



# **Leader Training**

## **Spring 2012 Semester**

# Agenda

12:45 – 1:10 Lunch

1:15 – 2:00 All Leaders

1. Welcome & introduction in groups
2. Our Target: Vision for Life Groups
3. Discussion in Groups
4. Our Commitment To You

2:05 – 2:30 New Group Leaders Orientation

1. Starting Strong
2. Our Target: Vision for LG Meetings
3. Tools for Leading Your Group

## Our Target – Vision for Life Groups



“If you aim at nothing, you will hit it every time.”

- Zig Ziglar

“Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you’ll land among the stars.”

– Les Brown

**Life Group Vision:** To create a safe, loving Christ-centered environment where people’s lives are changed as they are built-up, reach out and experience God.

**safe...** *everyone’s welcome, easy for outsiders to come in, think from outsider’s point of view*

**loving...** *loving those that may be difficult to love, compassionate, sacrificial*

**Christ-centered...** *centered on Christ and God’s word, strive for example the NT church set*

**lives are changed...** *fruit of our efforts; God causes the growth but we water and plant seeds*

**built-up...** *equipped, walk away closer to Christ than when they came*

**reach out...** *not just about us, impact the community and world, think about those not in the group*

**experience God...** *not just about knowledge, God wants to interact and transform those in your group*

## Discussion Questions

**How do you see yourself leading your group to live out the vision we just talked about?**

**How do you lead your group to create space for God both inside and outside your meetings?**

**What experiences would you like to see happen in your group for people to grow in their relationship with Christ?**

## Our Commitment To You

<sup>13</sup> *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

<sup>14</sup> *I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another. (Romans 15:13-14)*

### Our commitment to you...

- To pray
- To resource
- To equip
- To encourage

### How do we do this?

- Coaches – point person (encouragement, challenges, resources)
  - Follow-up with you every 1-2 weeks
  - Visit your group
  - Connect with other group leaders
- Mini-huddle Week (March 19 - 23) – all leaders and co-leaders required to attend on your night
- Weekly LifeLines
- Website

# Starting Strong

## Before Your First Meeting

- Confirm each sign-up within 3 days
- Meet with your co-leader(s). Talk about how the first meeting will go and how you're going to divide up responsibilities.
- Pray for your group, each person and your first meeting together.
- Send out a reminder email one week before your first group meeting
- Go to your Coach with any questions or concerns.

## Your First Meeting

### *Environment*

- **Seating**—does everyone have comfortable seats? Can they see each other?
- **Lighting & Temperature**
- **Distractions**—loud children, barking dogs, TV, etc. could all be distractions that will keep people from fully engaging in the conversation, prayer times and what God is doing.
- **Time**—Try to keep your group meeting to 90 minutes each week. Having a clear and consistent end time will allow people to fully participate without having to worry about getting home or if group will run long.
- **Late Arrivers**—If you notice a pattern of a particular individual constantly arriving late, talk with them to understand why. If it can be avoided, help them see the impact arriving late has on the group.

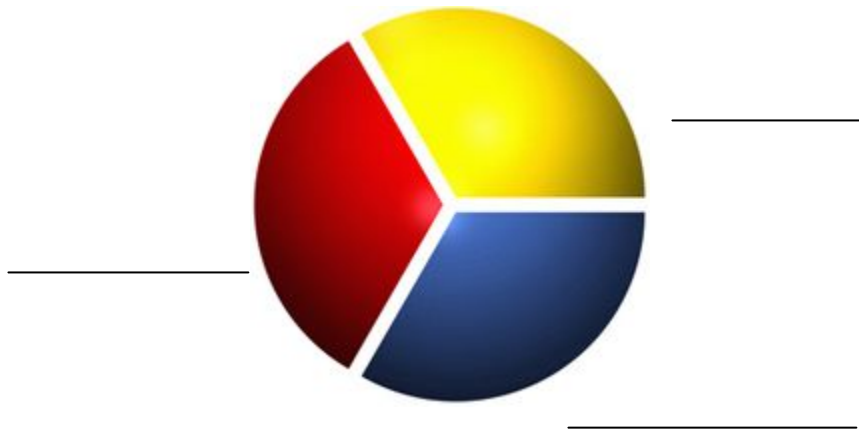
## After Your First Meeting

- **Follow-up** – thank everyone for coming. Do a personal follow-up to those that signed-up but didn't come.
- **Fill Out Your Report** – check your email, a link to a weekly report will be waiting for you.
- **\*\*\*Spend more time Praying than Preparing!\*\*\***
- **Send Reminder** – a few days before your second next meeting

## Our Target – Vision for Life Group Meetings

### Typical Life Group Meeting

1. Arrival & Fellowship Time (10 min)
2. Icebreaker and/or Updates (20 min)
3. Discussion/Bible Study (30 min)
4. Ministry Time (30 min)



## Tools For Leading Your Group

1. Weekly LifeLines
2. Website Resources
3. LG Leader Only Section of Website
  - a. How to Log-in (password "lifechurch14")
  - b. Database of People
  - c. Accessing Your Group Info (emailing, adding/removing someone)
4. Weekly Reports
5. LG Agreement
6. Sample Syllabus
7. Childcare Ideas
8. Snacks Sign-ups
9. Involvement Sign-up Sheet
10. Before your first meeting, read *Small Group Leaders Most Important Job*

## Ministry Time in Life Groups

*"I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father."* – John 14:12

### General Principles of Ministry Time

- The Holy Spirit wants to move even more than you want Him to (don't have to wonder)
- You don't have to make, force or manipulate something to happen
- Life Groups are the perfect place to take risks (faith = risk)
- Come with a tentative plan. Mix it up.
- Explain what you are doing, especially with newcomers or visitors

### ALARM = Atmosphere, Lead, Ask, Respond, Ministry

- **ATMOSPHERE** – create an atmosphere of expectancy. How?
  - Share scripture (John 14:12, 1 Corinthians 12:8-11, Acts 4:30)
  - Have someone share a testimony or story
- **LEAD into it** – transition into this time. How?
  - Ask people to take a few minutes and listen to the Holy Spirit
  - Did the discussion naturally lead into a time of ministry?
  - What would you like prayer for right now?
- **ASK people to share** what they are hearing from God. How?
  - Encourage people to "give expression to their impressions"
  - Recognize it may take some time for people to build courage and share
  - Don't share your own impressions first (unless no one else is talking)
  - Key question you are trying to answer: "**Where do we start ministering at?**"
- **RESPOND to what has been shared.** How?
  - Did any of what was shared speak to you?
  - Do you see people God is working in? John Wimber "Move from the natural to supernatural."
  - Assign people to pray for each other. Break into smaller groups.