



Essential #5:  
**RESOURCES FOR LEADERS**  
 LG MISSION

**LIFE GROUP MISSION (Leaders Guide)**

**Leader Tips:** These words in red letters are important tips and talking points for you as the Leader. Be familiar with them as you go through this with the group, if necessary even reading them, in order to have the greatest impact. Be bold in facilitating this LG Commitment and authentically believe in this tool as a vital part for the success of your group. Read it slowly and stop after each paragraph/main point for comment/discussion. A good question to use repeatedly is "why do you think this point is important?" Start by saying, "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".

The purpose of this LG Mission is to help you to discuss and clarify the group's purpose and expectations.

**Leaders:** Phone:

**Assistants/Hosts:** Phone:

**Dates:** We'll meet on \_\_\_\_ nights for \_\_\_\_ weeks. Our final meeting of this Season will be on \_\_\_\_\_.

**Time:** We'll arrive between \_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_ and leave between \_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_. We will begin the meeting at \_\_\_\_\_ and end at approx \_\_\_\_\_.

**Lesson & Attendance:** Joining a Life Group includes an expectation 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 Life Groups thrive on participation and we want to all be together as much as possible! **Make sure everyone is with you. (Do we agree? Are we all good with this? Make eye contact, etc.) Encourage members to try to spend a minimum of 15 minutes on the Lesson Plan before the Life Group meeting.**

**If we cannot come to a meeting, we will call/text/email \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Desserts/Snacks Plans:** If your group wants to have snacks, have people sign up for their night to bring them.

**Social Gatherings and 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.

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**LIFE GROUPS: THE MISSION**

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 a planned "sharing questions" along with more informal/personal sharing during our discussions 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 encourage one another in learning how to live out our Christianity in everyday life.

**SUPPORT and PRAYER**

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. And hopefully not just during the meeting times, but meeting those needs in one another's lives during the week as well. We will also pray for each other during our meetings. 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 we want to help you grow in this area, but you will never be forced to pray."*

**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. Please let us know if you see a need in the group or community that needs to be addressed.



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**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
- Cell Phone Insensitivity: lets limit usage to the bare minimum, unless for group purposes (Bible, notes, etc.)
- Be careful of "gossip prayers." For example "we need to pray for (person's name) because they are..."
- 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 you can't make it to Life Group so we know what's going on and how to pray for you.*

We go over these expectations with the hope that we will all work together to make this Life Group the best it can be! We need everyone's input and participation because everyone is valuable to God's Kingdom. Thank you for being part of our group! Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns about these guidelines and

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**6. Lesson & Attendance:** *Joining a Life Group includes an expectation 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 ownership is the key to a healthy group.***

**If we cannot come to a meeting, we will call \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Encourage members to try to spend some time on the Lesson 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. Informal Agreement:** *Make sure everyone is with you. (Do we agree? Are we all good with this? Make eye contact, Get Verbal Approval from all, say "Does anyone have any questions or concerns with this?" etc.)*