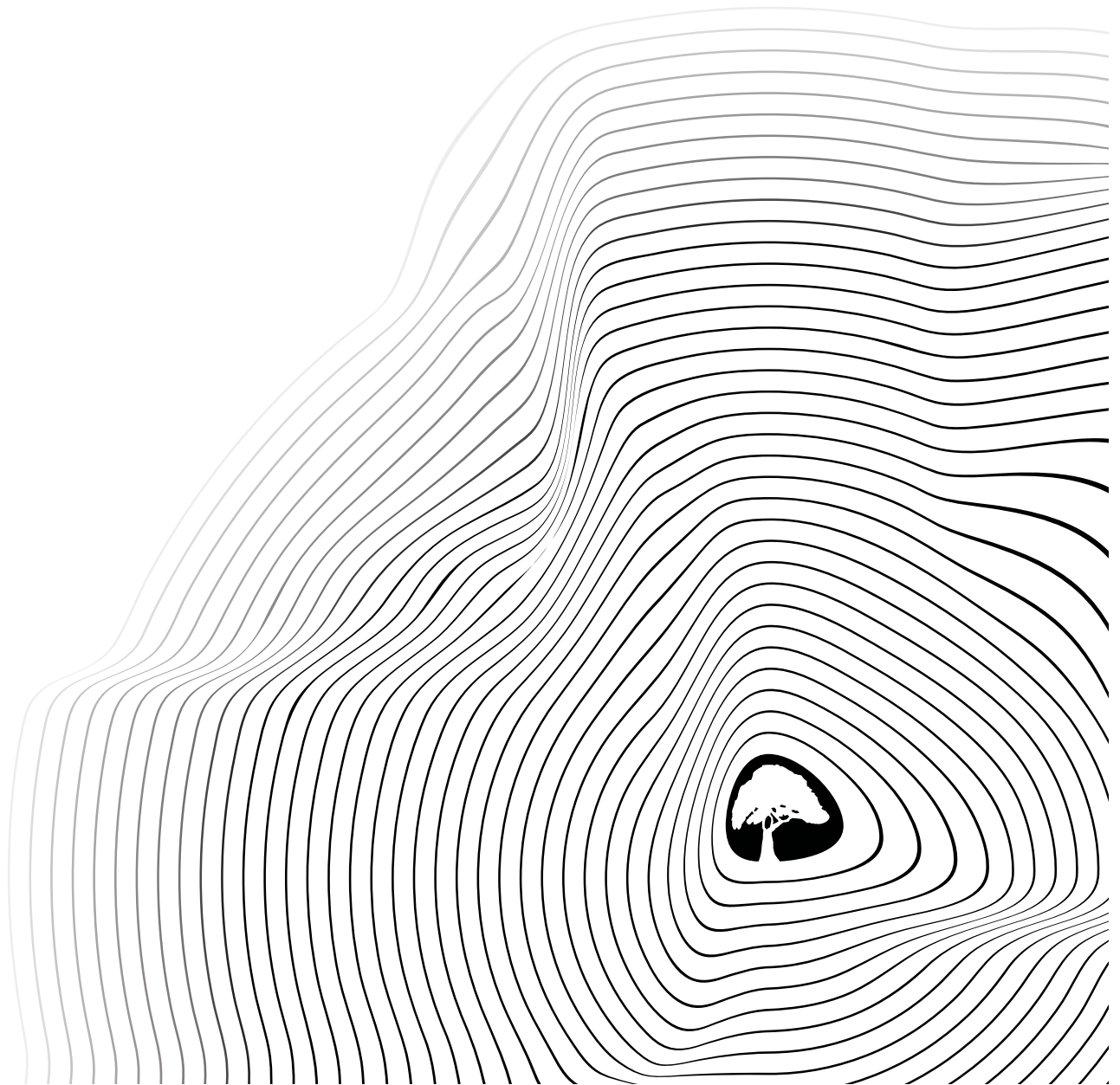


LIFE GROUP

Leader Guide



THIS BOOK BELONGS TO

GETTING STARTED AS A *Life Group Leader*

THE PROCESS

Follow these steps to begin your journey as a Life Group Leader at Long Hollow.

BECOME A LONG HOLLOW MEMBER BY ATTENDING STARTING POINT

If you are not a member of Long Hollow, attend all sessions of Starting Point either in person or online and partner with Long Hollow.

LIFE GROUP LEADER APPLICATION

Fill out the Global Leader Application and background check.

GROUPS TEAM CONNECTION

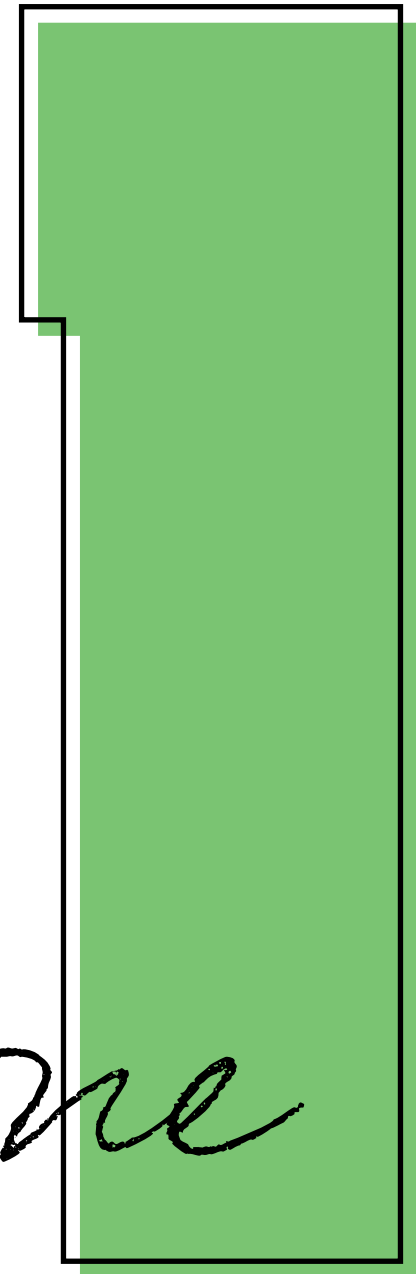
Once you have submitted your application, a Groups Team member will contact you to set up a meeting to get to know you and talk about your new Life Group.

COMPLETE LIFE GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Every new Life Group Leader must complete this guide digitally or through the printed booklet.

MAKE A PLAN

Work with a team member to establish a plan for your new Life Group and decide whether you will launch through Group Link or independently.



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A VISION FOR *Biblical Community*

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer.

⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles. ⁴⁴ Now all the believers were together and held all things in common. ⁴⁵ They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with joyful and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

ACTS 2: 42-47



God created us for community—both with himself and with each other. That's exactly what we see playing out in the early church in the second chapter of Acts. This community is how Jesus started a movement that is still impacting lives today. They didn't do this by having well-spoken teachers or a catchy strategy. They started a movement by simply being open, intentional, and hospitable with one another as they followed Jesus together.

Biblical community is more than a Bible study or a hangout time with friends; it is what happens when the people of God come together to be His Church. Looking at the practices of the early church, we see Jesus's disciples inhabiting these four roles in their biblical community:

1. SPIRIT-LED FOLLOWER

Jesus' disciples devoted themselves to studying the Word of God and to praying together.

This wasn't just a lecture. It was listening, asking questions, being vulnerable and opening up to change. They were literally leaving behind how they thought the world worked and following Jesus into something new. They prayed for God to help them. They prayed for Him to move in their families and neighborhoods. Then... they followed God as He used them to make it happen!

2. INTENTIONAL FRIEND

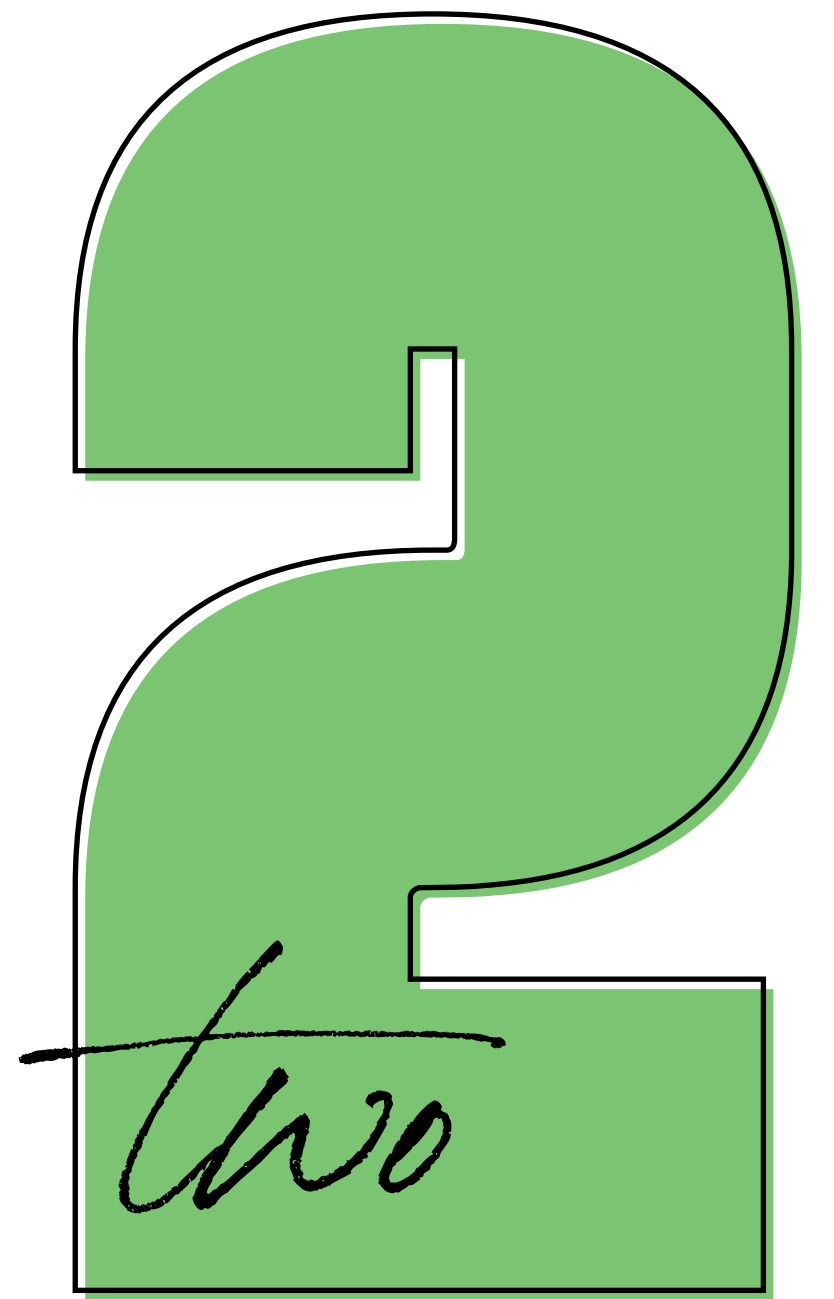
Jesus' disciples devoted themselves to gathering together in each other's homes, hanging out around the town, eating together, having conversations, and even taking care of one another when they struggled. The good times were celebrated and the tough times were met with sacrificial support. No one had a need that the community didn't meet. Jesus was forming a spiritual family of intentional friends (Mark 3).

3. HUMBLE GUIDE

Jesus' disciples weren't merely consuming the benefits of this new movement. They were participating in it. One person couldn't do this alone. They each leaned into their part to make it happen. The result? They invited other people to trust Jesus and join their community... and those people said, "Yes." Jesus' disciples were humble guides to those who were new or suspicious of this new faith. They led them to Jesus, not away from Him.

4. FORCE FOR GOOD

Jesus' disciples devoted themselves to others. They weren't a self-centered club — rather they each used their skills, influence, and even money to point other people to Jesus. Yes, they cared for each other better than any other community the world had seen. But they didn't stop there. They also cared for people in the places where they lived, worked, and played... to the point where they had favor with everyone! When Jesus' disciples worked together as a united force, good things happened.



CREATING BIBLICAL COMMUNITY

in a Life Group

LIFE GROUPS AT LONG HOLLOW

Long Hollow wants to create the same kind of biblical community that we find in Acts 2. We strive to do this in small group environments called Life Groups.

Life Groups are 10-20 people who commit to pursue biblical community together in order to follow Jesus and make disciples.



LIFE GROUP LEADERS

Each Life Group has one to two leaders (or families) who facilitate the life of the group.

They don't do everything, but they keep the Life Group moving in a general direction.

The role of a Life Group leader can be summed up in a single sentence:

Life Group Leaders facilitate biblical community where people can grow in their relationship with Jesus and each other.

Every family has at least one relative who loves bringing people together. When it comes to the church family, Life Group Leaders are those people! They aren't perfect, nor are they Bible scholars. Rather, they are humble guides who create a community where people can find a place to grow with Jesus and others. They get front-row seats to the faith journeys of others and find that their faith grows along the way!

CAN I LEAD?

- You have a personal, growing relationship with Jesus Christ.
- You recognize the Bible as the authority for your life.
- You are people-oriented.
- You have the time, emotional capacity, and moral discernment to lead a group.
- You are a member of Long Hollow.

WHAT IS EXPECTED?

- Lead by facilitating the group meeting, monitoring its health, and promoting participation among group members.
- Commit to engaging in leadership development opportunities provided by Long Hollow.
- Recognize the influence associated with group leadership.
- For married Life Group leaders leading a co-ed group, both husband and wife are committed to the group.
- Commit to lead the group for at least one year.

IS THERE SUPPORT?

- There is no leading alone! The Groups Team at Long Hollow supports Life Group leaders every step along the way—personally and with their group.
- Leaders are equipped to lead great group meetings and launch well
- Leaders have regular check-ins with a pastor or shepherd.
- Leaders are given a opportunities to connect with other leaders for support and collaboration.
- Leaders are provided with ongoing training to help them continue to grow as a leader and disciple.

CREATING A COMMUNITY OF SPIRIT-LED FOLLOWERS

PRACTICE

One of the centerpieces of a Life Group is having a conversation around the Bible. This isn't just a teaching or a lecture. Rather, it's looking at what the Bible says and engaging the people in your group to apply it to their lives.

Naturally, a conversation around the Bible typically leads to prayer. During regular gatherings is a great time to incorporate prayer requests and spend time praying for one another.

RESOURCE

Sermon Discussion Guide: Long Hollow creates a weekly discussion guide that makes it easy to facilitate a great conversation centered around the Scripture that is preached on every Sunday.

CREATING A COMMUNITY OF INTENTIONAL FRIENDS

PRACTICE

Growth happens in the context of relationships. A Life Group is a spiritual family that takes care of one another and seeks unity. It's a group that celebrates the good times, supports one another in the hard times, and does real life together.

In Biblical community, the relationships formed are not merely to enjoy ourselves. They are to build one another up to pursue Jesus. They are a place to intentionally practice the "one anothers" we see in the Bible.

RESOURCE

Group Leader Update: Long Hollow sends you a weekly email packed full of tips, ideas, and events to build community and unity within your Life Group.

TRAINING

Long Hollow will help equip you to grow in two disciple-making skills:

- Leading a Discussion
- Facilitating Prayer

TRAINING

Long Hollow will help equip you to grow in two disciple-making skills:

- Creating a community
- Leading Different Personalities

CREATING A COMMUNITY OF HUMBLE GUIDES

PRACTICE

Belonging to Biblical community naturally moves people from receiving to giving. Everyone in the Life Group has a circle of people that they can impact for the gospel, whether they know it or not.

No matter where they are in their spiritual maturity, every believer can make disciples. For some, this may be starting a Discipleship Group. Others may be ready to help you lead in discussion or take over managing food or hosting. It's your job to help them take their next step when they are ready!

RESOURCE

Discipleship Group Starter Guide: A resource to launch a Discipleship Group for an accelerated season of spiritual growth.

CREATING A COMMUNITY TO BE A FORCE FOR GOOD

PRACTICE

Life Group leaders do not do everything—they merely create opportunities for growth! Everyone in the group has a role to play and they need someone who believes in them and invites them into that role.

Biblical community not only seeks to take care of those within it, but also those outside of it. Life Groups seek to make a difference where they live, work, and play.

RESOURCE

Missions and Outreach: Long Hollow organizes and curates opportunities for your Life Group to serve together as a force for good. We also equip people to view their communities missionally to make a difference in their circle of impact.

TRAINING

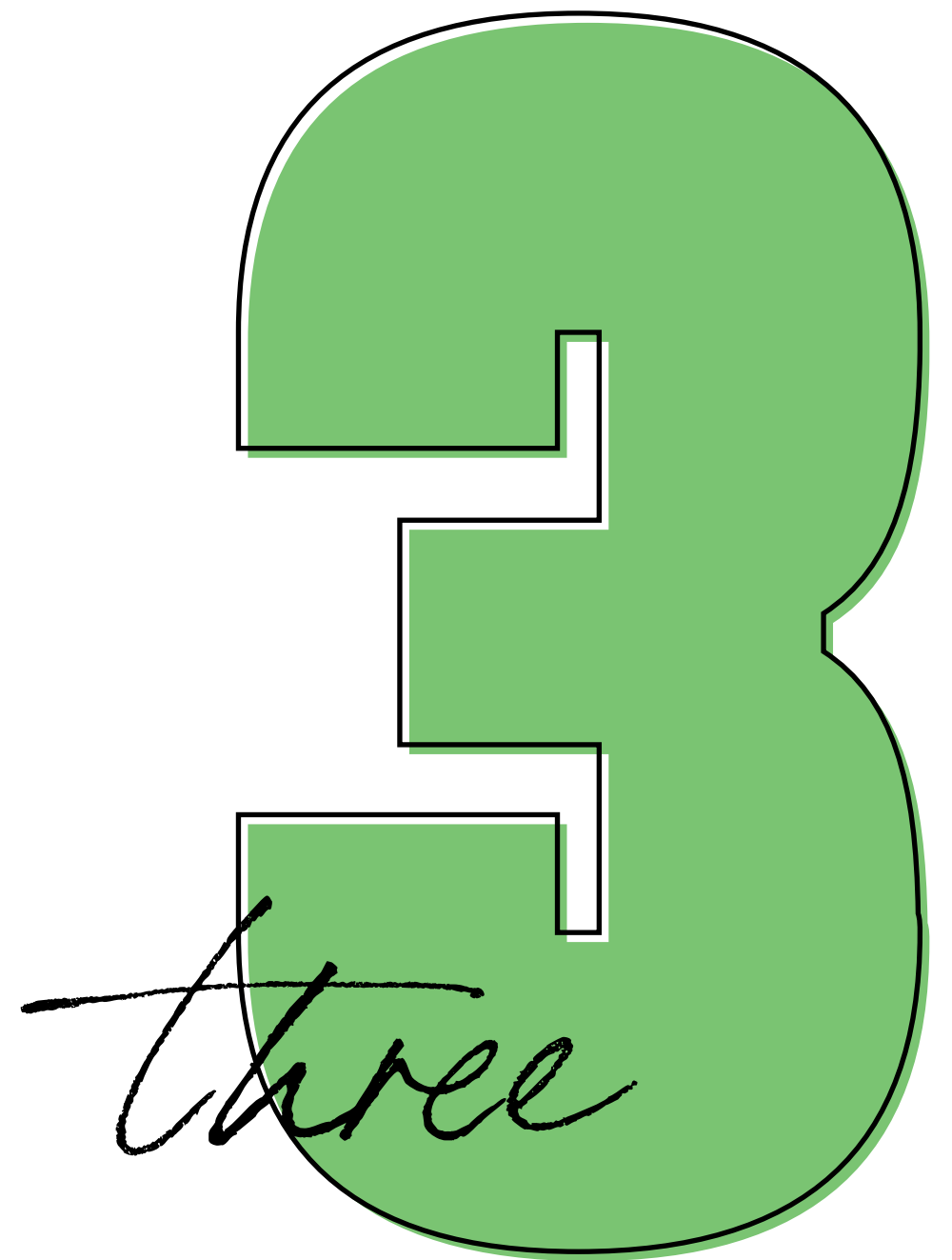
Long Hollow will help equip you to grow in two disciple-making skills:

- Empowering Group Members
- Developing a Co-Leader

TRAINING

Long Hollow will help equip you to grow in two disciple-making skills:

- Caring for Needs in a Group
- Making a Difference Together



PLANNING YOUR *Life Group*

There are **five questions** that need to be answered before launching a Life Group. Take a moment to think through and answer the following questions.



1. WHEN WILL THE LIFE GROUP MEET?

Determine the day, time, and frequency of the Life Group meetings. It's important to meet regularly and predictably. Many groups meet weekly or every other week.

Day _____

Time _____

Frequency _____

2. WILL THERE BE FOOD?

Food is not required but breaking bread together is a great way to connect. Some Life Groups have regular meals, others have snacks, and some just stick to coffee or drinks. The time of the meeting will have a significant effect on what is offered to eat. This is by no means something completely handled by the leader. It is a great opportunity for ownership and involvement by the members.

Will food be a part of the Life Group meeting? If so, how?

3. WHAT WILL WE DO WITH THE KIDS?

There are several approaches for childcare. The important thing to remember is that children are a blessing, not a burden. The Life Group is often just as beneficial for them as it is for the adults. All that to say, children obviously cannot be present for every moment of every gathering. Below are some common ways Life Groups handle childcare.

How will the Life Group handle families with children involved in the group?

- The children will play independently.
- Each family will rotate taking turns watching the children.
- The Life Group will coordinate sitters on-site or nearby.
- Each family is responsible for finding their own childcare.
- Other _____

4. HOW WILL THE LIFE GROUP COMMUNICATE?

Keeping in touch and communicating information is essential to a Life Group functioning well. Having one central place where everyone can see all the communication helps participation. Needs, culture, and technological adeptness all come into play when thinking through a communication medium to use. Below are some common tools Life Groups have used to communicate.

What tool will the Life Group use to communicate?

- A group text message
- Signal App
- GroupMe App
- Other _____
- WhatsApp

5. HOW IS THE LIFE GROUP LAUNCHING?

How the Life Group chooses to gather people and begin depends on the network of the leader. If the leader has more than 12 people already willing to be a part of the group, it is a good idea to launch independently. If the leader wants to find new people who are eager and looking for a Life Group to join, Group Link is a great option. Group Link is an event that spans multiple sessions, allowing people to meet Life Group leaders and consider joining their group. This event happens several times throughout the year.

How is the Life Group launching?

- Launching independently
- Launching through Group Link



Biblical community is an essential ingredient in following Jesus and making disciples. The role of a Life Group leader is one that will never be thanked enough for but makes a huge difference in the lives of everyone who is impacted by the group. Friendships will be formed and lives will be changed all because you decided to say “Yes” to spearheading a Life Group. Thank you for stepping out and starting what might just be the most impactful community in someone’s life.

Who knows, it may even be your own.

Need to talk?
groups@longhollow.com

For more resources:
longhollow.com/group-leader-resources



We cared so much for you that we were pleased to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.

I THESSALONIANS 2:8



LONG HOLLOW
CHURCH