

Life Groups #3:

Life Group Components

COMPONENTS OF A SUCCESSFUL LIFE GROUP

WARM-UP

1. Beginning a life group with warm-up questions helps break the ice and generate conversation.
 - Warm-up questions help people get to know one another better.
 - Warm-up questions help people feel comfortable and enable them to let their guard down.
 - Warm-up questions are usually surface questions that provide an environment for people, saved and unsaved, to feel comfortable.
 - Warm-up questions that tie into the Word that will be discussed are great, but not necessary.
 - Warm-up questions are *not* a place for hard Bible questions.
 - Warm-up questions are *not* a place for controversial “right” or “wrong” answers.
2. Warm-up questions help the leader discern where people are at spiritually, relationally, and emotionally.
3. Referring back to a person’s response in later discussion helps them feel validated and know that what they say is important.
4. Allow approximately 10 - 15 minutes for warm-up questions.

WORD

2 Timothy 3:16,17

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

1. The purpose of the Word portion of a life group is to connect with God through His Word.

- Spending time learning and discussing the Word helps reinforce the fact that God has an answer for everything we go through in this life.
 - The Word reveals the true condition and motive of our hearts. (Hebrews 4:12-13)
 - The Word teaches us who we are in Christ. (I Peter 2:9; II Corinthians 5:17; Romans 8:16)
 - Hearing the Word builds our faith, which enables us to live lives that please God. (Romans 10:17; Hebrews 11:6)
 - The Word illuminates the path and plans that God has for us. (Psalm 119:105)
2. There are several different ways you can execute the Word portion of your life group.
- Purple Book or One to One Book.
 - Chapter or book of the Bible.
 - Word study.
 - Character study.
 - Topical study.
 - You can use a Bible-based book that covers a particular topic or study a particular topic directly in the Scriptures.
 - Discuss the previous week's sermon.
 - Sermon notes are posted every Sunday evening on the Bethel website.
3. Allow approximately 10 - 15 minutes for discussion of the Word.

APPLICATION

James 1:22-25

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

1. The purpose of the application portion of a life group is to make sure that we not only hear the Word of God, but that we also do the Word of God.
2. When we believe and apply the Word of God to our lives, we will walk in peace. (Philippians 4:9)
3. Think through beforehand practical application questions to ask.
 - **Example:** *“What is one thing you learned today or were reminded of today that you will try to apply to your life?”*
4. Applying the Word together causes your life group to become a place of accountability.
5. Testimonies of God’s power and goodness will result from applying the Word and holding each other accountable.
6. Allow approximately 10 - 15 minutes for practical application of the Word.

PRAYER

Matthew 18:19-20

“Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”

1. The purpose of praying together is to connect with God, and acknowledge that without Him we can do nothing. (John 15:5)
2. Praying together allows us to share each others’ sufferings and support one another through them. (Galatians 6:2)
3. As a life group leader, your goal is to create an environment where people can feel safe and secure.
 - A safe environment allows people to open up about their real-life struggles.
 - A safe environment allows people to receive encouragement and life.
 - A safe environment allows people to receive from the Holy Spirit.

4. Leaving time for prayer is important because it allows the Holy Spirit to move and the gifts of the Holy Spirit to operate.
 - As a life group leader, it is important to remember that the Holy Spirit is the One who heals and transforms, not you.
5. As prayers are answered unbelievers who attend your life group will see God's love, power, and faithfulness.
6. As you continue to meet, prayer can also become a point of accountability.
7. Allow approximately 10 - 15 minutes for prayer at the end of your life group.
8. **IMPORTANT**: If anyone is struggling with suicidal thoughts, abuse, etc., these are not to be kept confidential but shared with pastoral staff to take appropriate steps for help.

LEADING A LIFE GROUP: HOW TO GET STARTED

1. Pray - Write down the names of people you want to reach out to.
2. Set a time - Find 3-4 times which are good for you and see what will work for everyone.
3. Invite - Go out to coffee, dinner, etc. to connect relationally with those you want to invite to your life group.
4. Remind them and follow up.
 - Don't be discouraged if you start out small. As the leader, the new meeting is at the forefront of your mind, but new habits can take a while to form for those you invite.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is it so important that a life group spend time in both the Word of God and fellowshiping with one another?
2. Discuss a time when you knew what the Word said but did not apply it to your circumstance. What was the result? How was that result different from when you did apply the Word to that same or similar circumstance?
3. Give an example of a time when you received prayer from others for something and later saw your prayer answered. How did that affect your relationship with God and with those who prayed for you?