

## LIFE LEADERS GUIDELINES

- ❖ **Our MISSION is** to bring wholeness to people, families and communities with the Word of God, work of Holy Spirit and His Presence through authentic, loving relationships.

Authentic, Life-Giving Relationships are at the core of our Mission. Sundays are about Worshipping God together, encountering God's Presence, getting encouraged through The Word of God and Getting Connected with others. Life happens in Life Groups...

- ❖ **LIFE GROUPS** are where we have relationships that help us *Know God, Find Freedom, Discover Identity and Make A Difference* in the lives of others.

### Life Leader "Culture"

#### Life Leaders...

- Love God, Love People
- Work to keep life priorities straight (God, Marriage, Kids, the rest)
- Stay filled with the Sprit and pour out to others out of the overflow
- Are members and walk in agreement with MLC "DNA" and Leadership
- Are as present and engaged Sundays as during groups
- Pursue authentic relationships with leaders, peers and others
- Work to stay connected, accountable, teachable and accessible
- Maintain a Culture of Honor
- Defend Unity in the Body of Christ (0 tolerance for offenses, strife, etc.)
- Attempt to stay informed and keep leadership informed
- Lead by permission, obtained through relationship and trust
- Are saved by Grace and lead with Grace
- Create an environment that is Loving, Pure, Faith-Filled, Joyous, Fun, Accepting, Nurturing, Encouraging, Edifying and Positive
- Are an example for others and always consider their witness
- Consider their influence on others with The Fear of The Lord
- Meet regularly with other leaders and Pastoral Leadership
- Pray daily (for life group, the lost, leadership)

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### Life Group Guidelines (not law)

- Create a Small Group, relationship-focused setting & atmosphere
- Typically have a start & end date (allow breaks, open up to new people)
- Meet weekly and meet consistently and on time
- "Free Market" groups (built off the passions and desires of the leader)
- Typically 60 to 90 minutes
- Keep it pure (avoid: controversy, politics, inner-church factions, divisive conversations & debates, complaint sessions & gossip, taking offerings)
- Ok to pitch in to cover food or expenses, but not required
- Be inclusive and try to consider each person's maturity & ability
- Guard the group from personal convictions, preferences, pet peeves or subjective interpretations and traditions that could be perceived as doctrine, rules or law
- Defer \$ requests and needs to Benevolence fund through the Elders
- Group members pay for own books & materials (scholarships available)
- Gender appropriate (0 men ministering to women & vice-versa)
- Select study materials from list provided or submit for review
- Foster a culture of community, serving and doing life together
- Have fun and be life-giving

Life Groups and Ministry Teams all look a little different, as each has a different format, venue, demographic and focal point, but all are just the way we go after our mission. While the way we do it is different, every gathering or activity is relational and includes four main elements:

**Always E.S.P.N.!**

**Encourage \_\_\_\_ Scripture \_\_\_\_ Pray \_\_\_\_ Next Steps \_\_\_\_**

**GO FOR THE WIN!**

**Establish measurable and readily achievable "WINS" for yourself and your group members and celebrate them often!**

**List some examples of WINS:**