

Life Groups Leadership Training

01 The Basics

Welcome to Life Group Leadership Training. You know that word leader is kind of a loaded term and what I want you to know we're not talking about you knowing everything or telling everybody what to do. Leadership in it's essence, his influence, and as a Life Group leader the real goal is to facilitate. You want to facilitate God's work in this group of people.

And so this series of videos are actually designed for three different groups, first is you're new, you've never lead a small group and you're thinking, How do you do this? Well, we're going to help you learn.

Second, you might have done it but think gosh, you know, I've never had any training and I'd like to do it a lot better.

And then the third group is maybe you're a veteran and you've led a lot of small groups and there's an apprentice in your group or you're coaching some other people, and you would really like a tool that you could give to them.

And so that's the goal of this video series. It's going to be brief, it's going to be clear, it's going to be very, very practical.

You know, as I think about leading a small group, I think of my very first small group leader. Lee McKinzie was a college student home for the summer. He didn't have any theological training, but boy did he love God and want to inspire a group of high school student to fall more in love with God. I will never forget him teaching me how to pray, how to sing praises to God in a group worship and develop a daily walk with God. He took a genuine interest in my spiritual wellbeing.

And the point I want you to get is, you don't have to know everything. You don't have to be, you know, a spiritual giant. Lee was a man who modeled the Christian life and who cared about me. He had a good set of tools that we went through and in my journey with Jesus I can look back to acknowledge what a difference he made in my life.

He knew some basic principles that make a Life Group great.

Number one, Know God

Lee knew that God had to work in him first, before he's going to work in the group. And that's what I would say to you.

You know, so often we think it's about what am I going to say and what questions do I ask and what if they ask me a question and I don't know the answer.

You know it's interesting when Jesus was recruiting his team. Do you remember his invitation. Follow me. Follow me. And I will make you a fisher of men.

So first and foremost, I want you to know that it's your own walk with God. It's you, learning and loving him perfectly to actually follow him.

So that's the number one principle.

The Second Principle is: Know Why Groups Matter?

Do you have a clear picture of what the goal of a Life Group is? Is it that everyone gets every answer, right? Is it that they come to all the things all the time? Or is it that they think you're wonderful?

No, the goal is you **facilitating God's work in their life**. It's helping them to become a fully, devoted follower of Jesus. You want to simply be a catalyst to help others follow Jesus with a passion and come to understand that their life was intended to fit into His divine purpose.

God designed us to grow spiritually by connecting relationally.

And so what you want to say is, ***Lord, how can you use me, where I am at, with what I know, to help other people in community, in this environment of love and kindness and accountability, to really connect and help each other grow Christ-like.*** That is your goal.

This is an environment that can be summed up in this statement, "**we follow Jesus together**". Remember God's goal is to help each and every person in the group, including you as a facilitator, to become more and more like Jesus.

And that happens when you come before God daily and when you live in community. And when you are living on God's mission twenty four hours a day, seven days a week, you will experience life change and gain insight to see how the work of God is shaping others to live out His mission.

It's about coming before God, and saying this prayer. **Lord, I love you! Teach me and help me. I want to follow you and I want to help others in the group pursue authentic community and grow Christ-like. Lord, I need you!**

Life Groups are about face to face, heart to heart living. Where you care about one another, build relationship, and move out of group time to bless others. Group life is not supposed to be, just about us four and no more. The goal of this group is that you move forward, more alert and ready to step out into opportunities God will bring your way.

So, those are the basics, you facilitate, you model what you know, and you gather a group of people. You simply invite them by saying, Come check out our Life Group. We are going to learn together, to come before God corporately and individually and we're going to do life in community.

And you know, as we grow, we're going to be on mission. On mission in our homes, on mission at work, and maybe even on mission together.

So those are the first and early steps to becoming an effective Life Group leader. Know God and Know Why Groups Matter. Relationships Facilitate God's Work so that you and others experience life change and are equipped to be a life-giver like Jesus.

Can't wait to see you next time when we'll talk about how do you actually launch a group? How do you recruit people? How do you know what resources you ought to use? That's in our next time together.