

CO-LEADER SELECTION AND TRAINING

Jesus designed the church to produce disciple-making disciples: this is an ordinary part of following Him. We see in Scripture that people who are healthy in Jesus grow and bear fruit (John 15). Reproducing disciples requires intentionality AND the Spirit is with you in this work so take heart!

WHY PURSUE A CO-LEADER?

1. **To enable multiplication.** When you lead with co-leaders, there is a natural way to multiply. We recommend you keep the vision of multiplication before your group each year so that when it comes time to multiply, it goes smoothly.
2. **To share the responsibility of leadership.** It is beneficial as a leader to have another person or couple taking ownership of the group along with you. Having another person or couple to help carry the load builds sustainability over the long haul.
3. **To make an inner circle possible.** Jesus had 12 disciples, but he spent more time with Peter, James, and John. Serving with co-leaders enables us to follow Jesus' example in this way by further subdividing down to groups of three or four.
4. **To foster friendship.** Serving alongside Life Group co-leaders opens the door to a unique type of friendship. Pray over the decision of who to have as co-leaders and watch how the Lord will grow you through this partnership!

OTHER WAYS TO SERVE IN A LIFE GROUP:

- **Hosting.** It is possible that you could have a couple that hosts the Life Group while you lead it. This could be the co-leaders or it could be another person/couple in the group. Some people do not feel like they are ready to take on co-leading but would start by hosting.
- **Prayer and communication coordinator.** If you have someone gifted in administration in your Life Group, you could utilize their gift by empowering them to take the lead on group communication, including prayer requests, scheduling and other items.
- **Longtime co-leaders.** The co-leader role is designed for people who plan to lead in the future. However, there may be scenarios where a person or couple is called to co-lead as a final landing spot of service and not progress on to leading themselves. This is fine; we just encourage clear communication and developing another couple to lead a multiplication in this case.

Once your Life Group multiplies, each new group will need a co-leader or co-leading couple. Therefore, in the initial three-year run for your LG, always be on the lookout for potential future co-leaders.

It is an option to have multiple people apprentice in your Life Group at the same time. This means you already have co-leaders, and there are others in your group who are ready to be developed for LG leadership. You can give multiple people opportunities to lead the group discussion or accountability time. There is no substitute for doing the actual work and receiving feedback for equipping someone to lead.