

# Learning to Lead

## Session One

### Welcome

✓ Check each item below after you have discussed it with your Leader.

#### Preparation before you meet with your Leader:

- 1. Read **The Purpose of the Church, Purpose of Our Life Group** and **Goals of Our Life Group**. Be prepared to share how you believe this ministry will change lives and equip us to reach out to others in our community.
- 2. Go over the **Group Format** and **Job Descriptions**. Identify your areas of responsibility and explain them to your Leader.
- 3. What are the **Five Main Objectives** of our group? Why is **Welcome** (Greeting, Sharing, and Refreshments) a very important part of our group time?
- 4. Read **How to Ask Good Sharing Questions** and the list of Sharing Questions. Be prepared to give from memory the **three options for sharing time**. Choose one question for each week this month.

#### To complete with your Leader:

- 5. Get to know each other. Share personal concerns.
- 6. Discuss and check (✓) off 1 through 4 above.

#### Planning to share with our group this month:

- 7. Briefly share with our group the Purpose of Our Church, Purpose of Our Life Group and the Goals of Our Life Group. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Who \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. Explain the Group Format, and who will be responsible for each part.  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ Who \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. Decide who will lead the Sharing Question time each week.  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Prayer and Closing:**

- 10. Pray for each other and our group members.
- 11. Go over Preparation assignment for Session Two.
- 12. Set a Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_ for our next Learning to Lead session.
- 13. Set a Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_ for our next Dynamic Sharing training.

# The Purpose of Our Church

The Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) is the ultimate purpose for our church. We are to make disciples who make disciples until the whole world has had an opportunity to hear and respond to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. **Simply put, a disciple is one who lives like Jesus and is enjoying his/her walk with God so much that they cannot stop talking to others about their new life in Jesus Christ.**

The Life Group Ministry is designed to develop each person in our church to be that kind of disciple. In this training you have the opportunity to be a disciple and Learn to Lead others in our group to be disciples.

## Purpose of Our Life Group

To be a loving caring family that is growing in Christ and sharing God's love with others.

### Goals of Our Life Group

- that each person feels loved and accepted
- to meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of each person
- that each person develop 6-8 meaningful relationships with others in the group within 6 months
- to encourage involvement in other ministries e.g.: social events, worship, Sunday School
- to help each person discover their Spiritual Gifts and use them to serve others
- that each one be baptised and become an active member of our church
- to train each person in Dynamic Basics, Dynamic Discipling, and Dynamic Sharing
- to add one new family to the church every 6 months
- to develop an Apprentice Leader and establish a new Life Group every six months
- to establish enough Life Groups to reach our community for Christ

### Group Format

This may vary from week to week but should include the following:

#### **Welcome (15-20 min.)**

- Opening prayer
- Sharing, praise and reporting

#### **Worship (15-20 min.)**

- Sing or read a Psalm

#### **Win (20-30 min.)**

- Report on progress on your Sphere of Influence
- Plan outreach strategy and events
- Check progress on those who are in One-to-One training

#### **Word (20-30 min.)**

- Bible study
- Prayer - conversational

## **Closing**

- Announcements and Prayer
- Refreshments (optional)

## **Work**

- One-to-One training sessions (during the week) for discipleship and leader development.

Following these guidelines will enable you to have an effective Life Group and equip you to train others to do the same.

**Be creative, be open, have fun!** Remember, your goal is to share your lives with each other in a loving and accepting environment. **Make sure that you use transferable resources** because what you do in your group will be reproduced in the new groups.

Divide up the responsibilities of your Life Group so more people take ownership. Leaders will be developed through experience.

# **Job Descriptions**

## **Leader**

### **Responsibilities:**

1. Attend Sunday worship service faithfully.
2. Faithfully tithe (give) to the Lord's work.
3. Attend the Explosive Growth Disciple-Making Process Workshops
4. Give Leadership to the Life Group.
5. Visit or phone prospects for your group, (church visitors, church contacts etc.)
6. Plan and pray with your Apprentice Leader and Host/Hostess before each Life Group.
7. Lead the Bible Study discussion and application (or assign to Apprentice).
8. Close the Life Group time:
  - a. Make any announcements
  - b. Close in prayer
9. Give vision and encourage outreach each week.
10. Assist your Apprentice in co-ordinating the One-to-One training.
11. Train your Apprentice in Dynamic Sharing (Evangelistic visit/appointment) once a month.
12. Train your Apprentice in Learning to Lead once a month.
13. Meet with your Coach once a month.
14. Attend the Leaders Group with your Coach and other group leaders every 4-6 weeks.
15. Attend the annual Leader's Retreat.

## **Apprentice Leader (Leader in Training)**

### **Responsibilities:**

1. Attend Sunday worship services faithfully.
2. Faithfully tithe (give) to the Lord's work.
3. Attend the Explosive Growth Disciple-Making Process Workshops.
4. Assist in leading the Life Group.
5. Visit or phone prospects, (church visitors, church contacts etc.) with your Leader.
6. Meet with your Leader and Host/Hostess for prayer before each meeting.
7. Begin the Life Group time.
  - Introduce guests and greet everyone
8. Lead the Sharing time (see sample Sharing Questions) or assign to someone else
9. Lead the Bible study and discussion occasionally on request of the Leader.
10. Communicate prayer requests, church-wide events and other information. Lead the conversational prayer time (or other person could lead occasionally).
11. Co-ordinate the One-to-One discipleship training of group members.
12. Meet with your Leader for Learning to Lead sessions once a month.
13. Meet with your Leader for Dynamic Sharing training once a month.
14. Attend annual Leader's Retreat.

## **Host/Hostess**

### **Responsibilities:**

1. Attend Sunday worship service faithfully.
2. Faithfully tithe (give) to the Lord's work.
3. Meet with your Leader and Apprentice Leader for prayer before each Life Group meeting.
4. Provide a comfortable meeting place and arrange chairs in co-operation with the Leader.
5. Provide babysitting as needed. Under normal conditions it is best that everyone look after their own arrangements.
6. Set up snacks *before* the meeting time in order to be ready to greet the guests.
7. Provide extra Bibles and pencils for those who forget theirs.
8. Show genuine interest in each guest, greeting them with a warm smile.
9. Keep Attendance Record. (See sample Weekly Attendance Register)
10. Track the progress of each individual in the One-to-One training and acknowledge their completion of each level by congratulating them during the Small Group time.

# The Five Main Objectives of Life Groups

**Welcome, Worship, Win, Word** and **Serve** are the five main objectives of Life Groups. In each of these sessions we will focus on one of these objectives.

## WELCOME

### To Develop a Loving, Sharing and Caring Fellowship

In a Life Group each person can really be listened to, cared for, and prayed for on a regular basis. This provides a context that gives us a sense of belonging. An open spiritual family atmosphere can be created that will bring about a hunger and thirst to be a real disciple of Jesus Christ.

*“All men will know that you are my disciples if you love one another”.* John 13:35

*“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace”.* Ephesians 4:2,3

*“We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us”.* I Thessalonians. 2:8

## Welcome

**Greet:** (Host/Hostess)

- greet each person in a friendly manner
- record all new people and register all regular attenders
- open in prayer

**Sharing:** (Apprentice or Leader)

- Leaders be sure to assist new people and introduce them to each one in the group
- be sure to start into your formal sharing on time
- call the group together and seat them in a small circle with only one extra chair
- Leaders set the tone by being open and honest
- ask one **Sharing Question**
- occasionally provide opportunity for a **Testimony**

*Note: Be sensitive to new or shy people. Leaders participate but do not dominate.*

**Refreshments (optional):** (Host/Hostess)

- after your group time, you may want to serve refreshments. Do not be competitive, keep it **VERY SIMPLE!**

## How to Ask Good Sharing Questions

An enjoyable sharing time will be very important for your group because it will help people to relax and feel comfortable with each other. If people participate in the sharing time, they are more likely to participate in the Bible study and prayer time to follow.

Assign someone to prepare ahead of time a good sharing question. The enclosed list will assist them in choosing an appropriate question. Do not be too serious in the sharing time. Make it a pleasant and fun time as it will set the tone for your group.

It is good to offer three options:

1. The thought question chosen for the sharing time
2. Anything they would like to share about what has happened during their week
3. Pass, which means they do not have to share

**Do not** start with one person and go around the circle as this will intimidate the shy person and put pressure on them to feel that they have to share. Just let people share as they would like to. The person who chose the question may want to start simply because he/she has had time to think about the question and how to answer it ahead of time.

This is a valuable time in your group but try to limit it to 15-20 minutes.

You may want to occasionally give someone the opportunity to share their testimony with the group. If someone has been able to share their faith or have had an unusual answer to prayer they will want to share this exciting news with the group.

Listen for needs or blessings that could be items for praise and prayer later or you may want to stop and pray for the need or praise God for the blessing during the sharing time. These are real life experiences. You may also have opportunity to reflect back on them and make application to their lives during the Bible study time.

Leaders participate but do not dominate the sharing time. Have fun and enjoy getting to know each other.

# Sharing Questions

- Share one of the happiest days of your life.
- How would you describe yourself to someone who does not know you?
- What colour best describes your feelings today?
- What do you most admire in your best friend?
- What is the most unusual way that God has ever spoken to you?
- What is the best book you have ever read? Why?
- If you could have anything engraved on your tombstone when you die, what would it be?
- What is one job you enjoy doing around home?
- What is the best gift you ever received? Why?
- If you could change one thing about the way you are, what would it be?
- When, if ever, did God become more than a word to you?
- Share where you lived and one thing you remember about your twelfth year.
- When you were growing up, what was a favourite game you played?
- What are the two or three most valuable possessions you have? Why are they valuable?
- What is one thing you are looking forward to in the future?
- What is one personal relationship you would like to work on?
- When was the first time you heard about Jesus and what did you think about Him?
- Describe your life today in terms of a weather report.
- What is the one thing that gives you the most satisfaction?
- The most frightening experience I ever had was .....
- I would love to travel to .....
- When you have free time to yourself, what do you like to do?
- Where is your favourite place in the house and why?
- Did you have a favourite pet as a child? Why was it special?
- What improvements would you like to see in your vocation by this time next year?
- Who is the most influential person (besides Christ) in your life. Why?
- Who was your best friend when you were growing up? Why?
- I never quite got the hang of .....
- Next year looks better to me because .....
- People might be surprised to find out that I .....
- What do you do to release tension at the end of the day or week?
- What worries you? Why?
- What is your favourite fragrance/aroma and what memory do you associate with it?

