



Guidelines Document

Life Group Leader Training

The following document provides guidelines and processes to be followed for by
Life Group Leaders (Life Group Leaders Training – Step 1,2 &3)
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Contents

1.	Step 1 : General Information And Guidelines	3
2.	Understanding The Vision for A Cell Church	4
2.1.	What is a Life Group ?	4
2.2.	A Biblical Pattern	4
2.3.	Why Life Groups ?	6
2.4.	What does a Cell Church look like ?	7
2.5.	Examples of cell churches.....	8
2.6.	Will Life Groups Work in a City Like Bangalore ?.....	9
2.7.	Possible Challenges And Solutions	9
3.	The APC-12 Life Group model.....	10
3.1.	The APC-12 Model and its advantages.....	10
3.2.	Why The Model of the 12.....	12
4.	The Life Group Meeting	12
4.1.	General Guidelines	12
4.2.	Sample Schedule (90 minutes)	13
4.3.	Holistic Life Groups.....	13
4.4.	How to Lead a Great Life Group Meeting.....	14
4.5.	What Do We Do With Our Children?.....	15
5.	The Life Group Leader	16
5.1.	Responsibilities of The Life Group Leader	16
5.2.	Personal Life and Character.....	17
6.	Ministering To Your Life Group Members	18
6.1.	Basic Information for Incoming Life Group Members	18
6.2.	Life Group Lessons.....	18
6.3.	Ministering to Life Group members between the meetings	19
7.	Your Life Group - Your Ministry Team	20
7.1.	Follow up of New Comers To Your Life Group	20
7.2.	Strategic, Relational Evangelism	20
7.3.	Follow-up Of New Comers to the Church.....	20
7.4.	Seed Projects	20
7.5.	Outreaches/Special Evangelistic Events	21
7.6.	Involvement in Sunday Celebrations.....	21
8.	Pitfalls To Avoid.....	21
9.	Life Group Administration.....	23
9.1.	The Administrative side of things	23
9.2.	Life Group Leader's Feedback Form	23
10.	Becoming A Cell Church	26
10.1.	Change!	26
10.2.	Continuously Raising up Quality Life Group Leaders.....	26
10.3.	The Essence of a cell church	27
11.	Prayer And More Prayer	28
12.	The Unlimited Possibilities of Life Groups	28
12.1.	Different kinds of Life Groups	28



Guidelines Document

Life Group Leader Training

12.2.	Homogenous Life Groups / People-Group Thinking.....	29
12.3.	YOUTH LIFE GROUPS	30
13.	Life Group Health Assessment Tool	32
13.1.	Upward-Connecting Your Life Group to God	33
13.2.	Inward-Building Community.....	34
13.3.	Outward-Reaching the Lost.....	36
13.4.	Forward-Multiplying Leaders	38
14.	Step 2 : Preparing To Become A Life Group Leader	39
15.	The Life Group Leader's Personal Spiritual Life	39
15.1.	Maintain a strong personal walk with God	39
15.2.	Maintain a life that is constantly consecrated to God	40
15.3.	Get rid of demonic strongholds in your life.....	40
15.4.	Receive healing for offenses, hurts and wounds.....	41
15.5.	Know & maintain your priorities	42
15.6.	Be an example	42
16.	The Heart of A Leader	43
16.1.	A new life of servanthood	43
16.2.	Keep a constant examination of your heart attitudes.....	44
16.3.	Be a dreamer	45
16.4.	Be totally committed	45
16.5.	Be positive	45
17.	Developing The Leader in You	46
17.1.	Four important areas to grow in leadership:	46
17.2.	The Five levels of leadership	47
18.	Developing The Ability To Minister The Word & The Spirit	48
18.1.	Ability to teach the Word	48
18.2.	Baptism in the Holy Ghost.....	48
18.3.	Ministering healing.....	48
18.4.	Ministering deliverance.....	48
18.5.	Counseling	48
19.	Developing Specific Functional Skills	48
19.1.	Keep learning continuously	49
19.2.	Some specific skills you will need	49
20.	Developing People & Relationship Skills.....	49
21.	Developing Counseling Skills.....	50
22.	The Life Group Leader's Values & Disciplines: Summary.....	51
23.	Step 3 : Raising Up Disciples, Reprodcng Leaders.....	52
24.	Church Leadership	52
25.	Training Life Group Members into Life Group Leaders.....	53
25.1.	Step One: Develop Relationships with Members.....	53
25.2.	Step Two: Develop Ministers Out of Members	53
25.3.	Step Three: Make the Challenge	54
25.4.	Step Four: Help them to start their Life Group	54
26.	The Leader As Coach.....	55
27.	Mentoring Another Christian.....	56
27.1.	God's dealings with us.....	56
27.2.	Spiritual Fathering	56
27.3.	Lessons from the Paul-Timothy relationship.....	59
28.	Conclusion.....	62
29.	References	62



Guidelines Document

Life Group Leader Training

1. Step 1: General Information and Guidelines

The Life Group Leaders Training is a 3-Step training program to educate, train and equip Life Group leaders.

Step 1: General Information and Guidelines

Step 2: Preparing to Become a Life Group Leader

Step 3: Raising Up Disciples, Reproducing Leaders

Step 1: General Information and Guidelines

Imparting the vision of a Cell Church

Understanding Life Group basics

Guidelines on Life Group meetings, ministry to Life Group members

Step 2: Preparing to Become a Life Group Leader

Understanding the requirements of a Life Group leader

Heart preparation – dealing with heart issues

Developing life skills

Step 3: Raising Up Disciples, Reproducing Leaders

How to become a spiritual father

Making Life Group members into leaders



Guidelines Document

Life Group Leader Training

This is Step 1: General Information and Guidelines

2. Understanding the Vision for a Cell Church

APC is transitioning from a program/event based church to becoming a Cell Church.

A cell church is a church that lives out its life and ministry through its cells.

There is a difference between “a church that has cells” and “a cells church”. A “church that has cells” will have cells plus a lot of other church programs and participation in cell groups is optional. However, “a cell church” lives its life and carries out its ministry through its cells. Participation in the cell groups is not optional.

At APC, we refer to our cell groups as Life Groups.

2.1. What is a Life Group?

- A small group of people (not more than 1 Leader + 12 members / or 1 married couple with 6 other married couples) meeting together regularly, building relationships, edifying each other in the things of God and ministering together. [NOTE: The “Life Group leader” could be husband-wife team ministering to 6 other couples (husband-wives) or a mix of singles and couples, with a total of about 12 other members.]
- A **microcosm** of the Kingdom of God.
- A small unit of the local church.
- Not just a Bible study. Not just a prayer meeting!! Not another church service!! It is a process for disciple making.
- In every Life Group, people can be evangelized, receive prayer, healing, deliverance, fellowship, Bible teaching, edification, visitation, follow-up, discipleship, and more.
- Anything needed in the body of Christ ought to be found in the Life Group.

2.2. A Biblical Pattern

In the New Testament we see a lot happening in small groups and in house meetings.

Jesus did a substantial amount of His teaching and miracles in peoples homes and in small group settings!

The Early believers conducted a lot of their ministry in homes and in small groups.

Acts 2:46



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Life Group Leader Training

46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

Act 5:42

42 And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.

Acts 20:18-20

18 And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons,

19 Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews:

20 And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house,

Act 28:30,31

30 And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him,

31 Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.

Romans 16:5

5 Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Salute my wellbeloved Epaenetus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia unto Christ.

1 Corinthians 16:15

15 I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house (family) of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints),

1 Corinthians 16:19

19 The churches of Asia salute you. Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.

Colossians 4:15

15 Salute the brethren which are in Laodicea, and Nymphas, and the church which is in his house.

Philemon 1:2

2 And to our beloved Apphia, and Archippus our fellowsoldier, and to the church in thy house:

The cell church movement emphasizes that the cell (i.e) the Life Group is just as important as the Sunday celebration and that both of them must be equally emphasized. The early church celebrated together in large temple gatherings and then met from house to house (Acts 2:42-46; 5:42; 20:20). Later, due to persecution, this approach became nearly impossible and the house church movement became the standard (Acts 12:12; Romans 16: 3-5; 1 Corinthians 16:19; Colossians 4:15; Philemon 2). Although we do not have many specific details about how the New Testament Life Group approach looked, the principle of Life Group & celebration guides our thinking.



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2.3. Why Life Groups ?

2.3.1. Provides The Most Efficient Means for Pastoring & Evangelism

The cell church is the most efficient means of reaching unbelievers and pastoring believers.

Opportunity to provide personal ministry to all believers.

2.3.2. Recapturing Families

When believers get involved in ministry, they move out of the receiving mode and into the giving mode, out of the distribution line and into the contribution line.

When they begin using their homes to host Life Group-group meetings, they bring ministry activity right into the heart of their lives and are actually touching lives all around them, just as Jesus commanded.

Quote: “we used to go to church to get God and bring him home. Now we get God at home and bring him to church”.

2.3.3. Increasing the Church

Please remember that without a harvest, our church can't grow.

All our future leaders are out there in the harvest.

The more effective a church is in meeting the needs of its members the greater the positive impact on church growth. Life Groups play a major role in this respect.

2.3.4. Making Disciples

Discipleship of believers takes place effectively in small groups.

To make disciples in the Hebrew sense of the term is to live the life of a mentor before your protégé.

2.3.5. Having True Fellowship and Edification

Build meaningful relationships – difficult to do in a large gathering.

The pulpit may attract people, but small groups bond.

Loving relationships remain a major key to church growth and bonding people to a church.



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2.3.6. Exercising of Spiritual Gifts

Life Group members can exercise their gifts and develop their callings in a understanding, non-threatening environment.

2.3.7. Raising up leaders

Every Life Group member is encouraged to become a Life Group leader and take responsibility of winning souls and discipling them.

2.3.8. Accountability:

Every member of the Church is accountable to evangelize, to grow spiritually, and to fulfill his own part of the vision to the fullest measure of his capacity. This not only includes evangelism and church attendance but also encompasses ministry to each other and to the world this Life Group is set amongst.

Because the Life Groups are given responsibility for several aspects of local church ministry, except for Sunday celebration services, close accountability exists, and productivity is easily measured.

2.3.9. Avoid Continuation of Dead Programs

By carefully monitoring the health of the individual Life Groups, the cell church thus avoids the continuation of dead programs or traditions that have outlived their usefulness.

2.4. What does a Cell Church look like?

- Have Sunday **celebration** services where everyone come together for worship and instruction in the Word and to keep in sync with the overall direction of the local church.
- Meet during the week – once a week or once in two weeks in **Life Groups**.
- Build strong relationships – everyone feels cared for.
- People in need are ministered to right away (e.g., when pastor is traveling!)
- Ministry is done through Life Groups. They do not have to wait for the church to start a program or ministry. A Life Group leader sees a ministry opportunity and takes their Life Group to meet that need. Life Groups work together to meet ministry opportunities.
- Souls are continuously being brought in to the Kingdom. The local church keeps growing continuously.



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- The church and its ministers are focused on building leaders and providing training.
 - The vision of the church permeates the entire church structure. Every individual is possessed by the vision of the Church. In each Life Group meeting, this vision is rehearsed over and over so that it is never lost.
 - Occasional events, special meetings, crusades, seminars, etc. Life Groups are involved. Active participation of Life Group members and conservation of the fruit is ensured.

2.5. Examples of cell churches

Yoido Full Gospel Church, Seoul, Korea

David (Paul) Yonggi Cho

Began 1958

Keys:

- Prayer
- Cell groups
- “Let my people grow and go”

First six years without a system of cells. Cho collapsed. Initiated the cell model

Exodus 18:21

"Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.

Started cells among woman.

65 000 cells and 750,000 members.

The International Charismatic Mission, Bogotá, Colombia

Cesar Castellanos

Began April 1983

Keys:

- Groups of twelve
- Cell Groups
- Evangelism

First 7 Years worked with Cho's system and the church grew to 3000 members.

Started to focus on planting new cells instead of multiplying existing groups.

2400 cells and 350,000 members in 1999.

Many others

There are many churches all over the world who have implemented the G-12 model in its entirety exactly as ICM, Bogotá:

- Harvest Assembly in Virginia Beach, Virginia, USA



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- the Christian Center in Guayaquil, Ecuador
 - Kensington Temple Church in England
 - Bethany World Prayer Center in Baker, Louisiana, USA

There are many other churches that have implemented the G-12 principles, adapting the actual implementation to the local context:

- Cypress Creek Church in Wimberley, Texas, USA
- Liverpool Christian Life Centre in Liverpool, Australia.

Those churches following G-12 principles - as opposed to the entire model-are too numerous to name. They have each discovered fresh ways to fine-tune their cell churches by using G-12 principles and values.

We must admit that none of the current cell church models are perfect. We **cannot** not state that Pastor Cho (Seoul, Korea), Pastor Neighbour (Houston, TX), Pastor Vega (San Salvador, El Salvador), Pastor Stockstill (Baker, LA), Pastor Dion Robert (Abidjan, Ivory Coast), Pastor Daugherty (Tulsa, OK), or Pastor Castellanos (Bogotá, Colombia) uses the only true, biblical cell church model. The approach is **cell & celebration**. The application of the cell church for today is varied and changes from culture to culture and church to church.

2.6. Will Life Groups Work in a City Like Bangalore?

Yes!

- Regardless of region or culture, people are created to have relationships!
- In general, Indians are hospitable and like to visit in homes.
- Life Groups allow the unsaved to explore without being “very public” about their interest.

2.7. Possible Challenges and Solutions

People work long hours, odd timings, e.g. Call centres, software companies,

➔ Solution: Workplace Life Groups, Life Groups by peers.

People like going to meetings. We cannot totally do away with large meetings.

➔ Solution: We are not totally doing away with large meetings. Apart from the Sunday services, we will not have large meetings as part of the regular schedule of activities. Large events/meetings/crusades will be scheduled as required.

Independent lives & ministries. People don't like to get so involved in a local church. They like to keep their lives and ministries independent from local church.



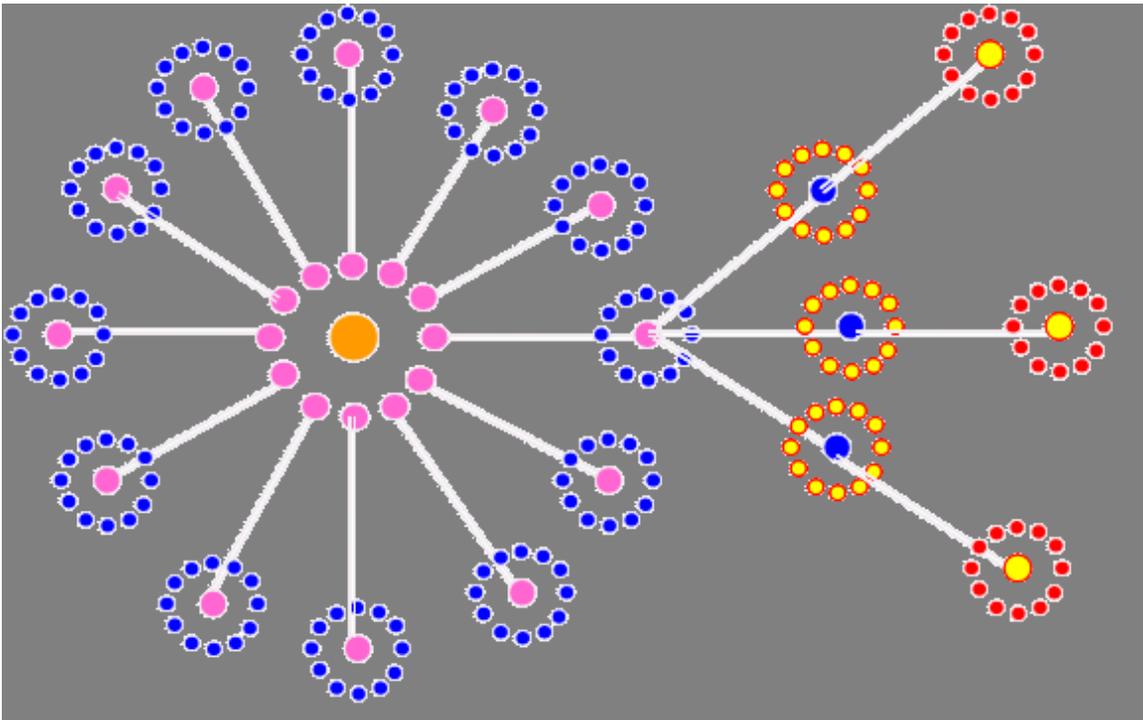
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→ Need to teach people that the local church is God's plan for this age.

3. The APC-12 Life Group model

3.1. The APC-12 Model and its advantages

There are different Life Group models and they are not all the same. We are following the G-12 model which we have adapted to our church and hence calling it the APC-12 model.



The APC –12 model is Different from what is commonly known as CARE CELLS.

APC –12 LIFE GROUPS and CARE CELLS ARE NOT THE SAME



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Here is how the APC-12 Model flows:

- One Life Group Leader is responsible for **DISCIPLING** up to 12 people (or one husband/wife team are responsible for 6 couples. Your Life Group may have a mix of single people and couples. Count the couples as one.
- The 12 Life Group members are **COMMITTED** to **ONE** Life Group.
- The Life Group Leader works with each of his 12 **AT A PERSONAL LEVEL** to build them up and bring them to a place of Spiritual **MATURITY**.
- Over time the LG Leader encourages each of his 12 to start their own Life Group and begin discipling 12 people.
- The goal of the APC-12 model is **MAKING DISCIPLES**. The Life Group meeting is just a way to facilitate the process. A lot of discipling and personal involvement takes place between the Life Group leader and his Life Group members outside the Life Group meeting.
- So eventually every person may belong to 2 Life Groups. One Life Group where he is being ministered to by his Life Group leader and one Life Group where he ministers to others as a Life Group leader. In some cases, due to time constraints, a new CG Leader may not be able to attend his “parent” Life Group meetings. This is fine, so long as the new CG Leader is able to report back directly to the church on the progress of his/her CG.
- If a Life Group leader is able to, once all members of his initial 12 have started their own Life Group, he can then start another Life Group of another 12.

Our objective in becoming a cell church is NOT to have Life Groups and Life Group meetings. Our objective in becoming a cell church is to **MAKE DISCIPLES**. It is to become a church “**where everyone is ministered to and everyone becomes a minister**”.

Differences between the “APC-12 Life Groups” Model and the “Care Cells” model:

APC-12 LIFE GROUPS	CARE CELLS
Goal : DISCIPLE MAKING	Goal : Evangelism, Fellowship
Life Group Leader’s responsibility is to disciple his Life Group members, develop them as leaders and equip them to become disciple makers	Cell leader’s responsibility is to conduct the cell meetings.
Each person is committed to one Life Group	People can visit any cell
Each Life Group grows up to 12 people. Each person starts their own Life Group, while continuing to remain part of the original Life Group.	When numbers increase, the cell divides
Every person will become a leader of a Life Group and disciple at least 12 others	A person can attend a care cell and never become a leader



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Life Group Leader Training

3.2. Why the Model of the 12

God's number for fruitfulness and multiplication.

- Twelve tribes. Genesis 35:22-26
- The way God multiplies His people. Genesis 49:28

- God's government – the way God governs His people:
Exodus 24:4 | Matthew 10:1 | Revelation 21:14

Note:

Evangelism by all Life Group leaders and Life Group members will always continue even after a Life Group reaches its intended capacity. As new people are won to Christ, they can become part of a Life Group that is being led by the person who brought them to the Lord. Or, they can be part of another Life Group and the person who led them to the Lord can continue to share, encourage them in the Lord at a personal level.

4. The Life Group Meeting

Time limit that we have set is 90 minutes to a maximum of 120 minutes.

Meet once a week or once in two weeks.

Can be flexible with the location, so long as everyone is informed.

4.1. General Guidelines

- All members are encouraged to share and we ask that everyone speak openly and honestly.
- Each person should feel safe about opening up...but please remember it is very important that we stress confidentiality. All matters shared within our group need to remain in strict confidence.
- We will reach out to our family, neighbors, and friends with goals of bringing these people to Christ.
- We will keep the interaction in line with what Christ is doing in our midst, and refrain from storytelling that is irrelevant to the subjects we are discussing.
- We will not murmur, gossip, condemn, be judgmental, criticize.
- Prayer: this is an area that can bring the most growth and strength to our group. We ask each Life Group member to include the Life Group members and the ministry of our group in their prayer life.



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Life Group Leader Training

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- We will always keep the vision of our church foremost in our mind. At All Peoples Church our vision is to be salt and light in the city of Bangalore and a voice to the nation of India and to the nations.

4.2. Sample Schedule (90 minutes)

10 min Arrival, (refreshments – optional) and fellowship

10 min Praise and Worship

10 min Icebreaker

5 min vision statement – Each week several key points are shared to further the vision of the Life Group and inform any newcomers about what they can expect from the group.

40 min Word Study with open discussions

15 min Prayer and ministry

4.3. Holistic Life Groups

Holistic Life Groups provide a **balanced emphasis** on worship, prayer, study of the Word, fellowship, ministry to peoples needs, evangelism, leadership development, etc.

As a guide for Life Groups to be holistic Life Groups, Jim Egli has developed a tool called Upward, Inward, Outward, Forward.

Jesus himself summarized these four values:

- **Upward:** "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind" (Matthew 22:38).
- **Inward:** "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39).
- **Outward:** "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations..." (Matthew 28:19).
- **Forward:** "Teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you..." (Matthew 28:20).

The **Upward** value is the regular experience of God. Life Groups work when people encounter Him. This kind of encounter with God is based on an authentic passion for Him, a desire to be with Him, and a yearning to share what He is doing with other people. Life Groups fail when group members simply go through religious motions, praying religious prayers.

The **Inward** value is expressed by love for one another in the group, as Life Group members make heart covenants with one another. They become committed to living in community together. This value begins in the Life Group meeting, but it extends outside the meeting because life happens outside Life Group meetings too. Without this



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Life Group Leader Training

commitment to community outside the meeting, relationships will be very weak and the meetings will be artificial and stale.

The **Outward** value is found in groups that understand that they are on mission in this world. As you are going, make disciples. The command is to make disciples. It is the only imperative found in the entire commission (vv. 18-20). Our mission in the world is to perform as disciple-making disciples. As followers of Christ, we are to lead others to Christ.

The **Forward** value is seen when Christ's followers are taught to obey all things Christ taught us. The entire Forward value centers on growing followers of Christ to be disciple-making disciples. Rather than focusing on training leaders to fill certain positions in the church, the focus should be on growing Biblical disciples. This will naturally result in a multiplication of leaders.

4.4. How to Lead a Great Life Group Meeting

1. Favourable environment.
2. Praise & worship and spiritual atmosphere.
3. Christ centeredness is the life of the Life Group. Don't draw attention to self, or anyone else.
4. Prayer Priority
 - Prayer Shield: for the pastor & family, for the church, for all members in the Life Group.
 - specific needs in the Life Group.
 - Prayer for "Oikos" contacts – immediate unsaved family and friends whom the Life Group members are trying to reach for Christ.
5. Delegation of responsibility to all Life Group members. Recognition and utilization of ALL the gifting in a Life Group. Check their heart motivation. Don't do anything to feed an individual's spiritual ego.
6. Sensitivity to visitors and unbelievers. Don't condemn other religions, persuasions, practices. The Gospel is not about condemning others, but about proclaiming Jesus.
7. Creative Life Group formats and presentation/facilitation of the Word. Don't make it a sermon, teaching/lecture type meeting. Allow people to discuss, ask questions.
8. After the meeting formally ends, meet and follow-up with visitors and new Life Group members.
9. Conflict handling and problem solving



Guidelines Document Life Group Leader Training

4.5. What Do We Do with Our Children?

Motivation:

The presence of children and young people announces the arrival of the next generation. It is up to us, the adults, to change their destinies and be the springboards that send them into their futures with fire and passion for Jesus to fulfill the great commission.

Ralph Neighbour says, "There is no further excuse for delaying the equipping of every saint for the work of the ministry." "Every saint" includes the children and young people. Now is the time to equip them to go and minister.

"Among our children and young people are workers we have prayed for, don't let them pass you by. Put the world in their hearts, and the weapons in their hands, protect them as they go and see the nations change, your nation, every nation".

Don't under-estimate the spiritual capabilities of children. Children are more likely to understand spiritual truth than many adults!

We have a personal responsibility for the next generation. We need to build our relationships with the younger generations and release them to have a passion for Jesus.

We must establish a strong Biblical culture in our church where the hearts of the fathers are turned to the children and the children to their fathers (Malachi 4.5-6)

We want our children to be discipled.

Guidelines:

Family Life Groups should be equipped to minister to the children present.

Right resources should be in place. (Please contact the Children's Church Pastor for assistance on finding right resources).

In intergenerational family Life Groups, parents or other Adults in the Life Group can take turns to spend time with the children to disciple them.

As far as possible, it should not be the same person doing this every Life Group meeting. (In some situations, this cannot be avoided, at least for a season).



Guidelines Document

Life Group Leader Training

Children can be part of the worship and prayer time, so that they can learn by observation.

During the ministry of the Word the children can be taken aside (by the Adult in charge for children in that Life Group meeting) and taught the children's lesson. The children's Life Group lesson can be either (A) a simplified presentation of the adult Life Group lesson or (B) A lesson from suitable material being used by the Life Group for its children.

The ideal is option (A) - that the children hear a short word on the same theme as the adults.

The Life Group Leader can give an outline to the Adult in charge of the children, well ahead of the Life Group meeting:

1. The main Scripture (e.g., John 3:16)
2. The title of the sermon (e.g., God Loves People)
3. What he wants people to go away challenged by (e.g., Do you love people as God does?)

The Adult in charge can take this, develop it, and add some creativity for the children. The children can then discuss it in their small group as it applies to their own lives and minister to each other.

Get the children to pray for each other. Make prayer with children an exciting yet meaningful experience.

Get children to stand up and "preach" (summarize) the Life Group lesson to their group.

If option (B) is being used, please select suitable material appropriate for the children. (Please contact the Children's Church Pastor for assistance on finding right resources).

5. The Life Group Leader

Only committed members of APC can become Life Group Leaders.(You must be part of a Life Group to become a member of APC.)

All Life Group Leaders must have completed the Biblical Foundations Course.

All Life Group Leaders must complete the "Life Group Leader's Training".

5.1. Responsibilities of the Life Group Leader

- Preparing for the Life Group meetings: The Word study and discussions
- Guiding the discussions during the Life Group meeting



Guidelines Document

Life Group Leader Training

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- You are the Leader and Mentor. Set a godly example. Influence through life contact. Disciple Life Group members.
 - Pray for Life Group members
 - Following up with individuals during the week: emails, phone, visit.
 - Lead Life Group members in ministry/outreach.
 - Encouraging Life Group members to evangelize
 - Develop Life Group members into leaders. Get them to start their Life Groups.
 - Ministering to needs of Life Group members, e.g. counsel, support, etc. – contact other Life Groups/church/pastor for additional help
 - Impart the vision of the church
 - Be accountable to your Life Group pastor and to the church: Life Group meeting reports, etc.

5.2. Personal Life and Character

(More on this in Step 2 of the Life Group Leaders Training)

Example/Model

The Life Group leader must model being a disciple of Jesus to the members of his/her Life Group. Be an example. Leaders reproduce their own kind.

Passion

The key to powerful Life Group ministry is a leader who passionately pursues the vision of Life Groups as being the life of the local church to which the Life Group belongs.

Passion: an intense, driving or overmastering conviction that demands action.

Conviction

A Life Group that is full of life is led by a leader driven with the conviction that the life of the church takes place in Life Groups!

Be convinced that your ministry to your 12 in the Life Group will make a significant difference in their lives.

The degree of that conviction determines the degree of passion the leader possesses and displays. Understand the plan and catch the passion!



Guidelines Document

Life Group Leader Training

6. Ministering To Your Life Group Members

6.1. Basic Information for Incoming Life Group Members

Incoming Life Group members could be either unsaved visitors, new believers or someone who has already been a Christian for a while.

Work with each one as appropriate and according to the time they need to take steps forward.

Once the new person has moved from being a “visitor” to becoming committed to your Life Group, then here are some things the Life Group Leader needs to explain privately/in person to every new/incoming Life Group member. Do this in a casual informal manner:

- The history, vision and purpose of APC.
- Our church’s statement of faith.
- Information about Church Membership.
- Need to be committed to a Life Group.
- Learn about their future at APC, what APC-12 Life Groups are about and how they can eventually become a Life Group leader (after going through the Life Group leaders training).
- Learn about water baptism (if needed).

All of the above information can be found in the “[Membership Information Booklet](#)”. (Pickup from the Book Table or call the church office to have copies delivered to you).

6.2. Life Group Lessons

Laying a Good Foundation: Biblical Foundations Course (BFC)

The Biblical Foundations Course (Basic, Intermediate, Advanced) is a collection of important topics/studies from the Word of God that APC has put together. These will be available in printed, bound volumes. We encourage you to use this resource in you LG as you see fit. The BFC is designed to help lay a good foundation for believers..

Our goal is to have all church members necessarily go through the BFC, either in a Life Group meeting or on their own.

As new members join your Life Group, get them to do the BFC, sequentially, step by step on their own, at home. Monitor their progress and encourage them to complete it.



Guidelines Document

Life Group Leader Training

Pastor's Teaching/Sunday Messages

We require all Life Groups to discuss the Sunday teaching/message in their LGs. The focus of this discussion is to encourage people to share how God spoke to them through the Sunday sermon and how they have been applying it in their lives since that time. You are welcome to use the sermon notes that are posted on the church website.

Life Group lessons based on pastor's teaching promote continuity and life application between Life Group meetings and Sunday celebration (services).

If your Life Group is meeting bi-weekly, you can summarize the teaching/messages of the previous two Sundays for your Life Group lesson.

Special Topics, Bible Studies and Printed Resources

From time to time, we will have all LGs studying a particular topic or book in the Bible using a common printed resource. This will be announced and made available for everyone. The special topic Bible study will happen after discussing pastor's teaching/Sunday message outline.

6.3. Ministering to Life Group members between the meetings

- Make efforts to contact – call, email, visit – your Life Group members during the week to encourage them.
- Work at a personal level with each one. You only have 12 people to care for!
- Pay special attention to those going through times of crisis, difficulty.
- Develop a family – by rallying other Life Group members to support/encourage the one going through a difficult time.
- Making Disciples – don't be afraid to talk about issues that need to be addressed in the individual's life, e.g., drinking habits, smoking, negligence of family, etc.
- Meeting Needs – if there is someone with a need (food, money, clothes, etc.) do what you can to help in a practical ways with assistance of the other members of your Life Group.
- Counseling – some members may need a listening ear, godly counsel, e.g. husband/wife problems, etc. Do what you can to counsel. If things go beyond your ability to handle, please inform your Life Group pastor immediately. Do not ignore the situation.
- Handling Conflicts, Issues, Problems – if there are conflicts between members of your Life Group, get them together, discuss and try to resolve conflicts.

Important



Guidelines Document

Life Group Leader Training

Mentors and protégés should be of the same sex. For example, if a man leads a woman to Christ, his wife or another woman in the Life Group should be asked to mentor the new believer.

7. Your Life Group - Your Ministry Team

7.1. Follow up of New Comers to Your Life Group

Delegate responsibility to members of your Life Group to follow-up with visitors and new comers during the week. Encourage Life Group members to meet with visitors, invite them to the Sunday celebration service.

7.2. Strategic, Relational Evangelism

Have your Life Group members create a list of 2-3 unsaved family or friends with whom they frequently come into contact. Co-workers, neighbors, family members and friends can make up this list. Get each Life Group member to pray for them during the week and also during the Life Group meeting. At the appropriate time they can share the Gospel or invite them to the Life Group meeting or to the Sunday celebration service.

7.3. Follow-up of New Comers to the Church

The altar call and follow-up system of the church provides a rich source of new contacts for Life Groups and ultimately, membership. The church will put in place a Follow-up system. The names of first time visitors/new decisions will be given to the Life Group pastors on Monday. Life Group pastors will make initial contact with the first time visitors/new decisions on Monday or latest Tuesday. In addition to follow-up with these visitors, the Life Group pastors will encourage them to attend an appropriate Life Group. If there is a definite interest, the Life Group pastor will call and inform the Life Group leader about the first time visitor/new decisions. The Life Group leader can then call and extend a personal invitation, or if possible make a personal visit.

7.4. Seed Projects

We encourage Life Group leaders to take their Life Group members on regular “seed projects”. A “seed project” is organized and funded entirely by the Life Group, and is completed in one day, displaying the love of Christ to our communities. You are sowing seeds of love, compassion and the Gospel into the lives of people in the community. Seed projects can often open up doors for further ministry and salvation of souls. Seed projects may be carried out by a single Life Group or by two or more Life Groups coming together for ministry on that particular day.



Guidelines Document

Life Group Leader Training

7.5. Outreaches/Special Evangelistic Events

From time to time the church will organize special events, outreaches during which the Life Group leaders will be contacted to be involved along with their Life Group members.

7.6. Involvement in Sunday Celebrations

Life Group leaders themselves along with their Life Group members are encouraged to be involved in various forms of ministry during the Sunday celebrations (services).

8. Pitfalls to Avoid

The following are several items to consider. They are not listed in any particular order of importance, so please pay equal attention to each.

1. Avoid shortcuts. There are no shortcuts to building a successful Life Group.
2. Avoid competitiveness with other Life Group leaders. It's a work of the flesh!
3. Avoid careless appointing of leadership within the Life Group. Avoid using wrong motives for promotion (partiality, personal preference). Don't compromise on leadership appointments.
4. Don't let the Life Group meetings becoming mini-church services.
5. Watch out for people pursuing personal agendas – breaking off and sprouting an independent church, taking Life Group members along; or promoting “pet doctrines”.
6. People from other churches – They are welcome to visit occasionally. However, they cannot attend your Life Group and go to another local church. APC-12 Life Groups are for members of APC and is part of our disciple-making process.
7. Visiting speakers – please check with/inform your Life Group pastor before inviting an outside person as a speaker at your Life Group meeting. We would like to avoid inviting outside speakers to Life Group meetings, since the Life Group meetings are not intended to be a Bible Study or church service. However, there could be situations where bringing in an outside speaker to address a particular topic of interest would be useful. Check with your Life Group pastor.



Guidelines Document Life Group Leader Training

8. Independent ministries – be careful of independent ministers/ministries who just “show up”, asking for an opportunity to minister in your Life Group. Generally, we recommend that you do not allow them to do so. Any damage done in a single Life Group meeting could take a lot of time and effort to fix.
9. Personal prophecies and seducing spirits – While we desire to encourage the flow of spiritual gifts, remember that every manifestation must be tested. Please do not allow Life Group members to give each other personal prophecies in private. Words of prophecy must be tested by mature people, i.e. the Life Group leader. Simple Guidelines: The simple gift of prophecy must lift up, build up and cheer up. No direction, no correction, no dates, no mates.
10. Don’t force new comers to become members of your Life Group. Give them ample time to decide. If you force a relationship, they may come to your Life Group, but never really open up to you.
11. Do not forfeit your leadership of your Life Group. If a new member joins your Life Group, and he/she is spiritually older/more mature than you (A) DO NOT BE INTIMIDATED. You are still the leader of the Life Group and have the full support of the pastor and the church. (B) DO NOT RELINQUISH YOUR LEADERSHIP of the Life Group. Consider this situation as a good opportunity for you to grow up as a leader as you minister to someone “older” than you. Also, this will be a good opportunity for that person to walk in humility and Christlikeness as he/she submits to you as the Life Group leader. (C) DO NOT HAND OVER THE TEACHING OF THE WORD to the new member. You, as the Life Group leader, must continue to lead the Life Group lessons and care for all your Life Group members. You have gone through the Life Group leader’s training and you now carry the vision of the church.
12. Maintain a balance between outward journey and inward care of the group.
13. Don’t allow your family relationships to suffer – since you are opening your home as a place of ministry, the enemy may attempt to attack at this very point. Don’t continue blindly in pursuit of spiritual goals, while neglecting your family relationships! This could prove devastating.
14. Don’t become a programmatic Life Group – Understand the difference between programmatic Life Groups and spiritual community in Life Groups. Programmatic Life Groups look a lot like spiritual communities, but the feeling is very different. Programmatic groups meet once per week. They discuss the Word. Members pray for one another. But the routines have become routine. In spiritual community,



Guidelines Document

Life Group Leader Training

the group members participate in creative spontaneity that is ordained by the Spirit of God. People get set free from personal struggles and nonbelievers receive Christ. Life Group meetings are only a form to help promote spiritual community.

9. Life Group Administration

9.1. The Administrative side of things

We require that each LG Leader report back to the church (i.e. the LG Pastor) a summary of each LG meeting.

9.2. Life Group Leader's Feedback Form

Please complete the "Life Group Leader's Feedback Form" at the end of each Life Group meeting and give it to your Life Group pastor as soon as possible (via email preferable).

Will record not only record the numerical element but also reflected the human element. The quality of the meeting is more important than the quantity of attendees.

New people reached by "Life Group evangelism" are invited to the Church services. Their details are recorded on the "Life Group Leader's Feedback Form".

A simple email, with the summary of the LG meeting with the information as shown in the Feedback form is sufficient.



Guidelines Document

Life Group Leader Training

Life Group Leader's Feedback Form

Date: _____
_____/____/_____

Life Group Leader's Name / Phone: _____

Topic discussed & Name of person leading :

Names of every one in attendance. Please mark (V) after name of first time visitors, and (C) after names of children:

--	--

(If possible please provide contact phone numbers of first time visitors)

If Children's Life Group was conducted
Topic covered for children:

Person who led the children's Life Group:

Please complete in brief, as appropriate

No. of Salvations:

Good reports/noticeable change in individual's lives:

People taking on responsibility/participation in Life Group:

Healings:

Testimonies of answer to prayer:

Baptism in the Holy Spirit:



Guidelines Document

Life Group Leader Training

Operation of the gifts of the Spirit:



Guidelines Document

Life Group Leader Training

10. Becoming a Cell Church

10.1. Change!

To become a Cell Church there has to be a change in perception of how a local church operates. We need to understand that what we are really doing is restoring a principle practiced by the Early Church. We are not doing something “new under the sun”.

The chance for growth requires the risk of change.

Change can cause a sense of instability, but not continuing to change can undo all the changes that we made to get where we are.

10.2. Continuously Raising up Quality Life Group Leaders

Remove insecurity in the hearts of Life Group leaders through proper training. A proper and total training system must be in place.

No proper leadership development track hinders growth.

We need to ensure that there are sufficient numbers of newly trained leaders ready to take leadership and start new Life Groups.

A standard of training is necessary to ensure that all will be able to function according to leadership prescription.

Teach Life Group leaders to prepare properly. Provide proper supportive materials, Life Group notes, etc.

All the energy and resources of the church must flow in the same direction.

The Cell Church is like a two-winged bird. The Life Group meetings and the Sunday church celebrations (services). Both are important and must have the highest standard of excellence in their implementation.



10.3. The Essence of a cell church

1. RELATIONSHIPS

The heart and life of the church is the Life Group.
The Life Group is the basic part of the church.
The Life Group is not a program.
The Life Group is not a meeting.
The Life Group is life – lifestyle.

2. PARTICIPATION

Everyone is actively participating and leading in ministry to others.
Ministry is not optional.
Everyone should be leading others to Jesus.
Everyone caring for others.
Everyone is ministering and leading.

3. EMPOWERING

Leaders in growing churches concentrate on empowering other Christians for ministry.
Basic philosophy of the Cell Church is the priesthood of all believers.
Empowering is a foundational value of the Cell Church.
For Life Group system to work, empowering is not an option.
Everyone is being trained and empowered to participate and lead.
People are not just trained but empowered – trusted and released.

4. FOCUS ON JESUS

Everyone experiences and worships Jesus as the centre of their lives and the Life Group.
It is Jesus doing the work through us.
Leadership is given to Jesus.
Holy Spirit is allowed to do the work as He pleases.

5. OUTREACH AND MULTIPLICATION

Everyone is actively reaching the lost and seeing Life Group multiply.
The heart of God is for the lost.
People who follow the steps of Jesus must reach out to the lost.
This is the heart of the Life Group.

6. NETWORKING

All Life Groups are knit together by visionary, servant leadership.
The Life Group is not independent but interdependent. Life Groups work with each other.



Guidelines Document

Life Group Leader Training

The same applies to the Cell Churches. Likeminded Cell Churches network together for the building of the Kingdom of God.

7. ADAPTABLE STRUCTURES

The system and structure should be adaptable to the context of the society or culture. The organization is to serve you and not to bind you.

11. Prayer and More Prayer

Pray for each of your Life Group members daily/regularly.

Pray for the pastor, his family and the church daily/regularly.

In the Life Group meetings, pray for the members and their “oikos” who need to be reached.

We must seek a high level of Holy Spirit involvement through a powerful prayer base.

A strong prayer platform in a church causes or provides:

- Anointing of the Holy Spirit
- Protection
- Unity
- Salvations, healings and miracles

Pray for the accomplishment of specific goals for your Life Group and for the church.

Monthly All night prayer meetings – please see the importance of this and please attend. Encourage your Life Group members to do so.

12. The Unlimited Possibilities of Life Groups

Life Groups provide a vehicle to reach all strata of society, means to penetrate into various sections of the city (business, government, educational institutions, etc.), without forcing people to change the context in which they live.

12.1. Different kinds of Life Groups

- Area Life Groups



Guidelines Document

Life Group Leader Training

-
- Business & Workplace Life Groups : Taking Christ out into the marketplace
 - Young Couples Life Groups
 - Joyful Mothers to Be (Believing God for Children)
 - Music Life Groups
 - New Members' Life Groups
 - Nursing Home Life Groups
 - Prayer Life Groups
 - Prison Life Groups
 - Senior Adults Life Groups
 - Singles Life Groups
 - Single Mom's Life Groups
 - Special Interest Life Groups
 - Women's Life Groups
 - Men's Life Groups
 - School/College Life Groups
 - Young Adult Life Groups
 - Youth Life Groups (TNT)
 - Family Life Groups : Strengthening marriages and families through Life Group ministry

12.2. Homogenous Life Groups / People-Group Thinking

Great church growth successes have been noted where people were grouped in terms of their specific interests, hobbies, qualifications, etc.

Matthew 10:5

These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:

Matthew 10:5 reveals instructions Jesus gave His disciples that constituted His strategy for that day. Amazingly the first thing He tells them is where not to go and who not to reach!

He commanded them to focus, concentrate on the lost house (oikos) of Israel.

JESUS RESTRICTED THEM TO PEOPLE GROUP THINKING!

A people group can be defined as follows: the largest group within which the gospel can flow along natural lines without encountering barriers of understanding or acceptance due to culture, language and geography.

In other words it is what can also be called a homogeneous group.



Guidelines Document

Life Group Leader Training

Within the large group setting of a city, there are many different people groups that will require different strategies to reach. The church cannot ignore these differences.

In a city we have various people groups: government officials; night guards; teens/twenties, young professionals, etc. The strategy of reaching a night guard will be vastly different from the one required to reach a government official, and even more vastly different from the one required to reach teens.

One of the key advantages of a people-group-thinking based strategy is that once people get born again, conservation is almost a natural end result.

People already have significant relationships established through bonding.

Young Men's Life Groups are an all-male Life Group.
Young Women's Life Group are an all-women Life Group.

Over time a Young Men's/Women's Life Group would transition into a young couples Life Group and eventually become a family Life Group.

12.3. YOUTH LIFE GROUPS

(Adapted from an article by Ted Stump)

What is a Youth-Led Life Group?

A Youth-led Life Group is a group of up to 12 Youth from different backgrounds who share a common bond: they meet together for prayer, edification and evangelism.

What is the format of a Youth-Led Outreach Life Group?

Youth invite their peers to meet with them in different homes each week or every other week. Life Groups range in size from three to fifteen Youth. A Life Group meeting lasts about 90 minutes. The format of the meeting is similar to that which follows:

- Food (15 minutes). This allows the Youth to connect, relax and get some chitchat out of the way.
- Ice Breaker (10 Minutes). This draws the group together, especially if there are visitors present. It also helps the leader discover the group's emotional condition.
- Vision Statement (5 minutes). Each week several key points are shared to further the vision of the Life Group and inform any newcomers about what they can expect from the group.



Guidelines Document Life Group Leader Training

-
- Life Group Topic (45 minutes). Discussion of the meeting topic.
 - Gospel presentation, ministry time & prayer (15 minutes).

How do you develop & train Youth & adult leaders?

We develop Youth and adult leaders in the context of a leadership Life Group. Youth leaders and their adult mentors gather weekly in the youth Leader's home. The format is different than an outreach Life Group:

- Food
- Ice Breaker. Much more in-depth, vulnerable and revealing. Usually using probing questions. This is the time when people get honest about their walks.
- Worship (20-30 minutes).
- Message. A hard-hitting message with a two-fold purpose:
 - To further disciple Youth leaders;
 - To apply scripture to the Youth's weekly ministry in the outreach Life Group.
- Break
- Life Group equipping/strategizing. Access current ministry, work through any question and concerns. Further training.

The Life Group model has built-in intimacy because the people there are already acquainted with each other and care about each other. It's Youth-led, which commands greater commitment among members. And here's the real key. Adults will never have the passion to reach and care for teens/twenties that teens/twenties themselves already possess. There will never be enough adult leaders or volunteers to reach multitudes of kids/young people. But there are enough Youth to reach their friends-if they can be trained, equipped, and disciplined.

Life Group-group youth ministries have been springing up all over the globe. There's a youth ministry in Bogotá, Columbia-the cocaine capitol of the world-that has over 10,000 youth in Youth Life Groups. (And there are only two full time youth Leaders!).

I envision the day when like-minded youth Leaders strategically link cities together to organize and mobilize their Youth to evangelize their peers through Youth led Life Groups. When you see 15 year-old kids do it all – receive training, guide the Life Group, make mistakes, labor over their lost friends in prayer, line up transportation to the meetings, and lead their friends to Jesus – you will never be the same.



Guidelines Document Life Group Leader Training

13. Life Group Health Assessment Tool

Life Group Leader, you can use this simple tool on a periodic basis to assess the health and overall progress of your Life Group and yourself as a Life Group leader. We strongly recommend that you use this tool every 3 months. Your Life Group pastors will encourage and follow up with you to do so.

Upward, Inward, Outward, Forward Assessment Tool

(By Randall Neighbour and Jim Egli)

Upward – Your relationship to God and your group’s corporate relationship to God.

Inward – The depth of your relationships with your members and their relationship to each other.

Outward – The level of relationship and passion your group possesses to reach pre-Christians and uncharted people for Christ.

Forward – The number of disciplined and trained leaders your group is producing so it can multiply its ministry.

How to score:

For each question, select the box that is your response. The “points” are counted 1,2,3,4 & 5 starting from the left. So if you select the box on the extreme left, you score 1 point, and if you select the box on the extreme right you score 5 points. Total the points for each section and then go through the Score Evaluation section to assess your Life Group health.

Note there are no correct or incorrect answers on this assessment. It is not a test. You cannot fail. You can only find out where you are – your current point of origination - so that you can make a plan to increase the four values of small group life and enjoy God’s destination for you group.



Guidelines Document Life Group Leader Training

13.1. Upward-Connecting Your Life Group to God

1. How many days each week do you pray for the other members of your Life Group?
0 Days 1-2 Days 3-4 Days 5-6 Days 6-7 Days
2. How many minutes does your Life Group spend in worship in its meetings?
0-4 5-9 10-14 15-19 20+
3. How many minutes do you spend in devotional time with the Lord on the average day?
0-5 6-15 16-30 31-45 46+
4. How many minutes does your Life Group spend in prayer in its meetings?
0-5 6-15 16-30 31-45 46+
5. How often does your Life Group see wonderful and miraculous answers to prayer?
Never Sometimes Often Very Often Regularly

Upward – Score Evaluation:

If your score is 17 or higher for this section, you're doing well. Keep praying and then pray some more! One thing is for sure...you can never pray enough. Prayer allows a believer to hear the voice of God and know His will. Praying as a group will invite the Holy Spirit to move and work among you, and bring you together as an incredible ministry team with infinite kingdom-building resources.

If your score is at or between 11 and 16, you are above the danger zone, but it could be higher. If you are willing to press in and pray more each day, pray with your spouse and family, and pray more with your group, you'll see powerful things happen in your group. Jim Egli, the designer of this assessment, says this: "No prayer, no power; little prayer, little power; lots of prayer, lots of power!" 'Nuf said!

If your score is at or between 0 and 10 for this section, you are at or below the danger point. It is essential to your spiritual well-being and the health of your small group that you pray more. Without prayer, there is no power. It does not matter what kind of small group you lead... prayer is the base from which all ministry emerges! When you get into bed tonight, think about your day. If you have not spent any focused time in prayer, roll out of bed and find a quiet place to pray for 10 minutes.

If you just can't seem to find the time to pray, then consider fasting. Missing a meal or two will really help you focus on God. Always have at least one spiritual goal in mind when you fast. Also, do not fast indefinitely, but for a reasonable period of time.



Guidelines Document Life Group Leader Training

13.2. Inward-Building Community

6. How many times in the average four-week span does your Life Group meet?

0 1 2 3 4+

7. How many parties or fun activities has your Life Group enjoyed together in the past three months?

0 1 2 3 4+

8. How many times have you invited Life Group members to your home or a restaurant for a meal in the past two months?

0 1 2 3 4+

9. How often do most of your Life Group members sit together in Sunday worship?

Never Sometimes Often Very Often Always

10. How often do you communicate with Life Group members by phone, email, cards, or letter in order to encourage them?

Never Sometimes Often Very Often Daily

Inward – Score Evaluation:

If your score is 17 or higher for this section, you're doing well. Keep spending time with your Life Group members between meetings, loving them in an ever-increasing way. Jesus spent lots of time with His disciples, and this is one of the ways He prepared them for their own powerful ministry to others.

If your score is at or between 11 and 16 for this section, you are above the danger zone, but it could be higher. Grab your day planner or calendar and schedule time with different Life Group members to eat dinner, catch a video or do something together. The more time you spend with your Life Group members individually, the greater their desire will be to share their lives with you and your Life Group during your meetings.

If your score is at or between 0 and 10 for this section, you are at or below the danger point. Take a moment and consider something important about God's nature. The Trinity (The Father, Son and Holy Spirit) have been together for an eternity. Three in one, yet distinctly different persons. God enjoys the fellowship of His Son and the Holy Spirit and created you in His image. With this in mind, realize that God wants His people to live together in community and fellowship, sharpening each other by lots of contact and loving each other by laying down our lives to help and encourage our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Therefore, it's vital to the success of your Life Group and especially your own spiritual walk that you make your Life Group more than just a two hour meeting. Grab your day planner or calendar and begin to pencil in time investments into each of your Life Group members. It doesn't have to be deeply spiritual time together, just connection time to develop a deep relationship. After all, no one wants more meetings in



Guidelines Document Life Group Leader Training

their life, but everyone wants better friendships! So find the time to connect and be an example to your Life Group members. Relationship is the very heart of ministry!



Guidelines Document Life Group Leader Training

13.3. Outward-Reaching the Lost

11. How often does your group take time in its meetings to pray for those who do not yet know Christ?

Never Seldom Often Very Often Always

12. How many days each week do you pray for the salvation of unbelievers?

0 Days 1-2 Days 3-4 Days 5-6 Days 7 Days

13. How many parties or fun events has your group done in the past three months that were targeted to appeal to non-Christians?

0 1 2 3 4+

14. When a visitor attends your Life Group for the first time, how often are they followed up with a phone call, note or visit?

Never Seldom Often Very Often Always

15. Does your group have a clear, dated goal for when it will grow to 12 members?

No Not Really Kind of Being Decided Definitely

Outward – Score Evaluation:

If your score is 17 or higher for this section, you're doing great! There's nothing more fun than seeing the lost won to Christ and find the peace and freedom they have been searching for all their lives. Keep up the great work, and don't get discouraged if you don't immediately see fruit. God uses all your efforts to draw people to Himself.

If your score is at or between 11 and 16 for this section, you are above the danger zone, but it could be higher. It's important to realize that God has given us a two-fold purpose in life as described in the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. We should love one another deeply and make disciples as a team. At your next meeting, ask your group to plan at least one additional event each quarter to connect to the lost friends known to the group members. Hold a tea-party, or invite friends to your meeting just to watch a video, etc. Building relationships with the lost is how they are won to Christ. And don't forget to pray for the lost every time you meet together, regardless of the stated focus of your Life Group. Evangelism is what we were designed to do!

If your score is at or between 0 and 10 for this section, you are at or below the danger point. When believers gather together in God's name, it's important to know that God wants more from us than just fellowship only...we'll have that together when we get to heaven. What he hungers for us to do is to love the lost enough to spend time with them. At your next meeting, ask your Life Group members to share something about one or two friends or family members in your town that don't know Jesus. As each person shares, pray for those people and write their names down.



Guidelines Document Life Group Leader Training

Challenge each person in your group to spend an hour or two each week with an unbeliever, just being a good friend. Model this for them, and invite them along when you hang out or visit your lost friends at work, at home or somewhere in between.

If you've ever led someone to receive Christ as Lord, then you know how it feels...that's why God made us in His image! To share our lives and speak the truth in love to anyone who will listen. Invest your life into the only inheritance you can take with you when you die...the lost in this world.

As you consider ways to share your faith, remember that God never intended you to work alone when Jesus said "I will make you fishers of men." He was talking about net fishing, not fishing with a pole and a line. It takes two or three to work a net properly and secure your catch.



Guidelines Document Life Group Leader Training

13.4. Forward-Multiplying Leaders

16. How many individuals or couples in your Life Group are being actively trained as Life Group leaders right now?

0 1 2 3 4+

17. What percentage of your group members do you expect to lead a group at some point in the future?

0% 25% 50% 75% 100%

18. What percentage of the youth and adults in your group do you involve in leading parts of the Life Group meeting?

0% 25% 50% 75% 100%

19. How often do your prayers for your Life Group include a prayer for the multiplication of leaders?

Never Seldom Often Very Often Always

20. How many individuals or couples in your group do you expect to go through Life Group Leaders Training in the next year?

0 1 2 3 4+

Forward – Score Evaluation:

If your score is 17 or higher for this section, you're doing great! A useful thing you can do now is to give your Life Group members who are ready to become Life Group leaders opportunity to lead a Life Group meeting and let them learn how to minister to people and facilitate Life Group meetings in a safe environment. This will help build their confidence and be fully prepared to start their own Life Group (and of course you can have a well deserved break from time to time!!).

If your score is at or between 11 and 16 for this section, you are above the danger zone, but it could be higher. Keep working towards developing your Life Group members into Life Group leaders. Spend time with your Life Group members regularly. Pray for each person in the group and what God wants to do in your next meeting. Then, allow potential leaders to learn by doing... give him or her an increasing amount of responsibility over the next few months.

If your score is at or between 0 and 10 for this section, you are at or below the danger point. "Our group has grown! We're almost 120 strong each week....." Well, your Life Group may be large, but you can't have members start their own Life Group unless you have them trained as leaders. So, begin the process today by giving responsibility to others in your Life Group. People will see their leadership potential when they have the opportunity to serve without the pressure of the title.

If your group is dwindling and fewer people show up this month than last, it's not too late to make changes and see your group turn around. Begin to pray for each member every day. Spend time with them



Guidelines Document

Life Group Leader Training

*between meetings. Invite them to join you when you serve others or visit their home to pray for them.
Show your members what a leader really does!*

14. Step 2: Preparing To Become A Life Group Leader

The Life Group Leaders Training is a 3 Step training program to educate, train and equip Life Group leaders.

Step 1: General Information and Guidelines

Step 2: Preparing To Become A Life Group Leader

Step 3: Raising Up Disciples, Reproducing Leaders

This is Step 2.

15. The Life Group Leader's Personal Spiritual Life

15.1. Maintain a strong personal walk with God

Matthew 5:19

Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

We have to DO before we can TEACH. We have to LIVE IT before we can TEACH IT.

About the Pharisees, Jesus said:

Matthew 15:14

Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.

You cannot teach something you have not learnt and experienced.

You cannot lead people where you have not gone yourself.

You cannot give something you do not have.

You cannot administer deliverance in areas you are bound yourself.

Keep progressing in your growth into maturity and Christlikeness.

Maintain your spiritual disciplines of worship, prayer, word meditation, word confession, fasting, fellowship.



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15.2. Maintain a life that is constantly consecrated to God

Give no room to the devil in your life. (Ephesians 4:27)

Always be on guard.

1 Peter 5:8

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

15.3. Get rid of demonic strongholds in your life

Be aware of the reality of a spiritual enemy. (Ephesians 6:12)

There can be strongholds in a believer's life – areas in the soul that are occupied and controlled by demonic spirits.

A mind that considers evil good and good as evil, a mind given to worldliness is satan's foothold in a believer's life.

The areas of our thought life which we keep in darkness instead of bringing it into light, those areas that we embrace lies instead of submitting to the truth of God's word – these are the areas that satan has us bound!

Strongholds are thought patterns in our mind where we have become tolerant to sin, where we have compromised and replaced truth with a lie thus giving satan a place of influence and a place of defence within our minds. Through these strongholds sinful activity is actually defended within us because of the thought patterns we have embraced or allowed in our mind.

A Christian cannot be possessed by demons because the Holy Spirit already dwells in our spirit. However, a Christian can be in bondage, can be oppressed, harassed and have areas of his mind or body occupied by demonic spirits – depending on the entrance he has given to them through his consistent thought and behaviour.

Areas of habitual sin, uncontrollable lust and compulsive behaviour are most likely areas that are demonically energized. Sinful habits become the dwelling place of a corresponding demon spirit that has become satan's stronghold in a believer's life and holds that person in bondage.

We are not attempting to condone ourselves and blame the devil for our sinful behaviour. Rather, we must understand the seriousness of an immoral lifestyle.



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Consistent immoral thought and behaviour opens up doors of entrance to the enemy into areas of our mind, affections and body.

Keep all doors shut to the enemy.

Understand that satan uses strongholds to keep believers from being effective in ministry.

An unconquered weakness always births a tragedy (Mike Murdock).

We must be set free from strongholds in our lives in order to serve as effective ministers of Christ.

Guard against the roots of self, jealousy, pride and lust. (Review the teaching series “Laying the Axe to the Root”)

15.4. Receive healing for offenses, hurts and wounds

In life all of us will have opportunities to be hurt by others, be offended by those near to us, wounded by the very ones we confided in!

Luke 17:1

Then said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come!

However, to be effective ministers of Christ we cannot carry offenses, hurts and wounds in our inner being. These will hinder the work that God desires to be released through us.

Act 24:16

And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.

Hebrews 12:14,15

14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

Matthew 5:23,24

23 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee;

24 Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.



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Life Group Leader Training

Mark 11:25,26

25 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

26 But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

We must learn to forgive, forget, release and receive healing to the offenses, hurts and wounds that have been dealt to us.

To hate someone is to give them too much importance. Renounce all feelings of hate, ill-will, resentment. If you allow them to dwell in you they will develop into a root of bitterness which will destroy you and defile others (Hebrews 12:14,15).

Proverbs 18:14

The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity; but a wounded spirit who can bear?

The deepest wounds that a human being usually experiences are those that affect the soul – the inner being.

15.5. Know & maintain your priorities

1. Personal walk with God
2. Family – wife & children
3. Job/Work
4. Ministry

Some things to consider:

- Activity does not equal accomplishment.
- Work smarter, not harder.
- Organize or agonize.
- Evaluate or stagnate.
- Schedule your priorities.
- Reacting is not leading.
- Say no to little things.

How to say “no” gracefully:

- Say “no” to the idea, not to the person.
- Respond in terms of the best interest of the person asking.
- Defer creatively. Come up with an alternative.

(Taken from Book 1: Million Leaders Mandate, by John C. Maxwell)

15.6. Be an example

1 Timothy 4:12

Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.



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The greatest message you will ever preach is the life you live.

A genuine leader is consistent with what he says and what he does.

Your character is the foundation on which your ministry stands.

We always reproduce after our own kind. Brave, bold, godly, passionate and strong leaders will always produce the same kind of leaders.

16. The Heart of a Leader

Being a leader in God's kingdom is not an easy thing! Leadership brings great responsibility.

16.1. A new life of servanthood

Avoid an inferiority or a superiority complex – both are detrimental to being a good leader.

John 13:3-17

3 Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God;

4 He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself.

5 After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.

6 Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet?

7 Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter.

8 Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.

9 Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.

10 Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all.

11 For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean.

12 So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you?

13 Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.

14 If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.

15 For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

16 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.

17 If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.



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(The following is taken from Book 3: Million Leaders Mandate, John Maxwell)

Three temptations to avoid:

- To be self-sufficient (self-reliant)
- To be spectacular (celebrity mentality)
- To be powerful (in charge)

Christ-like servant leaders:

1. are motivated by love to serve others
2. possess a security that allows them to minister to others
 - Security is the prerequisite to great undertakings. Only the secure will stretch.
 - Security is the prerequisite to small undertakings. Only the secure will stoop.
3. initiate servant ministry to others
4. receive servant ministry from others
5. teach servanthood by example
 - People do what people see.

16.2. Keep a constant examination of your heart attitudes

The following is taken from Book 3: Million Leaders Mandate by John Maxwell:

Leadership begins with an attitude.

Biblical principles about attitudes:

- My attitude as I begin a task will affect its outcome more than anything else.
- My attitude toward others determines their attitude towards me.
- My attitude is the major difference between success and failure.
- My attitude can turn my problems into blessings.
- My attitude can give me an uncommon perspective on life.
- My attitude is my best friend or my worst enemy.
- My attitude, not my achievements, will give me happiness.
- My attitude will change, when I choose to change it.
- My attitude needs continual adjustment.
- My attitude is contagious.



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16.3. Be a dreamer

Act 2:17, 18

17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

God does not give dreams and visions to “entertain” us.

A God given dream becomes a God given task to accomplish on earth.

A God given vision births a God given purpose to pursue.

God given dreams and visions are usually several times greater than ourselves because God does not look at our capabilities to accomplish them, but to what He is able to do through yielded vessels.

Ephesians 3:20

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

Receive a vision from God of what He wants for you and your Life Group, what He wants to accomplish in and through you.

To accomplish something you must be filled with a dream that excites you.

16.4. Be totally committed

Ecclesiastes 9:10

Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might;

Mediocre commitment will not produce much.

16.5. Be positive

Be positive – God has never failed!

An optimistic attitude energizes and transforms those around you.

1 Samuel 30:3-8



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3 So David and his men came to the city, and, behold, it was burned with fire; and their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, were taken captives.

4 Then David and the people that were with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep.

5 And David's two wives were taken captives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite.

6 And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.

7 And David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son, I pray thee, bring me hither the ephod. And Abiathar brought thither the ephod to David.

8 And David enquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all.

Always maintain a strong, positive, triumphant spirit that believes and declares what God has said. God has said that He always causes us to triumph (2 Corinthians 2:14)

We overcome evil with good. We overcome fear with faith. We overcome adversity through tenacity. We overcome negativism by being positive.

If you allow things that were designed to harm you become the very things that perfect you into the image of Jesus, satan will remain defeated before you!

17. Developing the Leader in You

17.1. Four important areas to grow in leadership:

1. Competence

- Knowledge – What you have learnt
- Skill – What you can do
- Experience – What you have experienced.
- 2 Timothy 2:2 "What you have heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well."

2. Confidence

- Confidence is very important
- Confidence = not afraid of failure
- With no confidence you can do very little
- Confidence comes from positive experiences
 - i. It is easier to take small steps rather than big steps
 - ii. KISS (Keep it simple to the saints)
- Confidence is built through positive faith in God



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- i. See difficulties as an opportunity to grow
 - Confidence is built by believing in the gifts that have been placed in you
 - i. See what you do have, rather than all that you do not have
 - Confidence is built by encouragement
 - i. Stay around those who encourage you
- 3. Compassion**
- Without compassion, ministry to people becomes a burden
 - Jesus did whatever He did motivated by compassion
- 4. Collaboration**
- Develop the ability to work together with others – those who lead you, those who are your peers and those whom you lead.
 - God’s places people in your life strategically. You must establish a “connection” so that you can give into them and they can give in to you (Luke 6:38).
 - Think about the people God has placed in your life as a potential source of encouragement, support and strength. No one person will be a channel for all your needs, so you must “connect” with many people.
 - Similarly God may have something for you to give to them or to several others. You need to “connect” so that you can give into them.

(The following on the five levels of leadership is taken from Book 3: Million Leaders Mandate, John Maxwell)

17.2. The Five levels of leadership

- Position – People follow you because they have to
- Permission – People follow you because they want to
- Production – People follow you because of what you’ve done for the organization
- People Development – People follow you because of what you’ve done for them
- Personhood – People follow you because of who you are, what you represent.

Moving up the steps of leadership:

- The higher you go, the longer it takes.
- The higher you go, the higher level of commitment.
- The higher you go, the easier it is to lead.
- The higher you go, the greater the growth.
- You never leave the base level, or the levels below where you are.
- As a leader, you won’t be on the level with all your people.
- You must work to carry other leaders with you up the steps.



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18. Developing the Ability to Minister the Word & the Spirit

18.1. Ability to teach the Word

2 Timothy 2:15

15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:24-26

24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,

25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

26 And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

Become a student of the Word.

18.2. Baptism in the Holy Ghost

Know how to teach someone about the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Know how to pray for someone to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

18.3. Ministering healing

Know that it is God's will to heal every sick person.

Know the different way through which God heals.

Know how to teach God's Word to build faith for healing.

Know how to minister healing to the sick.

18.4. Ministering deliverance

Know how the devil operates.

Know your authority in Christ.

Know how to minister deliverance to the oppressed and those possessed.

18.5. Counseling

Know how to counsel people in the word, will and ways of God.

19. Developing Specific Functional Skills

Develop the skills you need to be a successful Life Group leader.



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19.1. Keep learning continuously

Commit to relevant learning and development goals and invest time and effort to achieve them.

Proverbs 1:5

A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:

Five simple steps to establish a cycle of continuous learning:

- Focus on priorities: Identify your critical issues and development objectives
- Implement something every day: stretch your comfort zone.
- Reflect on what happens: Extract maximum learning from your experiences.
- Seek feedback and support: Learn from other's ideas and perspectives.
- Transfer learning into next steps: Adapt and plan for continued learning.

(Taken from: Development First – Strategies for Self-Development. David Peterson, Mary Dee Hicks, Personnel Decisions International, 1995)

Your willingness to be mentored will bring you wisdom and success without the mistakes and pain.

19.2. Some specific skills you will need

- Ability to organize & coordinate the Life Group meetings
- Doing regular follow-up
- Working with your Life Group pastor
- Networking with other Life Group leaders

20. Developing People & Relationship Skills

- People – that's what ministry is about!
- Developing a liking for people.
- Getting rid of the fear of meeting people.
- Proactively meet with new comers.



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-
- If you want friends, make them.
Proverbs 18:24 A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly:
 - Be sensitive to people – their background, culture, upbringing.
Proverbs 16:21 The wise in heart shall be called prudent: and the sweetness of the lips increaseth learning.
 - Being kind, courteous, and wise without becoming compromising.
 - Overcome personality weaknesses

The following are notes from John C. Maxwell, Book 1: Million Leaders Mandate:

- A leader's most important asset is people skills.
- A good leader can lead various groups because leadership is about people.
- You can have people skills and not be a good leader, but you cannot be a good leader without people skills.
- Leadership is relationships.

What every leader should know about people:

- People are insecure. Give them confidence.
- People like to feel special. Honor them.
- People look for a better tomorrow. Give them hope.
- People need to be understood. Listen to them.
- People lack direction. Navigate for them.
- People are needy. Speak to their needs first.
- People get emotionally low. Encourage them.
- People want to succeed. Help them win.
- People desire relationships. Provide community.
- People seek models to follow. Be an example.

21. Developing Counseling Skills

- Develop the art of listening – just listen without “jumping” to conclusions
- Ask the right questions
- Build confidence and hope in the person
- Give room and time for the person to open up
- Speak the Word of God



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Isaiah 50:4,5

4 The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned.

5 The Lord GOD hath opened mine ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back.

- Depend on the Spirit

Isaiah 11:2-4

2 And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;

3 And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:

4 But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.

- Be practical.
- Direct the individual to get professional help (help from a trained and experienced person) if the situation is beyond what you are able to handle.
- When necessary, minister correction but do it in love.
- Guard your time.
- Husband – Wife situations.
- Teen/Young Adult Situations.
- Don't cross your boundaries.
- You are never responsible for the pain of those who have ignored your counsel.
(Mike Murdock)

22. The Life Group Leader's Values & Disciplines: Summary

Values and disciplines of strong Life Group Leaders - Summary:

1. A life free from habitual sin.
2. A fully-developed prayer life (alone, with spouse and family, and with Life Group members).



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3. The earned respect of Life Group members (from lots of servanthood).
4. Faithful involvement in the local church, leadership training, etc.
5. A strong desire to share Christ's love with anyone who will listen.
6. A dogged determination to help fellow Life Group members reach their friends for Christ.

23. Step 3: Raising Up Disciples, Reproducing Leaders

The Life Group Leaders Training is a 3-Step training program to educate, train and equip Life Group leaders.

Step 1: General Information and Guidelines

Step 2: Preparing to Become a Life Group Leader

Step 3: Raising Up Disciples, Reproducing Leaders

Welcome to Step 3: Raising Up Disciples, Reproducing Leaders

24. Church Leadership

Leadership in the Church Is Important

Dr C. Peter Wagner lists one of the most important keys of Church Growth as “a Pastor who is a possibility thinker and whose dynamic leadership has been used to catalyze the entire Church into action for dynamic growth”

The Universal Principle of Church Leadership

- Great Leaders will build great churches
- Average leaders will build average churches
- Anti-leaders will harm and break down churches as well as church leaders and their visions for God

Wise leaders know that they must utilize all available leadership to the maximum and therefore concentrate on equipping and mobilizing them to function as well as possible.

Success in the ministry is based on the ability to raise up successors - therefore success without raising successors is a failure.

Great leaders understand how to get everyone to participate.



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Along with the Pastor - the rest of the leadership must be totally committed to Church growth. A leader's effectiveness is greatly influenced by those closest to him – his leadership team.

When people follow a leader because they want to - he is on his way to great achievement.

One day, we too will pass away. Any investment we wish to make in our succeeding generation, we must deposit in the lives of those who have come after us.

25. Training Life Group Members into Life Group Leaders

25.1. **Step One: Develop Relationships with Members**

You must develop relationships with Life Group members for a number of months, gently pointing them down the path toward greater ministry, before the time is right to ask the question: "Are you ready to enroll in Life Group leader training?"

Look for those who have hearts for God, which is the most important attribute in a good Life Group leader.

Spend time with them doing things they enjoy doing, invite them to your home to help you with projects, or watch a movie or eat dinner. Jesus' disciples were His best friends. You'll learn a great deal about these Life Group members and whether or not they are ready for the next step by simply spending time together.

Relationship is the foundation stone to obtaining the best out of people. You have to win their hearts before you can win their hands.

25.2. **Step Two: Develop Ministers Out of Members**

After you've developed initial friendships with leadership-quality Life Group members, test their willingness to serve. Take them with you as you minister to hurting Life Group members on a home visit. Ask their Life Group leaders to assign parts of upcoming Life Group meetings to them so they begin to feel like they are taking the lead even though they have no titles. Challenge them to think about other Life Group member's needs and respond. Remember, all this is being done while they are members...you are still developing a leadership pool in a covert manner.

Another important issue to consider in potential leaders is the extent of their "outward" attitudes. Do they spend time with lost friends? Have they mentored new Christians? If



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not, these people should still be considered for leadership. But they will need to experience these joys before they can be considered for Life Group leader training. Ignoring this vital area of growth has created many dead Life Groups. Leaders who have no heart for the lost or for mentor-based discipleship have been given groups, which then stagnate. Do not get caught in this trap.

25.3. **Step Three: Make the Challenge**

After you have developed friendships with Life Group members and started them on a leadership mentoring track, it is time to challenge them to commit to Life Group leadership. They are ready to move through the Life Group Leaders Training the church has designed, and it is up to you to help them see God's hand on their lives. You, as the Life Group Leader, have a good relationship with each potential leader, have given them responsibility without a title, and have helped each person gain self-confidence as a minister.

Share what you've seen in him, and publicly encourage him. Share that you've worked alongside her/him and you've grown to respect her/him as a friend and co-laborer in the harvest fields. Ask him to join the Life Group Leaders Training, and inform him that it's the next step.

25.4. **Step Four: Help them to start their Life Group**

Once they have completed the Life Group Leaders Training assist them to get their Life Group started. Work with them through this process until they can run on their own. Relate to them as a leader and co-worker rather than purely as a student/disciple.

A Good Life Group Leader

- Does not do everything himself. Learns to delegate.
- Makes demands of Life Group members – makes them stretch beyond themselves, a little at a time. Let people test their wings. If you only do things you know well and do comfortably, you'll never reach higher goals.
- Demonstrates and demands commitment.
- Does not tolerate complacency – kindles a fire and stirs up people. God does not tolerate lukewarm hearts. Most people wish to learn to swim and still keep one foot on the ground. Give them a push to get both feet off the ground!

People seldom improve when they have no other model but themselves to copy. (Oliver Goldsmith)



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26. The Leader As Coach

(Several ideas/concepts in this section have been adapted from: Leader As Coach, David B. Peterson & Mary Dee Hicks, Personnel Decisions International, 1996)

Why coach people:

- You build a stronger team
- You enable people to rise to new levels and new challenges
- You begin to attract people who desire to be coached

Coaching is the process of equipping people with the tools, knowledge and opportunities they need to develop themselves and become more effective.

Coaches don't develop people – they equip people to develop themselves.

Some things you do when coaching:

- Work one-on-one. Take advantage of coachable moments.
- Guide people to learn for themselves – teach them how to extract the right lessons from their experiences, how to find others who can assist them, how to obtain feedback and information, etc.
- Orchestrate resources and opportunities – not only equip people to learn, but intervene with others on their behalf. Encourage intelligent risk-taking, breakdown barriers that inhibit them from growing, open doors for new experiences, etc.

Coaching Strategies:

1. Forge a partnership – build trust and understanding so that people will want to work with you. Evidence of trust begets trust.
2. Inspire commitment – build insight and motivation so people focus their energy on goals that matter.
3. Grow skills – build new competencies to ensure people know how to do what is required.
4. Promote persistence – build stamina and discipline. “Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not,...genius will not...education will not....Persistene and determination alone are omnipotent” (Calvin Coolidge).
5. Shape the environment – build support, remove barriers, open doors, etc.

Don't force, control or manipulate people. Nobody can force anybody be someone they don't want to be.



If you want to be a coach, be coachable.

27. Mentoring another Christian

27.1. God’s dealings with us

2 Corinthians 6:18

“I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.”

- Developing People is Spiritual Fathering/Mothering.
- Developing People cannot just be a program although we use programs.
- Caring and Love is the Key.
- Each individual is unique.
- We cannot love only on the group scale.

Whatever you do, you need a blueprint – you need to see the end picture before you are ready to begin!

The first thing you need in Developing a Person is to have a “Blueprint.”

(The following is extracted from the teaching series on Our Church, A Family)

27.2. Spiritual Fathering

We are using the term “fathering” in a gender independent way, i.e. is also includes “mothering”.

1 John 2:12,13

The goal in our Christian growth is to go from being little children to becoming Fathers/Mothers.

1 Corinthians 4:14,15

The difference between spiritual teachers and spiritual fathers.

Spiritual Teacher/Instructor	Spiritual Father
Teach truths	Care for & help the individual
Formal interaction	Informal Interaction



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Has curriculum, specific topics	All Aspects of Life
Learn from his Teaching	Learn from his Life Example, life to life, spirit to spirit.
Time for Teaching	Teaching from Everyday Life

In life, more things are “Caught” than “Taught”.

A) All Fatherhood flows from God

Ephesians 3:14,15

For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

God is the ultimate Father. All fatherhood flows from Him. As His children we flow in that same nature that moves us to be a “father”/ “mother” to others.

Malachi 4:5-6

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

It is interesting to note that when the heart of the fathers is not toward the children, and when the heart of the children is not toward their fathers – it opens the door to a curse.

Spiritual fathering is an extension of the Fatherhood of God.

B) Paul had spiritual sons/daughters

2 Timothy 1:2 To Timothy, my dearly beloved son:

Titus 1:4 To Titus, mine own son after the common faith:

1 Corinthians 4:14-16

17 I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn you.

15 For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

16 Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.

Galatians 4:19 My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,

1 Thessalonians 2:11

11 As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children,



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Peter & John Mark

Peter considered John Mark to be his spiritual son 1 Peter 5:13

C) Who is a spiritual father/mother?

Sometimes we mistakenly think that the one who led us to faith in Christ is the one who is our spiritual father/mother. This may not always be true.

Anyone can procreate, but not everyone parents.

The one who parents – who nurtures and brings up the children into maturity – this person, is the real father/mother, in practical terms.

A father figure in a certain denomination/movement/organization/church may not necessarily be your spiritual father.

A person whose teachings you have imbibed through books/tapes/etc. may not necessarily be your spiritual father.

A true spiritual father/mother is one who has raises up another person from immaturity to maturity.

D) Characteristics of a spiritual father/mother

Judges 5:7-9

7 The inhabitants of the villages ceased, they ceased in Israel, until that I Deborah arose, that I arose a mother in Israel.

8 They chose new gods; then was war in the gates: was there a shield or spear seen among forty thousand in Israel?

9 My heart is toward the governors of Israel, that offered themselves willingly among the people. Bless ye the LORD.

A true spiritual father/mother is:

1. One who is involved in the life of their spiritual son/daughter
2. One who is able to correct, rebuke, discipline, guide their spiritual son/daughter. They are able to pass the surface and instruct the inner man, bringing adjustment and alignment.
3. One who goes beyond a casual relationship to a more meaningful relationship where they hold the spiritual son/daughter accountable for growth, conduct, ministry, etc. They are able to exercise a positive control (influence).
4. One who deals with your character more than your gifting. Has a true and sincere heart in building you as a person, not in just using your gift. A gift is given from



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heaven, but character is built on earth. A gift is given freely but fruit is borne through diligence.

5. One who does not mind that a spiritual son/daughter exceeds and goes beyond them. A true spiritual father/mother will NOT be like Saul who became jealous of David's accomplishments.
6. One who rescues you from the place of abandonment and gives you a spiritual home, giving you an identity, name and sonship in the house.
7. One that sees and understands your future and trains you for it and releases you into it at the right time.

There are no perfect fathers/mothers!!

Spiritual fathers/mothers can make mistakes, but a genuine father/mother will acknowledge that they made a mistake and correct their wrong.

Don't be afraid to make mistakes...but please don't make the same mistake twice!

Mistakes are like knives, they either cut us or serve us depending on whether you hold them by the blade or the handle.

27.3. Lessons from the Paul-Timothy relationship

2 Timothy 1:2

To Timothy, my dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

1. The divine connection

Act 16:1-3

- 1 Then came he to Derbe and Lystra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timotheus, the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father was a Greek:
- 2 Which was well reported of by the brethren that were at Lystra and Iconium.
- 3 Him would Paul have to go forth with him; and took and circumcised him because of the Jews which were in those quarters: for they knew all that his father was a Greek.

Be sensitive to the "divine connections" God sets up in your life. God may send "Timothys" into your life or send you as a "Paul" into other peoples lives.

2. A special bond



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1 Timothy 1:2 Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

2 Timothy 1:2 To Timothy, my dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

2 Timothy 2:1 Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 4:17 For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.

There was a special bond – a special relationship between Paul and Timothy. Paul considered Timothy as his spiritual son and Timothy looked up to Paul as his spiritual father.

3. A special closeness and transparency

2 Timothy 3:10,11

10 But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience,

11 Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me.

There was a closeness and transparency on the part of the apostle Paul which allowed Timothy to see and know Paul for who he really was. Timothy responded by following or patterning himself after what he saw in Paul.

4. Communication of specific instructions

1 Timothy 1:18 This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;

1 Timothy 6:20 O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called:

Paul instructed Timothy, teaching him what to do, what not to do, what pitfalls to avoid, etc. (see 1 & 2 Timothy)

5. Communication of encouragement, exhortation and correction

Paul gave Timothy positive encouragement.

1 Timothy 6:12



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One of the toughest things in ministry is to administer correction. But you have to learn to do it in a loving, positive, uplifting way. If you don't correct your "Timothy", then the very thing that you allow, will become a "cancer" that will eat into their life and destroy them. Correction is life doing "spiritual surgery" – it hurts, but it has a positive result.

6. Communication of genuine costs

There was communication of genuine costs, the price that must be paid to serve God. Paul didn't "smooth talk" Timothy. He laid things out as they were. He invited Timothy to share in his sufferings. 2 Timothy 1:8 2 Timothy 2:3-5

7. Communication with regard

1 Timothy 6:11 But thou, O man of God,...

2 Corinthians 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, unto the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints which are in all Achaia:

Philemon 1:1 Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ, and Timothy our brother, unto Philemon our dearly beloved, and fellowlabourer,

Paul communicated with a high sense of regard for Timothy. He called Timothy "a man of God" (1 Timothy 6:11). He recognized Timothy's true worth, his calling, giftings and anointing.

8. Delegation and deputization

There was the element of deputization or delegation of authority and responsibility. Paul left Timothy to take care of the church at Ephesus (1 Timothy 1:3). Through practical training, Timothy was groomed into a man of God. Paul had enough trust and confidence in Timothy to give him specific responsibilities (1 Corinthians 4:17)

9. Positive recommendation

1 Corinthians 16:10 Now if Timotheus come, see that he may be with you without fear: for he worketh the work of the Lord, as I also do.

Philippians 2:19-23

19 But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state.

20 For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state.

21 For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.

22 But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel.

23 Him therefore I hope to send presently, so soon as I shall see how it will go with me.

After having proved Timothy, Paul recommended him enthusiastically and positively.



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10. Becomes a co-worker

Romans 16:21 Timotheus my workfellow,...

1 Thessalonians 3:1,2

1 Wherefore when we could no longer forbear, we thought it good to be left at Athens alone;
2 And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith:

After traveling and ministering together (Acts 17:14,15; 18:5; 20:1-4 | Philippians 2:22) Timothy eventually becomes a “co-worker”, a co-equal in the ministry.

Problems arise when the son fails to grow up or when the father desires the son to always remain a son, instead of becoming a joint-heir.

Our desire is to see everyone mature into a place where each one can become a spiritual father/mother to others who are born or brought into the house.

28. Conclusion

Have a vision for your Life Group.
Develop a strategy.
And go do it!

Our goal is not just knowledge, but ACTION!

29. References

There is an almost unlimited stream of resources on Life Group churches, Life Groups, etc.

Here is a brief listing of books, specifically on the G-12 model:

- The Cell Driven Church, by Billy Hornsby.
- The Jesus System: Groups of Twelve, by Rocky Malloy
- Successful Leadership through the Government of 12, by César Castellanos
- The Ladder of Success, by César Castellanos
- Groups of Twelve, by Joel Comiskey
- Reap the Harvest, by Joel Comiskey
- The Apostolic Cell Church, by Lawrence Khong



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Related Websites

Cell Church International Online: www.cellchurchonline.com

Cell Resources: www.touchusa.org