



LIFE GROUPS

SHARE · STUDY · SUPPORT · SERVE

Hello Leaders and Hosts!

Welcome to a new quarter of Life Groups! We are so grateful for your leadership and willingness to serve your group. In this packet, you will find helpful information to prepare you for this quarter of Life Group meetings!

- **First Night Agenda** to help you have a great first meeting
- **Life Group Commitment** to help set the expectations for your group (*leader & member copy included*)
- **Counseling Card** with information about our counseling services at North Coast Church
- **4 Q's** (*four questions*) to ask when someone is struggling with something in your group
- **Local Impact** to help you find the right project for your Life Group

Any additional resources you may need can be found on our **Life Group Leader Tools** page at lifegroups.northcoastchurch.com/leader-tools.

Thanks so much for all you do! We are praying for a blessed quarter for your group.

The Life Group Team
North Coast Church



lifegroups.northcoastchurch.com



LIFE GROUPS

FIRST NIGHT AGENDA

FIRST NIGHT PREPARATION

Leaders/Hosts – Check your rosters online and **CONTACT ALL MEMBERS** one week before the first meeting and welcome them to the group. Provide the location and time of your group, as well as any entrees to bring for dinner/dessert.

GOALS FOR THE FIRST MEETING

- Rekindle relationships and meet new members
- Clarify your group's direction / expectations / commitments
- Briefly discuss the sermon topic (if there is time)
- Pray for the building of relationships and spiritual growth of the group

ITEMS NEEDED

- Dinner / dessert plans decided
- Beverages set up
- Life Group Commitment
- Nametags (*especially if you have new members*)

THREE ESSENTIAL PARTS OF YOUR EVENING

#1 WELCOME, MINGLE AND TALK WHILE YOU EAT

- ☐ Leader/Host greet members upon arrival with music.
- ☐ The first seven seconds after arrival are critical for new members. Make a great first impression!

#2 FIRST GROUP DISCUSSION

- ☐ Sharing Activity: "Getting to know you" questions and/or Getting to know you game like 2 Lies and a Truth.
- ☐ Worship (optional): This is a great way to connect spiritually with your group.
- ☐ **REVIEWING THE COMMITMENT IS CRUCIAL:** Digging Deeper #1 and Taking it Home in the homework set up your time to go over the Commitment.
- ☐ Closing Prayer: Dedicate the quarter to God.

#3 KEEP IN MIND, YOUR DESSERT CONVERSATIONS ARE JUST AS IMPORTANT AS YOUR MEETING DISCUSSIONS.

LEADERSHIP TIPS

- ⇒ **1:** Never underestimate the significance of the time after the meeting.
- ⇒ **2:** Use the Commitment to set the standards for your Life Group.
- ⇒ **3:** Visit the Leader Tools for additional tips at lifegroups.northcoastchurch.com/leader-tools/



LIFE GROUPS

COMMITMENT

Small groups thrive on participation! The purpose of this commitment is to help you to discuss and clarify your group's goals, expectations and commitments.

LIFE GROUPS: THEIR PURPOSE

Life Groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth through meaningful Christian relationships and the study of God's Word (Romans 8:29 & Hebrews 10:24-25). We'll do this by focusing on four primary activities:

SHARE

Each week we'll take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first this sharing will include planned "sharing questions," but after the first few weeks, it will become more informal and personal as we feel more comfortable.

STUDY

Each week we'll study a section from God's Word that relates to the previous weekend's sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life.

SUPPORT

Each week we'll learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (John 15:9-13). This care can take many forms, such as prayer, encouragement, listening, challenging one another and meeting real needs.

SERVE

Spiritual growth is fostered not only by what we gain through the support and input of others, but also through service to others. The role each of us fills is important to the health of the church and for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to our community (Ephesians 4:11-16). Throughout the quarter, it is our hope you can find and/or be affirmed in the ways God has designed you to serve and make a difference in God's Kingdom.

FIVE MARKS OF A HEALTHY GROUP

For our group to be healthy, we need to...

1. Make spiritual growth our number one priority (Romans 8:29).
2. Accept one another (Romans 15:7).
3. Take care of one another (John 13:34).
4. Treat each other with respect (Ephesians 4:25-5:2).
5. Keep our commitments to the group (Psalm 15:1-2, 4b).

GUIDELINES & COMMITMENT

Your Life Group leader/host should have gone over the fill ins below with you on your first meeting. If they have not please reach here

1. Dates We'll meet on _____ nights for _____ weeks. Our final meeting of this quarter will be on _____.
2. Time We'll arrive between _____ & _____ and begin the meeting at _____. We'll spend approximately _____ minutes in singing (optional), _____ minutes in study/discussion and _____ minutes in prayer/sharing.
3. Children Group members are responsible to arrange childcare for their children. Nursing newborns are welcome provided they are not a distraction to the group!
4. Study Our studies will focus on the same topic covered in the previous weekend's sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to hear from everyone every night and keep God's Word at the center.
5. Prayer Praying for one another.
6. Discussion Guide & Attendance Joining a Life Group requires a commitment to attend each week and complete the discussion guide ahead of time. Obviously, allowances are made for sickness, work conflicts and other special events—but not much more!

If we cannot come to a meeting, we will call or text _____.
7. Dessert
8. Social & Impact Projects

Member Name: _____

Member Signature: _____

Date: _____



LIFE GROUPS

LEADER'S GUIDE COMMITMENT

- Download this and other Commitments: lifegroups.northcoastchurch.com/life-group-covenants
- When discussing, use the proactive leadership style – clear direction, yet flexible

Small groups thrive on participation! The purpose of this commitment is to help you to discuss and clarify your group's goals, expectations and commitments.

LIFE GROUPS: THEIR PURPOSE

Life Groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth through meaningful Christian relationships and the study of God's Word (Romans 8:29 & Hebrews 10:24-25). We'll do this by focusing on four primary activities:

SHARE

Each week we'll take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first this sharing will include planned "sharing questions," but after the first few weeks, it will become more informal and personal as we feel more comfortable.

STUDY

Each week we'll study a section from God's Word that relates to the previous weekend's sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life.

Our goal is to interact interpersonally on the topic and how we can practically follow Christ, not to answer all the questions.

SUPPORT

Each week we'll learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (John 15:9-13). This care can take many forms, such as prayer, encouragement, listening, challenging one another and meeting real needs.

SERVE

Spiritual growth is fostered not only by what we gain through the support and input of others, but also through service to others. The role each of us fills is important to the health of the church and for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to our community (Ephesians 4:11-16). Throughout the quarter, it is our hope you can find and/or be affirmed in the ways God has designed you to serve and make a difference in God's Kingdom.

FIVE MARKS OF A HEALTHY GROUP

For our group to be healthy, we need to...

1. Make spiritual growth our number one priority (Romans 8:29).
⇒ *Tangents – they are okay sometimes, but sometimes we need to be refocused. We'll need to keep spiritual growth our focus and stay on topic.*
2. Accept one another (Romans 15:7).
⇒ *We will have different preferences.*
3. Take care of one another (John 13:34).
⇒ *When crisis happens we're there to help with support, prayer, encouragement, listening, meals etc.*

4. Treat each other with respect (Ephesians 4:25-5:2).

- ⇒ *Listening to one another, if one's talking let's all listen, nothing worse than two conversations going on at once.*
- ⇒ *Our goal is to listen, not give advice. (Advice is given when asked for) We are not here to judge or fix – unless someone asks. An example of giving advice is by saying, "Well this is what I think you should do." On the other hand, that doesn't mean we can't question what is said or what someone is doing.*
- ⇒ *Some of us have the gift of gab, also known as a dominator – be careful, I as a leader might have to help you.*
- ⇒ *Be careful of gossip prayers. For example, "we need to pray for (person's name) because they are doing this ..."*
- ⇒ *No put-downs.*
- ⇒ *What is said here, stays here – of course we never promise confidentiality if something shared would be harmful to yourself or someone else and/or if I, as the leader, need to seek counsel on how to respond to an issue in the group.*

5. Keep our commitments to the group (Psalm 15:1-2, 4b).

- ⇒ *Please give us a call if you can't make it to Life Group so we know what's going on and how to pray for you.*

GUIDELINES & COMMITMENT

1. Dates We'll meet on _____ nights for _____ weeks. Our final meeting of this quarter will be on _____. *Fill in blanks*
2. Time We'll arrive between _____ & _____ and begin the meeting at _____. We'll spend approximately _____ minutes in singing (optional), _____ minutes in study/discussion and _____ minutes in prayer/sharing. *Fill in blanks*
3. Children Group members are responsible to arrange childcare for their children. Nursing newborns are welcome provided they are not a distraction to the group!
4. Study Our studies will focus on the same topic covered in the previous weekend's sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to hear from everyone every night and keep God's Word at the center. *Not to answer every question.*
5. Prayer Praying for one another. *You'll go over tips on topical prayer the second week of group. Remember - being forced to pray in group or just the idea of it can cause people to not want to come to your group. If you have new people in your group, you might want to say something like this: "It's exciting to see how God works in our lives through prayer. We also realize prayer in groups is something many have never done. Know that you will never be forced to pray." Let them know you'll talk more in the weeks to come on how we do group prayer and that we break a lot of the stereotypes of what it means to pray.*
6. Discussion Guide & Attendance Joining a Life Group requires a commitment to attend each week and complete the discussion guide ahead of time. Obviously, allowances are made for sickness, work conflicts and other special events—but not much more!
This commitment is the key to a healthy group.
If we cannot come to a meeting, we will call or text _____.
⇒ Emphasize the importance of the commitment to attendance and preparation. (A good group starts with good preparation)
⇒ Make sure that everyone is with you. (Do we agree? Is this what we want? Make eye contact, etc.)
⇒ Most weeks require 20-30 minutes to complete the discussion guide to prepare for the group study and discussion.
7. Dessert *Have everyone sign up for a night to do dessert.*
8. Social & Impact Projects *Emphasize the importance of a quarterly social and impact project. As a leader and host, have 2 or 3 suggestions ready and 2 or 3 potential dates. Choose a date or ask the group to bring their calendars next week. New groups are preferred to have their social by mid-quarter.*

We agree to honor this commitment throughout the quarter.

(To be decided by each person on or before the third week.)



LIFE GROUPS

The Four Q's

Four key questions to ask when someone comes to you with any issue they're experiencing. Getting the facts and context usually makes the next steps relatively straightforward on how to support them or the kind of help they need.

1. How long have you been dealing with this?

When did this first occur?

2. Who else knows?

Have you talked to anyone else about this?
If so, who? When was the last time you
talked to someone about it?

3. Have you received any advice or counsel on how to deal with this?

What have those you've talked to said about
it? Have you sought any other help or
resources regarding this issue?

4. Do you have any plans for your next steps?

What do you think might be your next
step? Would you like me to check on some
other resources? (Don't make the calls but
give them referrals, etc.)

NORTH COAST CHURCH

Counseling Center

**WHETHER YOU NEED A QUICK TUNE-UP
OR MORE IN-DEPTH WORK, WE ARE
HERE TO HELP.**

- Depression & Anxiety
- Addictive Behaviors
- Grief & Loss
- Conflict Resolution
- Trauma
- Pre-marital & Marriage Counseling
- Parenting Skills
- Anger Management

**WE OFFER PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING
AT REDUCED RATES FOR:**

- Individuals
- Couples
- Children and Adolescents
- Families



*For more information, including our counselor bios,
visit northcoastchurch.com/counseling*



*To schedule an appointment with one of our counselors,
call Member Care at (760) 724-6700 x239*

