



Yes2Love

Sherwood Oaks Christian Church

Life Group Leader Challenges

2/2/2019

Identified Challenges

1. Keeping on track. Away from politics and other divisive issues.
2. Attendance/Leader responsibility.
3. Provide a safe environment for sharing our lives.
4. Kids/childcare.
5. Helping members face serious health/mental health and personal issues.
6. Even participation.
7. Investment each week to study.
8. Change within the group membership.
9. Finding a time for service and outreach opportunities.
10. Difficulty of multiplication.



Keeping on track. Away from politics and other divisive issues.

1. Set together ground rules ie) what you would prefer not to discuss, as your Life Group first forms.
2. Remind your Life Group several times a year.
3. Refer back to the ground rules when a controversial issue comes up to redirect the discussion.
4. Create a tentative schedule for socializing, Bible study, and prayer that you adhere to.
5. Offer to meet with the individual/s to discuss outside of the session.
6. Revisit ground rules every time new members join the group.



Dealing with dominant members.

1. Sit next to them not across from them.
2. Politely invite questions from others: “Thanks for sharing, let’s hear from others too.”
3. Look directly at and gesture to others to get involved.
4. If you must, interrupt with a “Thank you for sharing.” “Does anyone else feel that way?”
5. Talk them aside outside of the session.

Attendance/Leader Responsibility

1. Try to meet regularly, weekly if possible.
2. Some groups have more success meeting every other week.
3. Others meet 2X per month by reviewing calendars and setting next months dates a month in advance.
4. Encourage the group to share responsibilities (snacks, hosting ice-breaker, questions, prayer, etc.). Get others involved for their development and to reduce burnout.
5. Look for opportunities for joint Life Group ie) parents with children meeting with empty nesters.
6. Start with a short term commitment ie) 3-6 weeks, then determine how much further to go.
7. Have members sign a group covenant to attend if at all possible, at the first meeting.
8. Do a church wide study so people won't feel like they are the only ones who don't know the material.
9. Remind them midweek with the assignment.
10. Make sure that you are well versed in the assignment with a noticeable/admirable depth of study. Nothing like a good role model.
11. Be contagiously excited bout what you're studying.
12. Give people the ok to take a break from the group for a period of time as appropriate.



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Providing a safe environment for sharing our lives.

1. Set ground rules around confidentiality upfront where no one can share outside the group unless given specific permission to do so.
2. Make it clear that members are there to listen and pray for others and not to fix the problem unless specifically asked to do so. Have this in the ground rules.
3. Follow up with members preferably in person, or via check-ins by text, email or phone for sharing and prayer.
4. When you see someone comment for the first time or someone that typically doesn't participate, always thank them when they speak..
5. Talk about your personal struggles/failures on the topic your studying.



Kids/Childcare.

1. Some groups incorporate the kids into group life, including lessons and serving.
2. Consider using childcare provided by the church.
3. Use previously vetted babysitters.
4. Rotate childcare inside the group.



Helping members facing serious mental health, health and personal crisis

1. Listen carefully and pray with and for them.
2. Don't try to solve their problem
3. Follow up with members preferably in person or via check-ins by text, email, or phone for sharing and prayer.
4. Consider asking the group to do a service project for the struggling member ie) meals, errands, etc.
5. We need to learn when to refer group members to trained professionals.
6. We will form a workshop on this with certified people to help us.



Even Participation

1. Be willing to wait 30 seconds after you ask a question.
2. Thank people when they respond.
3. Watch for body language. The slightest frown or smile is a reason to ask them what they are thinking.
4. Don't give advice and solve their problem without asking them if they want it. If so, open it up to the group. Shows them that they're not alone.
5. Follow up after the session (scripture, study guides, comment etc.) with them about what they said in a positive way which reinforces their participation.



Difficulty of multiplication

1. Reinforce that the Kingdom is more important than your life group.
2. In your first session reinforce that one of the purposes of the group will be to multiply.
3. Have co-leaders (leader & apprentice) assigned well before the group multiplies.
4. Have small breakouts during group time to get used to the process.
5. Ensure group intimacy is strong before you divide.
6. Schedule a date to multiply in your first 3-4 sessions.
7. Pray together about finding new people to experience your Life Group experience.
8. Celebrate when you multiply yet acknowledge peoples feelings of loss.
9. Make plans when you multiply to get back together once in a while.



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Change within the group membership

1. Recognize first when adding new members, it's essentially a new group.
2. Review the ground rules.
3. Encourage broad participation in tasks.



Outreach/Serving opportunities. Finding the time.

1. Encourage members to share projects that they are passionate about.
2. Let them spearhead or lead the project for the group.
3. Partner with other groups to share the workload and joy in serving God and others.

