

LIFE GROUP COMMITMENT (Leaders Guide)

Date

Leaders

Phone

Assistants/Hosts

Phone

Life Groups thrive on participation! The purpose of this LG Commitment is to help you to discuss and clarify your group's goals and expectations.

Leader says "This LG Commitment is one of the most important things that we will do as a group. It defines what the group is about and clarifies the expectations. The success of our group depends on all of our willingness and faithfulness in keeping this commitment."

LEADER TIP: Be bold in facilitating this LG Commitment and authentically believe in this tool as a vital part for the success of your group.

LIFE GROUPS: THEIR PURPOSE

Life Groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth through meaningful Christian relationships and application of God's Word (Romans 8:29 & Hebrews 10:24, 25). We'll do this by focusing on four primary activities:

SHARE

Each week we'll take time to share what is happening in our lives. This sharing will include planned "sharing questions", along with more informal/personal sharing as we feel more comfortable. We will also encourage members to share a 10—15 min version of their personal story at some point in the season. This will be explained more clearly in the group and is optional for each member.

STUDY (Bible Discussion)

Each week we'll study a section from God's Word that relates to the previous weekend's sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is not to answer all the questions, but to experience widespread group participation, and to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life.

SUPPORT

Each week we'll learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (John 15:9-13). This care can take many forms such as *prayer, encouragement, listening, challenging one another, and meeting real needs*. "Men/Women only" smaller groups are an excellent environment for this to happen.

SERVE

Spiritual Growth is fostered not only by what we gain through the support and input of others, but also through service to others. The role each of us fills is important to the health of the church and for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to our community (Ephesians 4:11-16). Throughout the Season, it is our hope that you can find and/or be affirmed in the ways God has designed you to serve, and make a difference in God's Kingdom.

FIVE MARKS OF A HEALTHY GROUP

For our group to be healthy, we need to . . .

1) Make spiritual growth our number one priority (Romans 8:29).

● *This group is more than a Christian social group. Our main goal is spiritual growth. We will seek to stay on topic and avoid unnecessary tangents. Sometimes I will need to get us refocused and back on topic.*

2) Accept one another (Romans 15:7).

● *We all have different preferences, personalities, backgrounds, spiritual experiences, etc. We will seek to learn from and honor one another in our differences.*

3) **Take care of one another (John 13:34).**

●When crisis happens we seek to be there to help with support, prayer, encouragement, listening, meals, etc.

4) **Treat each other with respect (Ephesians 4:25-5:2).**

●Listening to one another. If one is talking, let's all listen. It's not good when two conversations are going on at once. Our goal is to listen, not spew advice.

●Advice should be given if asked for. This doesn't mean we can't question what is said, or what someone is doing. But asking questions first for clarification is always a more loving and wise approach before advice giving. After this, if you then feel compelled to offer some biblical or wise advice, please ask their permission first.

●Be careful of dominating. Some of us have the gift-of-gab. As your leader, I may have to help you with this

●Be careful of "gossip prayers." For example "we need to pray for (person's name) because they are doing..."

●No put downs

●Confidentiality: what is said here stays here. Unless, of course what's shared would be harmful to yourself or someone else, and/or if I as the leader need to seek counsel from my Life Group Pastor on how to respond to an issue in the group.

5) **Keep our commitments to the group (Psalm 15:1-2, 4b).**

●Please give us a call if your can't make it to Life Group so we know what's going on and how to pray for you.

GUIDELINES & COMMITMENT

1. **Dates:** We'll meet on ____ nights for ____ weeks. Our final meeting of this Season will be on _____. *Fill in blanks*
2. **Time:** We'll arrive between ____ & ____ and leave between ____ & _____. We will begin the meeting at _____ and end at approx _____. *Fill in blanks*
3. **Children:** Group members are responsible to arrange childcare for their children. Nursing newborns are welcome provided they are not a distraction to the group.
4. **Study:** Our Bible discussions will focus on the same topic covered in the previous weekend's sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life. *Not to answer every question*
5. **Prayer:** Praying for one another. *You'll go over tips on topical prayer the second week of the group. Remember, being forced to pray in group, or just the idea of it, can cause people to panic and not want to come to your group. If you have new people, you might want to say something like this: "It's exciting to see how God works in our lives through prayer. We also realize prayer in groups is something that some have never done. Know that you will never be forced to pray." Let them know you'll talk more in the weeks to come on how we do group prayer.*
6. **Lesson & Attendance:** Joining a Life Group requires a commitment to attend each week and do some work on the Lesson Plan ahead of time. Obviously, allowances are made for sickness, vacation, work conflicts, and other special events—but not much more! *This commitment is the key to a healthy group.*

If we cannot come to a meeting, we will call _____.
Make sure everyone is with you. (Do we agree? Are we all good with this? Make eye contact, etc.) Try to spend a minimum of 15 minutes on the Lesson Plan before the Life Group meeting.
7. **Desserts/Snacks:** *Have everyone sign up for a night to bring dessert.*
8. **Social & Service Project(s):** *Emphasize the importance of occasional socials (or an extended "fun" meeting with a meal) and service projects together. As a leader and host, have a few suggestions and potential dates. Have group members bring their calendars next week to nail down dates/activities.*

9. **Other:** *Have the group members sign the LG Commitment now if they are ready. If not they are welcome to wait until the third week of the Season*

We agree together in Christ to honor this LG Commitment. (To be decided by each person on or before the third week.)

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