



DO LIFE TOGETHER

Leader Training Guide



LIFE GROUPS MISSION:



They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers. Acts 2:42 (MSG)

A Life Group looks like **2-12 people** that **meet weekly**, **party monthly**, and **serve quarterly**, for the **purpose of doing life together**.

Meet Weekly - Consistency builds community. The goal is to become part of the weekly rhythm of people's lives.

Party Monthly - Once a month, host a hangout. A casual and fun time to invite new people to experience life changing community.

Serve Quarterly - Throughout the year Cornerstone hosts events focused on serving our local communities and we want your group to join us in these efforts.

Connection • Community • Growth



FREEDOM WITH BOUNDARIES

1. Start a group that emphasizes your interests, hobby, or passion.
2. Invite other like-minded people to join you.
3. Pick discussion material or activities that you're excited about.

- RightNow Media 
 - Subscription cost covered by the church.
 - Free access for Cornerstone Members.
 - rightnowmedia.org/account/invite/go2cornerstone
- Weekly sermon discussion guide
- Discuss other options with Life Group Coordinator

HOW TO

FIND PEOPLE TO JOIN YOUR LIFE GROUP

There is nothing more powerful than a personal invitation. Who do you know? Consider inviting your friends, co-workers, neighbors, and people you've met from Cornerstone.

WHERE AND WHEN TO MEET

Start a group in your home or on campus. Contact for a spot on campus, groups@go2cornerstone.com. Subject to availability.

Complimentary childcare will be offered on Tuesday nights at Cornerstone for fall and spring session. Some in home groups have shared the cost of a babysitter to watch kids while the parents meet in another part of the home.

Scheduling breaks throughout the year is important for your group. Be sensitive to the busier seasons of life. During these times, consider planning a hangout; like a beach day, ball game, or potluck. Serving opportunities are also a great option to build community and stay connected. Options can be found on the community missions website, or discussed with your Life Group Coordinator.

INVITE PARTICIPANTS TO CO-LEAD

Ideally, you'll have separate people for roles of:

- Facilitator: paces pulls members into discussion
- Host: open their home, setup space
- Coordinator: POC for group chats and snack schedule (if any)
- Event Planner: Organize the parties and serving

YOUR SUPPORT & RESOURCES

LIFE GROUP LEADERS... facilitate discussion, keep track of who the participants are, and connect with their coordinator monthly to share the wins, challenges, and changes to their group. Shepherd and seek coordinator or pastoral guidance when necessary.

LIFE GROUP COORDINATORS... work with our Life Groups Director and Life Groups Pastor to help *fulfill the vision of connecting all Cornerstone attendees into a Life Group*. Coordinators work directly with Life Group Leaders to encourage and equip them in their ministry.



WEBSITE

Potential participants can see Life Group options and contact us to join a group.

Life Group Leaders will have access to the following resources and training:



RightNow Media
curriculum &
discussion options



Community
Missions
options



Life Group
Calendar

TIPS AND TOOLS



CONFIDENTIALITY - What is said in the group, stays in the group. The only exception is if someone is being harmed or harming others. Then, leaders should let the Life Groups Pastor know what's happening.

CONFLICT - Matthew 18 is a great resource for handling conflict. If they can't work it out one-on-one, then a leader should be brought in to mediate.

THEOLOGY - Life Groups should be safe places for people to share doubts, questions, and struggles. It is normal for people to hold different theological viewpoints and perspectives. Be careful not to shut down discussion, or to draw hard lines. Instead, focus on the main thing: Jesus. There is freedom for different opinions on the peripheral issues.

RAISING UP LEADERS

Why should we raise up leaders? They will be more invested and committed to the group, and you won't have to do everything on your own.

INVITING PEOPLE TO FILL ROLES

Co-leaders should be given more and more opportunities to lead so that when the leader is absent they can step in and lead in their place. Eventually co-leaders may be asked to start a group of their own.

FACILITATE NOT DOMINATE - Life

Group Leaders should be facilitating great discussion. Great discussion leads to increased community, connection, and spiritual growth.

Proverbs 20:25 Though good advice lies deep within the heart, a person with understanding will draw it out.

OVER-TALKERS - When you have someone in the group that seems to monopolize the conversation, rambles on, or shares inappropriately, acknowledging them and then redirecting the conversation is a helpful tool. For example: "Tom, that's an interesting perspective. Sarah, what are your thoughts?"

SILENCE - It's important to know that silence is a normal and appropriate part of a group discussion. Try not to rush into answering the question you just asked. Silence usually means that the group is thinking about how to answer. You'll also want to be sensitive to those that are hesitant to share. Remember that this can be an intimidating experience for some.

DIFFICULT PERSONALITIES - Do your best to extend grace, and ask your coordinator for help when you're not sure what to do.

"PEOPLE DO NOT CARE HOW MUCH YOU KNOW, UNTIL THEY KNOW HOW MUCH YOU CARE!"



