

LIFE GROUP LEADER HUDDLE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Fall 2023

A Liturgy for the Labors of Community

“We offer to you, O God, these things: Our dreams, our plans, our vision. Shape them as you will. Our moments and our gifts. May they be invested toward bright, eternal ends. Richly bless the work before us, Father. Shepherd us well lest we grow enamored of our own accomplishment or entrenched in old habit. Instead, let us listen for Your voice, our hearts ever open to the quiet beckonings of Your Spirit in this endeavor. Let us in true humility and poverty of spirit remain ever ready to move at the impulse of your love in paths of your design. You alone, O God, by your gracious and life-giving Spirit have power to knit our imperfect hearts, our weaknesses, our strengths, our stories, and our gifts, one to another. Unite Your people and multiply our meager offerings, O Lord, that all might resound to Your glory.”

time of worship and fellowship over email, we can keep you up to speed on the content that was covered! Our hope is that this helps you feel **prepared**, **equipped**, and **passionate** for another (or your first!) year of faithfully leading those God has entrusted to you.

Dear Life Group Leaders,

We just had our Life Group Leader equipping session on September 16th. For those of you that attended the session, thank you for coming! It was a joy to spend time in worship, teaching, connection, and discussion together as we prepare for the year ahead.

If you weren't able to make it, know that you were missed. While we can't replicate the

LIFE GROUP VISION & LEADER COMMITMENT

Below are links to two teaching videos from Pastor Tim. Please watch them soon!

[REFRESHING VISION FOR GROWING TOGETHER](#)

(14:39)

[STEPS OF GROWTH FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP](#)

(4:30)

ACTION REQUIRED: Please read and sign the [Life Group Leader Commitment](#) for 2023-24 no later than October 6.



SERMONS & LIFE GROUP GUIDES

The purpose of every sermon series and of discussing them in our Life Groups is rooted in apprenticeship to Jesus. Everything we talk about is for the purpose of growth in our apprenticeship journey, including our next sermon series, entitled *Deliver Us* – regarding spiritual warfare. Here is a brief breakdown of the coming weeks.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sermon</u>	<u>Scripture</u>
Oct. 1 (WG & YK)	The Victory of Jesus	1 John 3:8; Luke 4:31-37; Luke 10:18; Acts 10:38
Oct. 1 (AG)	This is Aldergrove: Known in Community & New People Meeting Jesus	Deuteronomy 8:10-18; 1 Samuel 7:12
Oct. 8 (WG & YK)	Jesus the Stronger Man	Colossians 2:15; Luke 11:14-28; Matthew 12:24-28; Acts 26; Hebrews 2:14
Oct. 8 (AG)	This is Aldergrove: Impact Aldergrove & Using our Gifts	Deuteronomy 8:10-18; 1 Samuel 7:12
Oct. 15 (WG & YK)	Freedom from Temptation	Luke 4:1-13; 1 Peter 5:8
Oct. 15 (AG)	The Victory of Jesus	1 John 3:8; Luke 4:31-37; Luke 10:18; Acts 10:38
Oct. 22	Freedom from Lies	John 8:44; Acts 3; Mark 4:15; 2 Corinthians 11:14; 2 Thessalonians 2:9
Oct. 29	Put on the Armour of God	Ephesians 6; 2 Corinthians 4:4; James 4:7
Nov. 5	Overcome Evil with Good	Romans 12:17-21; 2 Corinthians 2:11
Nov. 12	Nothing Can Separate You from the Love of God	Romans 8; Colossians 1:13; Romans 16:19-20; Revelation 12:9

**Note: This schedule is an updated version of the handout given at the meeting. Changes have been made.*

3 KEY ASPECTS TO LIFE GROUPS

1. Gathering Together

- **Entertaining vs. Hospitality** – Entertaining is about putting on an event that must be perfect; Hospitality is welcoming people into our lives. In aiming for hospitality, we reject the pressure to be perfect hosts, and yet we balance that with creating a space that people want to be a part of.
- **The Use of Generous Authority** – As leaders, we have a degree of authority that we must use well. We use this gently and unselfishly, but we must use it nonetheless, otherwise others will use their influence to steer the group elsewhere. People expect you to lead, so be comfortable in your leadership role and set the tone early.
- **When and How to Close a Group** – Our groups are constantly trying to balance creating consistent and deep connections with those involved, as well as being inviting to others. In order to build trust and relationships, it sometimes is truly helpful to close a group to newcomers; but these seasons should always be for a fixed period of time and should not be the default.



2. Talking Together



- **Taking Responsibility for Being Known** – Creating a culture of vulnerability and openness begins with the leader. It is important to be a model of healthy vulnerability to the members of our group, as well as having a conversation early to encourage people to be open, as openness in community is vital for transformation.
- **Coach and Model Good Listening Skills** – Rather than having “ping pong” conversations (everybody sharing their own thoughts without interacting with others’ thoughts), we engage deeply with each other by listening well. In so, we learn to see God’s action in each other’s lives and insights, and we make each other feel known and loved.
- **Coach and Model Giving and Receiving Feedback** – Even though it is uncomfortable, feedback is a huge catalyst for growth. After we have developed relationship, we take the next step of vulnerability by

allowing others to speak into our lives through feedback, as well as offer gentle and loving feedback to others.

- **Taking Responsibility for Life Application** – Because Life Groups are a means to becoming apprentices that look like Jesus, application of what we discussed is essential. This requires helping members verbalize the issues they are facing, help them recognize patterns in their life, and move away from hypothetical to concrete applications.

3. Serving Together

- **Risks of Carrying the Load** – If a Life Group leader is responsible for all, or even most, of the tasks that make up a successful Life Group, they are much more likely to burnout. Additionally, the group members won't grow in the ways that they would if they were serving within the group, and the group itself is at risk of becoming inward focused, failing to be about serving one another.
- **Awareness and Encouragement of Giftings** – Often, members do not use their gifts because they are not aware of what gifts they have. Leaders make it their aim to actively notice and affirm the giftings of their group members.
- **Making Specific Requests** – In getting group members involved in service and leadership roles, it is important to start small and specific. Personally ask questions such as “Can you bring a snack this week?” or “Would you be able to lead our prayer time?”



Thank you for all you do!

Whether you are leading a life group for the first time or have been leading for decades, we are grateful for the countless hours you put into caring for God's people. Your work is instrumental to the work of the Kingdom being done through NLCC. Thank you for opening your homes, sharing your lives, listening well, and offering the love and grace of Jesus to those you lead. May you know God's grace and peace in this coming year!