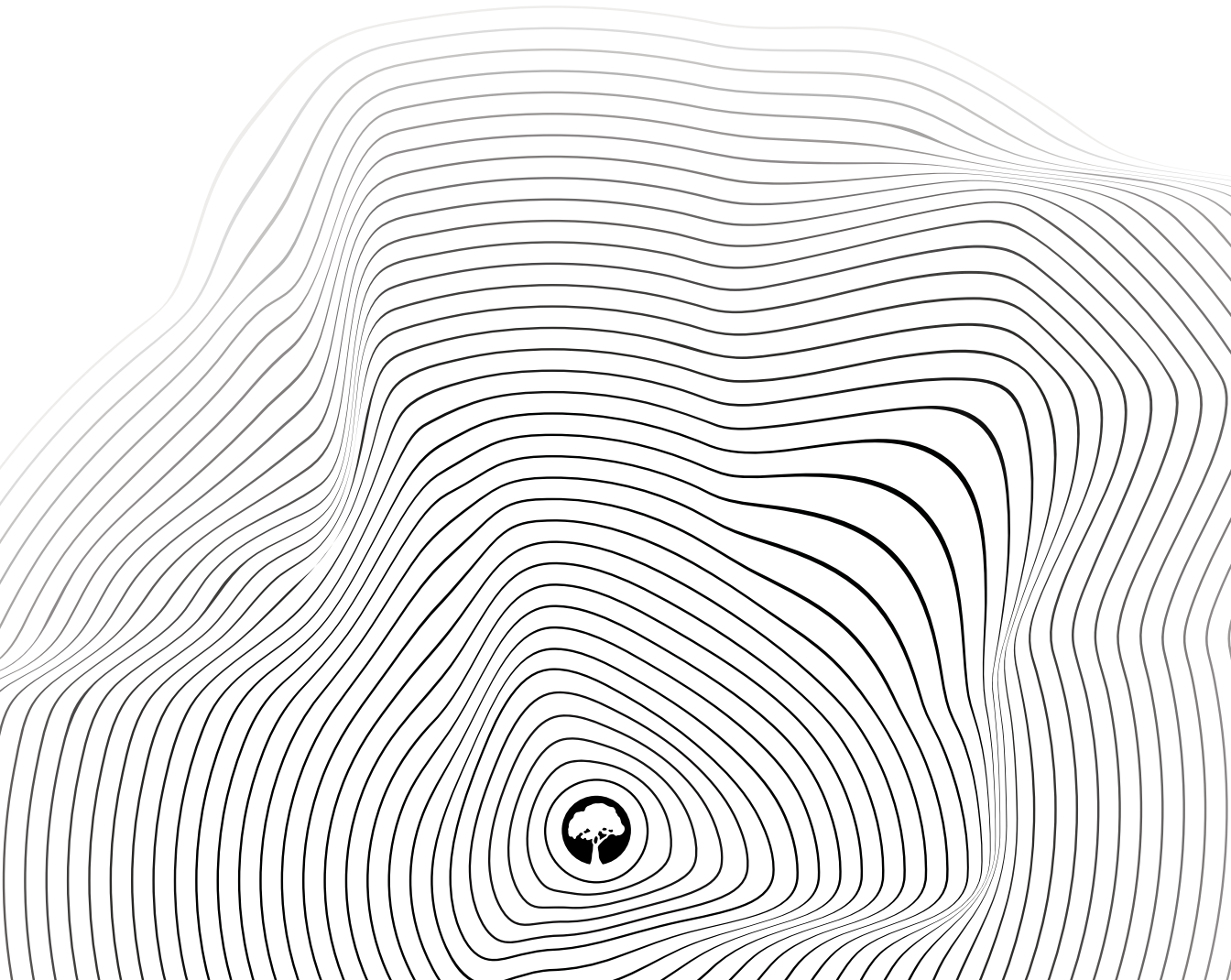


LEADER

Launch Guide



Leader Notes

This guide is intended to help your Life Group start off on a healthy trajectory. There are four conversations we'll help you facilitate with your group so everyone can understand your group's direction and why it matters. The four conversations are based around the following roles of a disciple and a question the group will attempt to answer for each one:

SPIRIT-LED FOLLOWER

What will our discussions look like?

INTENTIONAL FRIEND

How will we care for one another?

HUMBLE GUIDE

Where are we in our faith journey?

FORCE FOR GOOD

How can we serve together?

Here is the suggested format for the first four meetings:

1 GETTING STARTED

A lighter question to get everyone thinking about the topic. (10 min)

2 READ

Read Acts 2:42-47 every meeting and pull out truths about biblical community. (5 min)

3 DISCUSS

Questions aimed at sparking discussion based on the Scripture reading. (15 min)

4 ACTIVITY*

An interactive moment to help group members learn more about one another. (15 min)

5 PRACTICE

Introducing a regular rhythm of what you will be doing together as a group. (5 min)

6 PRAY

A time of practicing vulnerability, care, and prayer as a group. (10 min)

The goal isn't to get through all of the content. It is to have intentional conversations to set the expectations of group members and help them get to know each other.

**Week 3's conversation will be centered around the activity of sharing stories, so this will be much longer.*

OVERVIEW

The goal of a Life Group is to pursue biblical community in order to follow Jesus and make disciples every day. To do that, we are going to focus on growing together in four roles:

SPIRIT-LED FOLLOWER

INTENTIONAL FRIEND

HUMBLE GUIDE

FORCE FOR GOOD

For the next four weeks, we will talk about these roles of a disciple and make a plan for growing in them together.

LEADER TIP

- Before getting started, make sure you have the following:
- Name tags
- Participant Guides for each individual
- Extra Bibles

MEETING 1:

Spirit-Led Follower

⌚ Spend 10–15 minutes getting to know one another. Use these categories as a starting point:

GETTING STARTED

- What's your name?
- What do you do for a living?
- Where are you originally from?
- How long have you been attending Long Hollow?

⌚ Ask everyone to look at Acts 2:42–47. It's best if the leader starts off reading the first time.

READ

ACTS 2:42–47 CSB

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.

DISCUSS

- What stands out to you most in the habits of the early church?
- How is this community similar to and different from other friend groups you have been part of?

Say: THERE WAS ONE PRACTICE THAT STOOD OUT AS FOUNDATIONAL TO THEIR LIFE TOGETHER: THEY DEVOTED THEMSELVES TO GOD’S WORD AND THEY MET TOGETHER REGULARLY TO DISCUSS IT. READING, DISCUSSING, AND APPLYING GOD’S WORD IS AN IMPORTANT PRACTICE FOR US TO DO AS WE SEEK TO GROW AS SPIRIT-LED FOLLOWERS.

ACTIVITY

Say: WE ALL COME FROM DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS AND ARE AT DIFFERENT PLACES IN OUR LIVES AND SPIRITUAL WALK. THERE IS NO SHAME THAT SOME OF US MAY BE LESS FAMILIAR WITH THE BIBLE THAN OTHERS. LET’S PRACTICE HONEST, TRANSPARENT CONVERSATION:

- What was your relationship with the Bible growing up?
- What is your relationship like with the Bible currently?
- What is something you want to understand more about the Bible?
- On a scale of 1-5, how consistently do you read the Bible?
- On a scale of 1-5, how comfortable are you discussing it?



☞ Ask the following questions to help members discuss the Scripture.

A grid of 20 rows and 10 columns of small black dots, intended for handwritten notes or answers.

☞ Guide members through practicing a vulnerable and transparent conversation. Thank them for sharing.

A grid of 20 rows and 10 columns of small black dots, intended for handwritten notes or answers.

MEETING 2:

Intentional Friend

⌚ Spend 10–15 minutes getting to know one another.

GETTING STARTED

- What was the best group or team you have ever been part of?
- What makes a great group or team?

⌚ Ask everyone to look at Acts 2:42-47. If appropriate, ask if someone will volunteer to read this time.

READ

ACTS 2:42–47 CSB

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.

DISCUSS

- What stands out to you about how the disciples did life together?
- Why do you think food played such a big part?
- Have you ever had a group of friends who helped take care of your needs? What was that like?
- What do you need from a Life Group in this season of life?

Say: JESUS’ DISCIPLES DEVOTED THEMSELVES TO GATHERING TOGETHER IN EACH OTHER’S HOMES, HANGING OUT AROUND THE TOWN, EATING TOGETHER, AND EVEN TAKING CARE OF EACH OTHER WHEN THEY STRUGGLED. NO ONE HAD A NEED THE COMMUNITY DIDN’T MEET. JESUS WAS FORMING A SPIRITUAL FAMILY OF INTENTIONAL FRIENDS.

ACTIVITY

Say: WE ALL CONNECT TO OTHERS IN DIFFERENT WAYS. LET’S SHARE WHICH DIRECTION WE EACH TEND TOWARD — THERE ARE NO RIGHT OR WRONG ANSWERS!

I am energized by:



In a group conversation I am:



When experiencing emotions I am:



When it comes to planning:



In this season of life I am:



🕒 Ask the following questions to help members discuss the Scripture.

A large grid of small dots for taking notes, consisting of 10 rows and 20 columns.

🕒 Guide members through understanding how they “show up” in regular group situations. The goal is to help them get to know and understand each other.

A large grid of small dots for taking notes, consisting of 10 rows and 20 columns.

Ⓢ This is where you can lay out expectations for your discussions as a group.

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Ⓢ Move into a time of sharing prayer requests. Ask if someone would be willing to write down the requests. After someone is prepared to write them down, ask if anyone has anything the group can be praying for throughout the week. Once the requests are recorded, pray for them. At this point, it's likely best for you as the leader to pray.

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PRACTICE

Say: GROWTH HAPPENS IN THE CONTEXT OF RELATIONSHIPS. IN BIBLICAL COMMUNITY, THE RELATIONSHIPS FORMED ARE NOT SIMPLY TO ENJOY OURSELVES. THEY ARE TO BUILD ONE ANOTHER UP TO PURSUE JESUS. AS A LIFE GROUP, WE WANT TO PRIORITIZE BEING INTENTIONAL FRIENDS. HAPPENS WHEN WE:

- SHOW UP CONSISTENTLY & GIVE A HEADS UP IF YOU'LL BE OUT.
- PRACTICE TRANSPARENCY & CREATE A SAFE SPACE FOR SHARING.
- TAKE CARE OF ONE ANOTHER IN LIFE'S UPS AND DOWNS.
- HAVE FUN TOGETHER.
- SPEND TIME OUTSIDE OF REGULAR MEETINGS TO GET TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER.

PRAY

Say: HOW CAN THE GROUP PRAY FOR YOU THIS WEEK?

BEFORE YOU GO

Say: IN THE NEXT MEETING, WE WILL SHARE OUR FAITH STORIES. DURING THIS WEEK, THINK ABOUT THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TO HELP YOU SHARE YOUR STORY:

- DESCRIBE YOUR FAMILY OF ORIGIN.
- WHAT IS YOUR FAITH BACKGROUND?
- HAS THERE BEEN A TIME WHEN YOU TRUSTED JESUS AS YOUR SAVIOR? WHAT WAS THAT LIKE?
- WHAT IS A SPIRITUALLY SIGNIFICANT MOMENT IN YOUR LIFE?

MEETING 3:

Humble Guide

GETTING STARTED

Spend a moment catching up.

READ

ACTS 2:42-47 CSB

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DISCUSS

How do you notice the early church working together to take care of one another?

Say: ONE PERSON COULDN'T DO THIS ALONE. THEY EACH LEANED INTO THEIR PART TO MAKE IT HAPPEN. THEY TOOK BETTER CARE OF ONE ANOTHER THAN ANY OTHER COMMUNITY AROUND THEM.

Ⓣ This session leaves a lot of time for sharing stories, so don't feel like you have to spend too much time on this.

Ⓣ Ask everyone to look at Acts 2:42-47. If appropriate, ask if someone will volunteer to read this time.

Ⓣ This session leaves a lot of time for sharing stories, so don't feel like you have to spend too much time on this.

Ⓢ *Either model vulnerability by going first or have someone experienced in sharing their story and will model vulnerability go first. The first person who shares can make or break the tone for the rest of the night.*

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Ⓢ *Move into a time of sharing prayer requests. Ask if someone would be willing to write down the requests. After someone is prepared to write them down, ask if anyone has anything the group can be praying for throughout the week. Once the requests are recorded, pray for them. At this point, it's likely best for you as the leader to pray.*

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ACTIVITY

Say: IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND OUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE GROUP AND OUR CIRCLE OF IMPACT, WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND WHERE EACH ONE OF US ARE COMING FROM. LET'S EACH TAKE AROUND 7 MINUTES TO SHARE ABOUT OURSELVES. HERE ARE SOME TIPS AND A POSSIBLE OUTLINE:

Tips for sharing:

- To make sure everyone gets a chance to share, set a goal (or timer) for seven minutes.
- It may take more than one meeting for everyone to share, so plan to continue sharing at the beginning of the next meeting if needed.

Suggested outline:

- Describe your family of origin.
- What is your faith background?
- Has there been a time when you trusted Jesus as your savior? What was that like?
- What is a spiritually significant moment in your life?

PRAY

Say: HOW CAN THE GROUP PRAY FOR YOU THIS WEEK?

BEFORE YOU GO

If there are still some people who need to share, be sure to give them time in the beginning of next week's session.

MEETING 4:

Force for Good

GETTING STARTED

Say: WHO HAS HAD A POSITIVE IMPACT ON YOUR LIFE BESIDES A FAMILY MEMBER? WHAT DID THEY DO?

READ

ACTS 2:42-47 CSB

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.

Ⓞ If needed, take this time to finish sharing stories from last week. If not, you may open with the question below.

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DISCUSS

- What kind of “good” would you say the early church accomplished?
- How do you think they attained the “favor of all the people”? (v.47)
- How do you think they welcomed all of the new people the Lord was adding into their community?
- What kind of organization do you think was necessary for a small group of believers to do this?

Say: THE EARLY CHURCH WASN'T A SELF-CENTERED CLUB. THEY USED THEIR SKILLS, INFLUENCE, AND EVEN MONEY TO POINT EACH OTHER AND OTHERS TO JESUS. 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.

☺ The following activity will help your group members take a necessary step toward ownership of the Life Group. This is a great opportunity for you to empower them with certain responsibilities in the Life Group. Be sure they clearly understand if an expectation is placed on them or follow up separately with any who show interest.

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ACTIVITY

Say: FOLLOWING JESUS IS NOT A SOLO SPORT. IT IS MEANT TO BE DONE IN COMMUNITY WITH OTHERS. AS OUR LIFE GROUP MATURES AND BECOMES A PLACE WHERE WE CAN INVITE OTHERS IN, WE EACH HAVE A PART TO PLAY. HERE IS A LIST OF WAYS THAT YOU CAN FACILITATE THE EXPERIENCE OF OUR GROUP. SELECT WHICH ONES YOU ARE INTERESTED IN AND DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AS A GROUP:

- Host group meetings in my home
- Help facilitate a discussion
- Co-lead the Life Group
- Take the lead on group communication
- Take attendance every meeting

- Coordinate meals or snacks for group meetings
- Plan a social for our group
- Plan a service project for our group
- Other:

Are there any you are willing to commit to?

Are there any that may be challenging for you?

PRACTICE

The better we care for one another, the better we welcome people into our group. As you think about inviting people from where you live, work, and play, here are some things to consider as a Life Group:

- How will we welcome new people into our Life Group?
- Can we commit to giving a heads up in our Life Group communication about guests?
- Is there anyone in your life who would benefit from being part of our Life Group?

PRAY

Say: HOW CAN THE GROUP PRAY FOR YOU THIS WEEK?

BEFORE YOU GO

This is the last session of the Launch Guide. If you have any questions about your group, be sure to discuss them with your leader!

☞ Move into a time of sharing prayer requests. Ask if someone would be willing to write down the requests. After someone is prepared to write them down, ask if anyone has anything the group can be praying for throughout the week. Once the requests are recorded, pray for them. At this point, it's likely best for you as the leader to pray.

☞ This is the last session of the Launch Guide. Be sure you have told the group what you will be doing during meetings moving forward from here!



LONG HOLLOW
CHURCH