



LG

LIFE GROUP
LEADER
DEVELOPEMENT

CENTRALCITYCHURCH.NET/LG

WHAT ARE LIFEGROUPS

LifeGroups are groups of people meeting together to develop meaningful relationships, to grow to be to be more like Jesus, and to have a true life-changing experience.

Luke describes this type of group in Acts 2:42-47, and throughout years of church history, the value of these groups hasn't changed. At our church we want to develop healthy, independently functioning, leader-facilitated, groups of people that Luke wrote about over 2,000 years ago. We call them LifeGroups.

They worshipped together at the temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity – all the while praising God and enjoying the good will of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved. (Acts 2:46-47 NLT)

You'll find a combination of three elements present in any healthy LifeGroup.

- _____ - Meaningful relationships develop, and the group figures out how to support and take care of each other.
- _____ - All individuals grow to be more of who God made them to be. This occurs as a result of being around the others in the group.
- _____ - Groups influence their community by taking it upon themselves to bring about restoration and nurture long-term relationships that develop others.

WHY LIFEGROUPS

LifeGroups have one simple purpose: to bring people _____. We believe God created us to live in relationship with others. Sharing life through community is part of our design and growth, but meaningful relationships aren't always easy to find. That's why life groups exist – to make these life-changing relationships relevant and accessible to you.

That's why we say...

LIFE IS _____ TOGETHER!

*God places the lonely in families; He sets the prisoners free and gives them joy.
(Psalm 86:6 NLT)*

We believe...

- _____ is better than _____.
- _____ Needs _____.

LifeGroups are...

LifeGroups were designed with life in mind. Since life can be somewhat complex, we wanted to make sure LifeGroups were SIMPLE. LifeGroup Leaders are free to use their gifts and interests to determine when and where their group meets and what they meet about. From soccer groups and lunch groups to Bible studies and coffee meet-ups; our groups can be as varied as we are. Most groups fall into one of the following categories:

Recreation, Prayer, Bible Study, Finances, Parenting,
Marriage, Outreach, Students, Singles & Leadership

LifeGroups are...

Life flows in seasons, and we want to make it easy for you to be in the right LifeGroup for you in each season. This is why groups start and stop three times a year in what we refer to as "seasons." Our group seasons are winter/spring (February-May), summer (June-July) and fall (September-November).

Seasons

- Fall: September – November
- Spring: February – May
- Summer: June - July (Social – Built around SERVE DAY focus)

Systems

- Social – Pure Fellowship
- Curriculum - 12 weeks full curriculum
- Hybrid – 6 weeks social / 6 weeks curriculum

WHY LIFEGROUP LEADERS MATTER

You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. (Acts 20:20)

Giving the opportunity for people to get together to grow together is always a win! Usually the biggest win happens for the one leading the group...you step out of your comfort zone, you choose a topic, you open-up your house, and invite people over that you may have never met. Nothing to it! Seriously though, because you made this happen for others, God blesses you in return. Existing friendships grow stronger; new friendships are formed; you gain strength, insight and wisdom; you're encouraged; and you've just made a decision that will create stories for life!

LifeGroup Leaders should be the Heartbeat of our Church

- Your leadership is God-inspired and needed at our Church. We take it seriously that God has placed you here and given you a desire to lead others.
- You are the pacesetters at our church. You are the energy behind our purpose for everyone to become fully engaged followers of Christ. God has now chosen you to play a role in furthering the vision.
- Your leadership will create lasting life change in individuals and in your community. A changed life begins on the weekend, but it's only in community with people where the process of lasting change occurs. And it is when your LifeGroup engages in and builds long-term relationships in the community that the community is restored to what God intended it to be.

As LifeGroup leaders you have the opportunity to help others find freedom, experience LIFE to the full, and live out this verse...

- *'For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."' (Galatians 5:13-14)*

L _____

I _____

F _____

E _____

Spiritual GROWTH

Resources are vital to your success, but they're tiny compared to what the Holy Spirit can do through your closeness to Him. Seriously, you're all talented leaders, but your qualifications didn't get you (or me) here—God did. Think about it. You're leading the people, who are leading people to become fully engaged followers of Christ. We've got to stay close to Christ to lead others close to Him.

The early Christian Church understood this. People like us, fishermen-turned-leaders, saw rapid growth through small groups a lot like our LifeGroups. Not just growth in numbers, but spiritual growth in people.

Acts 2:42-47 MSG spells out how.

They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers. Everyone around was in awe—all those wonders and signs done through the apostles! And all the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common. They sold whatever they owned and pooled their resources so that each person's need was met. They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved.

Here's how this Scripture spells out GROWTH for your faith, your leaders, our LifeGroups, and our church.

G _____ – each person's need was met.

R _____ – the life together and the common meal.

O _____ – consistent worship in the Temple (church) and in homes.

W _____ – they were committed to the teaching of the Apostles (the Bible).

T _____ – they were committed to prayer.

H _____ – their lives were signs of God's power and awe-filled wonder.

PRINCIPALS OF GROWTH

- People grow best when they own their own GROWTH
- Growth starts with Self-Awareness
- People GROW in the game

Tools to help you own your own GROWTH:

- Willingness to GROW – Open to Learning
- Understanding Strengths and Weaknesses – Personality Assessments
- Development – Increasing Self-Awareness and Learning How to Choose the Appropriate Next Steps for GROWTH
- Training – Gaining Skills – Putting it into Action

Great Leaders SHARE

Five actions great leaders share in common. Think of this as the “what to remember” part of our conversation. Because every church leader needs an acronym, S-H-A-R-E is our trick to remembering these key actions.

S_____.

We learn best in the game. Experience will provide you with reality-tested development. Don't hesitate to step in and start learning.

- LifeGroup Leader Development and Personal Connections

Jesus, the best people-developer of all time, developed each of His disciples while they were in the process of living life. There wasn't a “How-to-Follow-Jesus School” for His disciples. They learned in the game. You will too.

H_____.

Starting a LifeGroup or beginning to mentor will present challenges along the way. Leaders thrive when they start with a plan.

- Create your LifeGroup Plan Booklet. This tool will help you clarify your LifeGroup's vision and discover how to accomplish it.

A_____.

Your faith community will most naturally start where you are with people you know. Then, invite others to join in.

You can include:

- Friends you already hang out with.
- People you work or work out with.
- People you share hobbies, interests, service, or a neighborhood with.

R_____.

Seriously, the R is for relate, but it's also for, "This is what it's Really all about!" Community happens when people share relationship. Relationships happen when people feel needed, known, and loved. Relate to people this way and lives will be changed forever.

- Practice uncommon hospitality. Surprise people with openness.
- Get to know people. Ask a lot of questions about their lives, and listen.
- Be there for people. Don't just ask how you can help—help!
- Be a trusted friend.

Finally, people can't relate to perfection, so be real. And remember, people don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.

E_____.

Don't just connect with people, enjoy the connections that are made in the group. Do things you enjoy outside of the group too! So be sure to have FUN!

As a LifeGroup Leader, this is your core focus when seeing people in the church. You should always be looking for those to do life with, as well as connecting others together.

Healthy LifeGroups are intentional LifeGroups. Here are some things you will intentionally **want to do**, and some you intentionally **don't want to do**!

Things to DO:

- Fellowship
- Pray Together
- Care For Each Other
- Worship Together
- Discuss Topics to Grow

Things to NOT DO:

- Create Opportunities That Could Cause Others to Stumble
- Business
- Discuss Controversial Topics
- Take-up Offering
- Unapproved Material or Speakers

Places to meet:

- Your Home
- Restaurants
- Parks
- Coffee Shops

Resources to help you lead your LifeGroup:

- YouVersion Bible App
- Message Notes on Central City Church App
- Approved & Selected Curriculum

As your Leaders, we're committed to serving you in ways:

- We'll help you get started.
- We're here for you as you lead.
- I'll challenge you to own your growth.
- Encourage you to show others how they can do ALL of the above as well

