



Group Leader Overview

The Leader

Ministry flows from being a person of God. The most important thing you can do as a group leader is walk with God. Why? When you are emotionally and spiritually healthy, God will work through your life to help others grow closer to him. God will help you sense the spiritual needs of the group and you will be able to shepherd them by helping them to adopt the spiritual practices that you are already practicing. Because you are pursuing God, they will see your life and walk in the same direction.

The Vision

It is important to continually remind everyone that the group exists to help each other grow into spiritual maturity. This means that each person has a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and they are *moving from a life centered on self to a life centered on Christ.*

Secondly, the group exists to create more disciple makers. Jesus chose 12 disciples and guided them into spiritual maturity. Then, he asked them to disciples others who would then disciples others. A healthy LifeGroup will *begin with the end in mind.* This is the command Jesus gave us when he told us to make disciples. We need to do for others what has been done for us.

The Plan

Groups at LifePark exist to help people mature spiritually through Knowing Christ, Growing in biblical community, and sharing the Gospel. **Knowing Christ** involves the cultivation of spiritual habits such as consistent bible reading & reflection as well as prayer. These habits bring us into a greater understanding of our relationship with God and help us begin to live for him everyday as we surrender to his wisdom and guidance. The perfect place to help others learn to do this is in the context of **biblical community**. We build relationships with one another for the purpose of friendship and helping each other be even more devoted to God and the building of his kingdom. **Sharing the Gospel** is the result of us knowing Christ. As we learn more about God's redemption in Christ in the context of Christian relationships, we will be moved to spread his message with those who are far from him

The Structure

As the leader, it is your responsibility to establish the structure of the group. You will need to decide the day, time, location, and structure of the meeting (social time with a meal, bible study, prayer). The



reason this is important is because we want the group to become part of the normal rhythm of their lives. Consistent structure helps make this a reality.

Be sure to create buy-in from the members by delegating. The quickest way to burn out is to do everything yourself! When you delegate tasks, you are raising participation in the group and increasing the chance of people committing and as a result growing spiritually. Make a list of everything that needs to happen for the group to function, then begin to delegate as much as possible.

The Ministry

Each Group Leader has 3 main responsibilities: Be an intentional leader, create a relational environment, and implement a reproducible process.

Intentional Leader. It does not mean having all the answers, but it does mean pointing them in the right direction. Group Leaders are spiritual shepherds. We help people discover, discuss, and integrate spiritual truth in order to replace the worldly lies they have believed. We pray consistently for God to change their hearts and trust that he will. We encourage those who are struggling and warn those who are rebelling against God. We help people begin to serve and inspire them to live on mission in the community.

Relational Environment. We would all agree that relational environments allow people to open up much more than a classroom or lecture. Since we are interested in guiding the whole person (head, heart, hands) to abide in God, creating a relational environment begins by getting to know one another. Share your story of how you came to know Christ. Ask people to do the same. When you begin a study, have conversations, not lectures. Establish that the group is a safe place to be real but not a soft place where sin is ignored. Spend time together outside of the group time. Become friends. *People grow more spiritually when they are connected relationally.*

Reproducible Process. Training for group multiplication begins on the first night of group. As people see how the group meeting is structured and how you are guiding the conversation, they are being developed to one day become disciple makers. Choosing quality curriculum that is gospel centered and simple (such as SOAP, Discipleship Essentials, Life on Mission) serves to create clarity not only for their own walk with God but also how they might one day help others grow spiritually.