
Create physical and emotional comfort—a relaxed atmosphere
Enjoy them
Spend time with them outside of group
Pray with/for them
Be open, authentic, and appropriately honest
Show respect and insist that they do as well
- Lead:** Emphasize commitment to the group and the need for complete confidentiality
Guide the discussion: Don't feel like you have to "Get through all the questions
The point is to get them talking deeply about their faith and lives.
Model good relational and listening skills
Ask good questions: "Open ended" can't be answered with "Yes or No ". Ask questions that begin with "How, Why, What" more than "Who, When, Where, Do."
Control, interruptions, put-downs, and off-track discussion (unless it's productive!)
Involve everybody.
Don't let one person monopolize the discussion
Start with the light stuff and then move deeper: "icebreaker"
Be aware of new people
Allow people to "pass". Encourage, but don't force anyone to share.
- Listen:** Your goal is to get them talking, not you do all the talking.
Reflect what they say back to them
Ask follow up questions that probe, go deeper, challenge, or ask for clarification.
Ask someone else what they think about what someone else just said.
Don't interrupt, judge, or preach.
Thank them for sharing. Express appreciation for their thoughts.
Don't panic at silence. Consider directing the question to someone who can "take it"
- Learn:** About them--as much as you can, any way you can. Showing genuine interest in them and their lives will go farther than anything in opening up the group
From them: Don't be the "Know-it-all-answer-person." Be a humble learner, ready to receive from them
Don't give easy answers. Don't answer your own questions. Let them wrestle with it.
- Leave** time to pray together! Pray for their "Friendship Evangelism friends by name!

“One Anothers” in Scripture

Love

- Love (13X)
- Abound in love
- Keep on loving
- Be Devoted
- Kiss
- Be Kind
- Seek Good

Unity

- Be in Harmony
- Do Not Judge
- Agree With
- Bear With
- Forgive
- Be of the Same Mind
- Do Not Slander
- Do Not Complain
- Fellowship With
- Be at Peace With
- Accept
- Do Not Devour
- Do Not Envy
- Tolerate
- Do Not Lie

Serve

- Serve
- Be Hospitable
- Bear Burdens
- Care For
- Wash Feet

Encourage

- Encourage
- Be Compassionate
- Speak Psalms
- Comfort
- Build up
- Pray for
- Spur on to Love and Good Works

Humility

- Honor
- Submit to
- Clothe with Humility
- Confess Sins
- Give Preference
- Regard as More Important