

# LIFEGROUP

## LEADERS

## MANUAL



 **REDEMPTION**  
WHERE MANY BECOME ONE



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# WELCOME

“Redemption Church aims to reach out in redeeming love and liberating power to bring the word of God to people of all ages and socio-economic backgrounds. Through the word of God, Redemption aims to break poverty mindsets, remove religious barriers and destroy the walls of racism that divide us.”

## WHAT ARE REDEMPTION LIFE GROUPS?

Lifegroups exist to fulfill the vision of Redemption by facilitating intentional community in everyday life. Because God created us with a need for community, we believe in doing life together in a small group setting. Life Groups meet weekly in a variety of locations such as coffee shops, homes, and even gyms.

In a Lifegroup, you will discuss the current sermon series through the weekly Life Groups Discussion Guide. Doing so will help participants:

- Grow in Faith
- Discover Purpose
- Get Connected at Redemption

**Psalm 133:1 (NKJV)**

**“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.”**



# GROUP FORMAT

## 2018 SCHEDULE

- **SPRING:** Feb. 19th—May 12th | 8 Weeks
- **FALL:** Sept. 10th —Nov. 26th | 10 Weeks

*\*First week of the month: NO LIFE GROUPS due to Unite Service.*

## DIFFERENT TYPES OF GROUPS

- Life Groups can range from interest groups to study groups.
- All Life Groups will use a discussion guide based on the previous Sunday's message.

## OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS

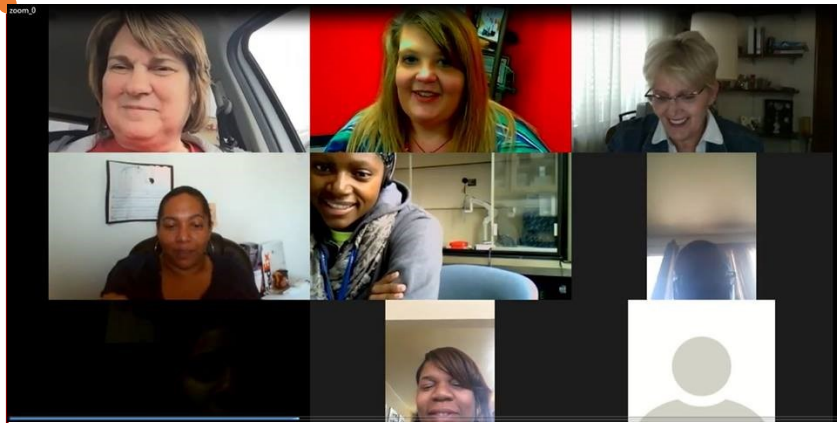
- All Life Groups will be open to new members throughout the entire semester. When new people attend or join Redemption, they will be encouraged to attend a Lifegroup. New believers who accept Christ during an altar call will be placed in groups and will require special follow up.
- If you cannot accommodate additional members and need your Life Group closed, please talk to Life Group Director .

*\*To maintain group dynamics, i.Church Webcam groups will have a maximum for participation.*





# DEVELOPING YOUR LEADER ROLE



# LEADER CODE

## *“Lifegroup Leaders give L.I.F.E”*

**1. LIFT**

We are stronger together when we pray together.

**2. INVEST**

Focus on social fellowship, sermon discussion, spiritual growth and serving.

**3. FACILITATE**

Express gratitude and unity.

**4. ECHO**

You are not alone in this journey. Stay connected by communicating with the Lifegroup Director and Leadership Team.

## Redemption



## LifeGroup Chas. SC

# LIFT: IN PRAYER & ENCOURAGEMENT

As believers in Christ, we have the distinct privilege of tapping into the unlimited resources of our Heavenly Father at any time. Prayer is our direct access to God.

### FOR YOUR LIFE GROUP

- Alternate your prayer strategies and give group members an opportunity to lead as well.
- Pray for your Lifegroup members during the week. Text or email them to let them know that you are praying for them.

### FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP

- Pray before your Lifegroup meets.
- Pray for yourself as the leader needing discernment and wisdom for your Lifegroup.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

- Let your Life Group members know their requests are not shared outside of the group. Remember, it takes a lot of courage for people to share their requests!
- Pray for the requests together as a Life Group or send the requests out for Life Group members to lift up other members throughout the week.
- Consider sharing prayer requests through group texting or private Facebook groups.

### *Deuteronomy 4:7*

*"What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us when we pray to Him?"*

# INVEST: IN PEOPLE

Just before Jesus left this earth, He instructed Simon Peter to care for the dearest object of His love— His sheep.

How could anyone care for them as Jesus cares? It is our love for Christ that enables us to love and invest in His people in the way Jesus talked about in John 21:17.

## John 21:17

*The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my sheep...”*

**You are a leader now, and just as Jesus told Peter to feed His sheep, we are asking you to feed the people God has entrusted to you. This may look different in every Life Group, but regardless, we want you to invest in the people God has called you to lead.**

## RELATIONALLY

- Get to know them individually and build relationships accordingly.
- Engage in social activities with group members outside of the Life Group setting.
- Remember the special days in their lives.
- Exchange contact information.

## SPIRITUALLY

- Encourage them to develop a consistent and regular time with God through prayer and reading their Bible.
- Invite them to share their faith testimony.

## CONSISTENTLY

- Host your Life Group on a regular basis and on a set schedule. If you are constantly canceling your Life Group, you are going to lose momentum.
- Send encouraging text and emails. Be intentional. Express what you expect.
- Remember, most of the time, discipleship follows fellowship. In order to build someone spiritually, start by building friendship first.





# FACILITATE:

## BE A SHEPHERD

As a Lifegroup leader, we are entrusting you with being the first line of care for your Life Group members. Just as Peter wrote, this is the flock that God has entrusted to your care. We hope that you are excited to care for them.



### FACILITATE SPIRITUALLY

You are a shepherd in their lives, and we expect you to provide the spiritual care they need.

- Listen to them.
- Pray with them.
- Share Scripture with them.
- Share resource ideas with them.

### FACILITATE PRACTICALLY

As a Life Group leader, you are expected to both celebrate the great events of life, as well as support them in hard times.

- Support or celebrate with them.
- Connect them to available resources.

### FACILITATE PROFESSIONALLY

As a Life Group leader, you are going to face some major situations in the lives of your people. Some you might be able to handle, while others might be more than you can handle. **We are not expecting you to be counselors.**

- Listen to them.
- Pray with them.
- Connect them with campus leadership.

#### 1 Peter 5:2-3

*“Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock”*

# ECHO:

## KEEP US INFORMED



### CONNECT WITH YOUR LEADERSHIP

- Contact staff with any concerns. We are here to help.
- Always send in weekly reports and complete surveys (as they are sent out).
- Be sure to renew your Life Group prior to the start of each semester.

### RECOGNIZE AND CELEBRATE WHAT IS HAPPENING WITHIN

#### YOUR LIFEGROUP

- Celebrate the victories. Relationships will form, transparency will become easier, and bonds will be built. Recognize and honor these important milestones.

### SHARE WITH YOUR LIFEGROUP AND CAMPUS LEADERSHIP

- Share how Jesus is moving in your life and in the lives of your Life Group. The stories of God's unfailing love are the one of the greatest rewards for our Redemption Church staff.
- Tell us how God has changed your life and the lives of the people in your group. Share your stories in your Weekly Leader Report, Redemption Lifegroup Leader Facebook group, or by emailing: [Lifegroups@myredemption.cc](mailto:Lifegroups@myredemption.cc).

#### Luke 15:10

*"In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."*



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Spring:** February 5<sup>th</sup> – May 7<sup>th</sup>

**Summer:** Host Lifegroup Meetups & Participate in Growth Track / Next Step Classes

**Fall:** September 10<sup>th</sup> – November 26<sup>th</sup>

## **What are Lifegroups?**

Lifegroups are a safe place that bring intentional community to your everyday life. Lifegroups meet weekly and are a great way to Grow in Faith, Discover Purpose & Get Connected at Redemption.

## **Where do Lifegroups meet?**

We meet in a variety of locations such as Homes, Coffee Shops, and Restaurants. Some even meet in fitness centers!

## **What do Lifegroups talk about & do?**

Lifegroup members discuss questions based on the previous Sunday's message & "Do LIFE together"!

## **What is the commitment?**

Semesters are 10-12 weeks. Since we are "Doing Life Together" there's no commitment. Attend group meetings as your schedule allows.

## **How do I join a Lifegroup?**

Once Lifegroups open for registration, you can join anytime during the semester. Find your group **In person** (Engage Booth), **online** ([Lifegroups.myredemption.cc](https://lifegroups.myredemption.cc)) or through the **myRedemption App**.

## **What if there are no Lifegroups in my area? -**

Lifegroups meet in areas surrounding each Redemption Campus. If you do not live near-by a campus, try our i.Church Webcam and On-Location groups. You can even start a Lifegroup in your community!



## LEADER FAQ'S

### **What is the commitment for leading a Lifegroup?**

At least one semester 12-13 weeks, 6 weeks in the summer semester. It requires a couple of hours per week to reach out to others and to have your group meetings. We expect you to create personal relationships that lead others to a greater relationship with Christ.

### **What are Activity Based Lifegroups?**

Activity Based Lifegroups are a new initiative. Unlike traditional groups, Activity-Based Lifegroups incorporate discussion guide questions into an activity you already enjoy! Group ideas include: Hiking, Basketball, or Dinner Club.

### **Are there opportunities to serve and spread the word about my Lifegroup?**

Absolutely. We want Lifegroup leaders to be visible at Redemption during Services and Special Events! See your Lifegroup Director or Campus Coordinator about additional serve opportunities with Hospitality, First Time Guests and Upcoming Events.

### **How long am I committed to hosting a Lifegroup once I sign up?**

Lifegroups are designed to be done in "SEMESTERS"... 3 times per year. You can stop anytime, or take a semester off. We ask that you communicate any changes to your group with your group members and Campus Coordinator.

### **How can I help if a member of my Life Group has a difficult circumstances or need?**

The Lifegroup Leader's role is to facilitate discussion and connect Lifegroup members to Church Resources. Don't feel the pressure to solve everyone's need or be a "counselor". We have other ministries and pastors that provide physical resources and facilitate personal healing, such as HEALING THE HEART class.

[Lifegroups.myredemption.cc/resources](https://lifegroups.myredemption.cc/resources)





## LEADER FAQ'S

### Do Lifegroups meet every week during a semester?

We will NOT have Life Groups on the FIRST WEDNESDAY of every month because of **Unite Service**. Discussion guides will not be provided. We ask every leader to encourage group members to attend!

*\*On Location Groups unable to attend Unite, should consider hosting a Unite watch party or doing a fun outing as a group.*

*\*I.Church Webcam groups can join the chat early and greet/say hello to their group members prior to service.*

### Can people who do not attend Redemption come to my Lifegroup?

Absolutely, Lifegroups are open to everyone! Most times, people feel more comfortable connecting in a small group setting. Inviting friends who do not attend Redemption is a great entry point to invite them to church!

### How long should my Lifegroup meeting last?

Groups should meet for 90 mins (1.5 hours). Try to stick to that time frame unless you are doing an outside social activity at a restaurant or bowling.

### What if I cannot answer a church-related or spiritual question?

If you are not sure of an answer to a question, direct that person to our Engage Booth. You may also bring your concern or question to your Life Group Director.

### What if I have a major personal situation or prior commitment that conflicts with my Lifegroup?

Consistency is key with Life Groups. Having a Co-leader in place will allow the group to continue meeting in your absence. Be sure to communicate any meeting changes with the group and consider asking another group member to help the Co-Leader facilitate the discussion.



## **i.Church LEADER FAQ'S**

### **What is the commitment for leading a Lifegroup?**

At least one semester 12-13 weeks, 6 weeks in the summer semester. It requires a couple of hours per week to reach out to others and to have your group meetings. We expect you to create personal relationships that lead others to a greater relationship with Christ.

### **How long am I committed to hosting a Lifegroup once I sign up?**

Lifegroups are designed to be done in "SEMESTERS" ... 3 times per year. You can stop anytime, or take a semester off. We ask that you communicate any changes to your group with your group members and Campus Coordinator.

### **How can I help if a member of my Lifegroup has a difficult circumstances or need?**

The Lifegroup Leader's role is to facilitate discussion and connect Lifegroup members to Church Resources. Don't feel the pressure to solve everyone's need or be a "counselor". We have other ministries and pastors that provide physical resources and facilitate personal healing, such as HEALING THE HEART RETREATS.

**What are the requirements for leading an iChurch Webcam Lifegroup?** You will need reliable internet connection and a quiet place to lead your group. Because web cam groups are mainly computer based, it is essential that you stay connected with your coordinator and group members via email. We recommend leading your group from a laptop or personal computer. All web cam life groups are recorded via cloud. A phone interview with the iChurch coordinator and additional Zoom training is required for all new Webcam Lifegroup leaders.

### **What are the requirements for leading an iChurch On Location Lifegroup?**

We ask that you have at least 2 dedicated people to join your local group. Please have your time/place/day of week set before registering your group. A phone interview with the i.Church Coordinator is required. Once training is completed, we will list your group to the website for any Redemption folks that may live in your city.

**[For additional FAQ's visit our Leader FAQ's online.](#)**

**[Lifegroups.myredemption.cc/resources](http://Lifegroups.myredemption.cc/resources)**

## PREGUNTAS Y RESPUESTAS

### ¿Cuál es el compromiso para dirigir un grupo?

Por lo menos un semestre que consiste de 12-13 semanas, 6 semanas durante el semestre de verano. Se requiere de un par de horas por semana para alcanzar a otros y para celebrar sus reuniones de grupo. Nuestra expectativa es que usted desarrolle relaciones personales que lleven a otros a una mayor relación con Cristo.

### ¿Qué son los grupos Basados en Actividades?

Los grupos Basados en Actividades son una nueva iniciativa. A diferencia de los grupos tradicionales, los grupos Basados en Actividades incorporarán las preguntas de la guía de discusión a la actividad que ya disfrutan. Algunas ideas para el Grupo incluyen pero no se limitan a: Senderismo, Baloncesto o Clubes de Cena, etc.

### ¿Hay otras oportunidades para servir y dar a conocer mi grupo?

Absolutamente. ¡Queremos que los líderes de los Grupos Vida tengan la mayor exposición posible en Redemption durante los Servicios y Eventos Especiales! Consulte a su Director de Grupo Vida o al Coordinador de su Recinto (Campus) para conocer sobre oportunidades para servir en los ministerios de Hospitalidad (Koinonia), Nuevas Visitas y Eventos Futuros.

### Si me inscribo, ¿por cuánto tiempo me estaré comprometiendo para servir a Grupos Vida?

Los Grupos Vida están diseñados para llevarse a cabo por medio de "TEMPORADAS"... 3 veces por año. Usted puede parar en el momento que usted desee, o puede tomarse un semestre libre. Pedimos que su grupo continúe con su Co-líder.

### ¿Qué debo hacer si un miembro de mi grupo tiene circunstancias difíciles o necesidades?

Comuníquese con el Director de los Grupos Vida. Usted no debe asumir un rol de "consejero". En Redemption contamos con otros ministerios y pastores que brindan sanidad personal incluyendo la clase Healing the Heart.

## PREGUNTAS Y RESPUESTAS

### ¿Se reúnen los grupos durante la semana del servicio Unite?

Los Grupos Vida no se reúnen el PRIMER MIERCOLES de cada mes debido al servicio Unite. No se proporcionarán guías de discusión para dicha semana. ¡Pedimos a cada líder que anime a los miembros de su grupo a asistir al servicio Unite!

\* Los grupos **On Location** que no puedan asistir físicamente al servicio Unite, deben considerar llevar a cabo un compartir para juntos ver la transmisión del servicio Unite o hacer una actividad divertida como grupo.

\* Los grupos Webcam de i.Church pueden conectarse al chat temprano para saludar y dar la bienvenida a sus miembros del grupo, previo al servicio.

### ¿Personas que no asisten a Redemption pueden asistir a mi grupo?

¡Absolutamente, los Grupos Vida están abiertos para todos! En ocasiones hay personas que pueden sentirse más cómodas reuniéndose en grupos pequeños. Invitar a los amigos que no asisten a Redemption puede ser la manera de abrir la puerta que le permita invitarlos a la iglesia!

### ¿Cuánto tiempo debe durar la reunión?

Los grupos deben reunirse durante 90 minutos (1 hora y media). Trate de atenerse a ese periodo de tiempo a menos que usted este haciendo una actividad social en un restaurante o una bolera, etc.

### ¿Qué pasa si no puedo responder a una pregunta espiritual o relacionada con la iglesia?

Si no está seguro de una respuesta a una pregunta, dirija esa persona a nuestra mesa de Engage. También puede presentar su preocupación o pregunta al Director de los Grupos Vida.

### ¿Qué pasa si tengo una situación personal importante o un compromiso previo que entra en conflicto con mi grupo?

La consistencia es clave en los Grupos Vida. Contar con un Co-líder le permitirá al grupo continuar reuniéndose aún durante su ausencia. Asegúrese de comunicarle al grupo cualquier cambio que pueda surgir en cuanto a la reunión y considere pedirle a otro miembro del grupo que ayude al Co-Líder a facilitar la discusión.





LEADING  
YOUR  
FIRST  
LIFE GROUP

# PREPARE

## REACH OUT TO EVERYONE

Prior to your first group, confirm location/dates/times

- When someone sign ups to be a part of your Lifegroup through the website, you will receive an email.
- Follow up with a phone call and invite them to your group
- Report back through the link in the email. You will be asked to keep this contact open or closed.



## DOWNLOAD DISCUSSION GUIDE

Download the current week's Discussion Guide & Opener Video at [www.Lifegroups.myredemption.cc](http://www.Lifegroups.myredemption.cc)

- Opener Video & Discussion Guide: Available by 6pm Sunday Evening; Emailed Weekly to all leaders.

***“Be sure to take the needed steps to prepare for your group. When you are at ease about the group and the discussion, your Lifegroup will also be at ease!”***

# ATMOSPHERE

## Control the Atmosphere

The details of the atmosphere that you create have a direct impact on the energy and engagement of your Life Group members.

First impressions are important in the Life Group setting. Consider doing the following to set the right atmosphere:

*“Atmosphere is often the last ten percent that a leader plans for, but often the first ten percent that people notice.”*

- **TEMPERATURE**—Adjust the thermostat and establish the right lighting to make the room feel comfortable.
- **SMELL**—Add a pleasant scent, such as a lightly scented candle or coffee, to make people feel at ease when they arrive.
- **SEATING**- Make sure that you have comfortable chairs that are in a circle. It is important for your Life Group members to see each other when talking to each other.
- **DECLUTTER**—Make sure the meeting area is clean and free of clutter. Show your Life Group members that you care for them by the way that you prepare for their arrival.
- **SNACKS**—Have some snacks or light food available for your guests. This is always a great way to start off a Life Group meeting.
- **MUSIC**- Play some soft music in the background as people arrive, such as Redemption worship or other worship music to set the right energy and tone for the night.



- **KIDS**—If providing childcare for the Life Group, make arrangements for it to be as distraction-free for the adults as possible. Whether this means kids being outside, playing a kid-friendly movie or using a room at the other end of the house, do all that you can do to protect your discussion time.

# ICEBREAKERS

**Every Life Group has to start somewhere.**

Before your Life Group can really dive into meaningful discussion, you have to break the ice and get people to participate with each other.



## HAVE SOME FUN BY ASKING A LIGHTHEARTED QUESTION

- “What’s the strangest food you’ve ever eaten?”
- “What is your favorite band of all time? Book? Author? Song?”
- “What did you want to be when you were growing up?”
- Two Truths and a Lie game: Each person has to tell two truths and one lie about himself or herself. Then the group has to guess which statement is a lie.
- Pass a bag of M&Ms around and ask your group members to take some. Don’t tell them how many or why. Simply ask them to take as many as they want and that everyone should take at least one. When everyone has chosen their M&Ms, have them share as many facts about themselves as they have M&Ms. They can eat the M&Ms, too!

## TAKE IT A STEP FURTHER WITH A MORE SERIOUS QUESTION

- “What comes to your mind when you think of the word ‘excellence’?”
- “After you die, what is one thing you’d like to be remembered for doing?”
- “What would the title be to this chapter of your life?”
- “If you had to name one person who has influenced you the most, what person would you name?”
- “If you had your dream job 10 years from now, what would it be?”
- “Who would you invite to your group if you knew that they would say yes?”



# DISCUSSION GUIDE

All Life Groups will be provided a Discussion Guide based off of the previous Sunday morning sermon from Pastor Ron Carpenter.

## DISCUSSION FORMAT

1. Icebreakers
2. Prayer
3. Discussion Guide

## BE PREPARED TO TALK

In any group setting, talking is contagious. Silence is also contagious. Create some inertia for your Lifegroup and keep it moving in the right direction.

## KEEP IT OPEN-ENDED

Stay away from “Yes” or “No” questions. Push your group to dig past the surface by asking, “Why or why not?” or “What makes you feel that way?” or “How would you respond to that?”

## USE THE FUNNEL

Ask broad questions first, and then work your way to a more narrow scope, just like the shape of a funnel. Ask questions that believers and non-believers would relate to. Then, drive home your application points by asking more specific questions that apply to their walk with Christ.

## FOLLOW THE 3 B’S

Tell your Life Group members to keep their answers brief, biblical and beneficial. This will keep your group on track, give the talkative person a limit, and give the quiet person confidence in their brevity.

## SHOW PEOPLE WHAT THEY’RE LEARNING

Many of your Life Group members may be visual learners, so use plenty of visual aids to assist them. Get creative. Use white boards, index cards, or find an object that your Life Group members must hold in order to speak. Visual aides will make the discussion stick with your Life Group members

## FIND A LANDING POINT

Establish a goal for each discussion with your Life Group. Steer the conversation to land there at the end of the meeting. Even if your Life Group lands somewhere else, it is always beneficial to achieve something in your discussion.

# SAMPLE: DISCUSSION GUIDE



## The Encounter – Part 1 Fall Lifegroups | Week #4

### ICEBREAKER

Think back to your first date, dance, or major social outing. **How long did it take you to get ready? What special things did you buy/do to prepare for your big day?**

### MESSAGE SUMMARY

This week began the start of our new series called, The Encounter, and this week's message centered on Ruth's encounter at the threshing floor. The threshing floor is a place of significance because it prepared Ruth to meet Boaz, her promise. She went through a strict process and followed specific instructions that would prepare her for her future. Just like Ruth, if we are to inherit our own promises from God, we must encounter a threshing floor. Let's get started and discuss more about Ruth's Encounter!

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- This week, Pastor Hope taught us that before we get our breakthrough, God will take us through the process of breaking us down. This process is called winnowing and is what the threshing floor is all about. During the winnowing process, the good seed (wheat) was removed from the inedible part of the harvest (the chaff). **Think about the winnowing process and the threshing floor of your own life. How does knowing the purpose behind this process bring perspective to the challenges you currently face? What people, places or habits might God be winnowing from your life?**
- After the winnowing process at the threshing floor, farmers could see just how much harvest their efforts produced. The same is true in our own lives. We must go through a threshing floor process to know just how much harvest God's word has produced in our lives. **Read 2 Cor. 4:17-18. Are you currently in a storm, entering a storm or just completed a storm? How does this scripture bring encouragement to your situation?**

### CONCLUSION:

The threshing floor looks different in each of our lives. But no matter it's appearance, the purpose of this experience is the same: to prepare us for our next level of blessing. It is at the threshing floor that the testing comes to determine if we have the character to handle the blessing that God has for us. For some, blessing may be a job promotion, a relationship to be restored, or building the house of their dreams. Before we attain the blessings and live in God's abundance, we must encounter opposition. Understanding this about the Threshing Floor experience is key if we are going to be ready to fight for the battle at hand. Don't faint when adversity comes, fight until you get your harvest! (Prov. 24:10) **You are about to encounter your Boaz, but you have to be willing to fight at the threshing floor!!!**

Our Challenge:

- **Refuse to pity your battle, but choose to use it to build your faith. Whether it is spending extra time in prayer, personal worship or scripture memory, Let's commit this week to actively fight for your harvest. How will you maximize your threshing floor experience?**

# SAMPLE: LEADER RESOURCE EMAIL

Lifegroups: Fall, Week 3

[View this email in your browser](#)

**MOBILE TOOLS: Click Here to take Attendance!**



## *Fall Lifegroups: Week 3*

**THIS WEEK'S LEADER FOCUS: Keeping ALL members of your Lifegroup Engaged in the Discussion!**

**Be Conversational-** Due to the conversational nature of this week's Opener Video, focus less on rushing through all of the questions, and more on engaging ALL MEMBERS in the conversation.

### Reminders:

1. **Hurricane Relief Available - Please be in prayer for all of the families affected by the recent Hurricanes.** We are believing for the storms to dissipate and for provision and protection for the families affected. For more information about what Redemption is doing to support these efforts, please visit [myredemption.cc/irma](http://myredemption.cc/irma).
2. **Attendance Deadline:** Weekly attendance is required by **Monday, at 12noon** (for the previous week) "Leader Tips" are included in RED in your discussion

**QUICKLINKS: Click Here for Discussion Guide & Video!**

**MYGROUPS - View Your Roster & Add New Members**



# MANAGING YOUR LIFE GROUP



# WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

**As your Life Group continues to meet, you will get used to seeing familiar faces, but you should always be prepared to welcome and incorporate anyone that decides to join your Life Group. Remember, Redemption Life Groups are always open!**

## PEOPLE WILL COME AND GO

- No matter how strong you are as a leader, people will leave your Life Group. It is not always going to be a reflection of your leadership. Things happen—works schedules change, children have ball games on Wednesdays and so on. There are many reasons for turnover (attrition).
- Your responsibility is to remain faithful to the people that God has entrusted to your care. Lead your Life Group with the same passion and energy whether you have one member or fifteen!

## ALWAYS BE WELCOMING

- Remember that your new Life Group member is walking into a brand new setting for the very first time. It may even be their first experience with a small group of any kind. Make every effort to bridge the gap and make them feel comfortable in their new surroundings.
- Have the entire Life Group participate in some sort of icebreaker. Engage the new members in the discussion. If there is prior lesson material that needs to be reviewed for them to gain understanding of the current lesson material, do so quickly and politely. Do not leave them feeling awkward—the less time the group is staring silently at the new member, the better.

## GIVE THEM A REASON TO RETURN

- If this is someone's first experience with a Life Group, your goal should be to have him or her come back for a second time.
- Do not just invite them back. Assign someone in your Life Group to specifically follow-up with the new member over the course of the week. Genuine connections will go a long way towards the retention of your Life Group members.




# SAMPLE: GROUP INQUIRY EMAIL


When new group members sign-up for your group online, you will receive the following message in your inbox. Each email includes a VIDEO TUTORIAL of how to add members to your roster

**\*Note:** Please be sure to check your “Spam” folders for Inquiry Emails

Group Inquiry Follow-up Email Inbox x

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 **Your Lifegroup Leadership Team** lifegroups@myredemption.cc via sendgrid.net Jan 18 (4 days ago) ☆

to me 

Dear Lacey,

**Ruff,Lacey** has requested to join your Lifegroup -- **The Muppets Lifegroup Family**. Please add them to your roster and follow up within the next **48 hours** welcoming them to your GROUP. (An initial phone call with a follow up text/email works well!)

**Lacey Message to You:** I'm excited to learn more about your group. Please contact me!

**YOUR ROSTER - View Pending Inquiries & Current Members**

**Reminders:**

- Don't forget group details (location, time, etc)
- Many have stepped out to their comfort zone to join your group. Please follow up quickly!
- Adding new members to your roster notifies us that they have been contacted. Please close all tickets!
- Can't remember how to add a new member? [WATCH THE VIDEO TUTORIAL!](#)

**SUBMIT A HELP TICKET - Portal Login Issues, Unable to view group info**

[Click Here](#)

Or email: [MPAdmin@myredemption.cc](mailto:MPAdmin@myredemption.cc)

Please reach out with any questions. Thank you for serving in excellence!

~ Lacey Ruff  
Lifegroup Director  
[lifegroups@myredemption.cc](mailto:lifegroups@myredemption.cc) | [864-770-1755](tel:864-770-1755)

***Please be sure to “add” each inquiry to your group once follow up has taken place. Otherwise, you will receive the reminder email (below).***

***\*\*\*We ask you to attempt follow up 3 times, then if no response is received, click “ignore inquiry.” (Admin Team will follow up with these requests)***

Lifegroup Leader,

It seems that **Kalela Ruff** has been awaiting a response about your Lifegroup.

**\*Note:** It is our policy to place new group members within 48 hours. Please contact as soon as possible and close their ticket in your [“MyGroups” Portal](#).

If this is an error, or you did not receive an initial inquiry, a new request has been added to your MyGroups Portal.

Thank you for serving in excellence!

~Your Lifegroup Leadership Team

**\*Outstanding Inquiry Reminders:** After 1 week, Leaders will receive reminders for each unassigned group member. Please reach out and assign contacts quickly!

# SAMPLE: CONTACT EMAIL

When new group members sign-up for your group, you will receive the following message in your inbox.

**\*Note:** Please be sure to check your “Spam” folders for Contact Emails

Group Inquiry Follow-up Email Inbox x

Your Lifegroup Leadership Team lifegroups@myredemption.cc via sendgrid.net Jan 18 (4 days ago) ☆

to me

Dear Lacey,

Ruff,Lacey has requested to join your Lifegroup -- **The Muppets Lifegroup Family**. Please add them to your roster and follow up within the next **48 hours** welcoming them to your GROUP. (An initial phone call with a follow up text/email works well!)

Lacey Message to You: I'm excited to learn more about your group. Please contact me!

**YOUR ROSTER- View Pending Inquiries & Current Members**

**Reminders:**

- Don't forget group details (location, time, etc)
- Many have stepped out to their comfort zone to join your group. Please follow up quickly!
- Adding new members to your roster notifies us that they have been contacted. Please close all tickets!
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[lifegroups@myredemption.cc](mailto:lifegroups@myredemption.cc) | [864- 770-1755](tel:864-770-1755)

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***Please be sure to “add” each inquiry to your group once follow up has taken place. Otherwise, you will receive the reminder email (above).***

***\*\*\*We ask you to attempt follow up 3 times before clicking “ignore inquiry.”***

# SAMPLE: PARTICIPANT SIGNUP EMAIL



Dear Lacey ,

Thank you for inquiring to the Lifegroup - The Muppets Lifegroup Family. We are excited that you are taking this next step!

Your Leader will be contacting you within the next 48 hours.

\*\*\*In the meantime, check out a few videos about [What NOT to Expect from your Lifegroup Meeting](#) \*\*\*

We can't wait to see you soon!

~Your Lifegroup Leadership Team

Lifegroups@myredemption.cc | 864-770-1755

## WEBSITE ADMINISTRATOR VIEW

Greenville 35+ Si...	Adams, Robin	Robin	Adams	864-434-3418	godsgirlnga@ya...	I would like.in thi...	True
NEW: Kingdom Fi...	Sessoms, Robin	Robin	Sessoms	919-413-7459	SessomsRVS@a...	I am currently in ...	True
Champions (Web...	Henry, Ellen	Ellen	Henry	678-779-3776	MNEHH1@gmail...	Hello, I am locate...	False
Couples Connect...	Hatfield, John	John	Hatfield	803-318-0722	phatfield52@gm...	New in the area ...	True
Iron Sharpens Ir...	Goins, LaKeisha	LaKeisha	Goins	205-602-8603	mskeishg@yaho...	Hello, I was chec...	True
Redemption Youn...	Brunson, Zach	Zachery	Brunson	912-484-3756	zaktom18@gma...	Zachery would lik...	True
NEW: WOW: Wo...	McDuffie , Zhad...	Zhadaisa	McDuffie	843-260-8601	Daisamdcuffie@...	I would love to joi...	True
Inman Connectio...	Smith, Jackie	Jackie	Smith	864-490-9597	sjackie57@gmai...	I live in the Gaffn...	True
DIVAS: Divinely I...	Young, Jasmine	Jasmine	Young	864-567-5594	17youngJasmin...	New Believer. Jas...	
Russell Family Lif...	Boyd, Timothy	Timothy	Boyd	864-873-8823	noemail@gmail....	No email provide...	True
Glinisty Family Li...	Leriger, Jeff	jeff	leriger	864-201-9169	jleriger@att.net	can i join? where ...	False
Cedar Lane Conn...	Tucker, D	D	Tucker	864-438-1253	gtucker052@att...	I would like a call...	
Redemption Yout...	Anderson, Desti...	Destinee	Anderson	864-300-9279	zadora27@gmai...	Hi, Ms. Sheri! My ...	

***Be sure to “Assign a role” to each contact (Group Member—Lifegroup) or “Ignore Inquiry” if additional follow up is needed!***

# KEEPING THE MOMENTUM

## HOW TO KEEP THEM COMING BACK

- Talk about the next meeting. Plan a special meal or activity where everyone can participate (i.e.—Bring your favorite night or game night)
- Reach out to each person the next week and post in a closed Facebook group consistently.
- Keep to a “Set time frame” of around 90 minutes for your meeting
- Keep your location consistent... but mix it up a few times during the semester by meeting for dinner at a restaurant or a fun activity.
- Always remember that people will come and go. If you have done all you can to be hospitable, then do not fret if a person does not come back to your group again. It is fully that person’s decision as to whether or not your Lifegroup is the right one for them.



## GROWING YOUR GROUP

- Respond to the email leads from those who sign up for your Lifegroup
- Invite those you already know in the church to join your Lifegroup
- Encourage your Lifegroup members to invite others
- \*Physical campus groups only: Gather around the Lifegroup booth in the lobby of the church to introduce yourself to those who are interested in Lifegroups.
- \*i.Church Webcam Groups – Talk up your group in the Chat before service or during announcements



# FACILITATING CHILDREN

## EMBRACE THE CHAOS

Those with children already understand the normal chaos that comes with having children.

- Involve the older children in your group and embrace more of a family dynamic.
- You may decide to have fewer numbers in your group since you will be facilitating children.

## GET AN “APPROVED” SITTER

- Hire a sitter to watch the children in another part of the house. Submit a background check form for safety approval.
- You can set a designated amount for each parent to contribute. Our suggested amount is \$5—\$10 with no more than \$10 per parent even with multiple children so that it is still affordable. For those unable



## ROTATING SCHEDULE

- Try creating a rotation schedule with the parents. One person can be in charge of watching the kids in another part of the house for that meeting while the rest of your Life group meets. This way everyone can be involved in an undistracted group.

## ADDITIONAL IDEAS

- For groups with older children, you may have a movie night in a nearby room for kids that they can look forward to meeting. **Grab popcorn and snacks to make it fun!**

# COMMUNICATION

## KEEP LEADERSHIP INFORMED

Weekly communication with Leadership about what is happening in your Life Group **IS REQUIRED** as a Life Group leader.

### 1. Complete Weekly Leader Report (IMMEDIATELY AFTER MEETING):

- Did you meet?
- Attendance?
- Any other relevant information

### 2. Stopping Lifegroup

- If your Life Group is no longer meeting decide to stop your Life Group, COMMUNICATE WITH US.

### 3. Renewing for the Next Semester

- In order to maintain accurate group listings, Life Group leaders must renew their group prior to each semester to be listed on the Life Groups website.

## RESPONDING TO NEW MEMBERS

- As the Life Group leader, it is your responsibility to respond to those who express interest in your Life Group. We want to ensure that that no one falls through the cracks and misses out on finding the right Life Group!



## COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR LIFEGROUP

- Utilize Mobile Tools to send one-way text messages and group reminders
- Create a text message or social media group to develop group unity outside of the Lifegroup meeting

# THE IMPORTANCE OF SERVING

**Serving is a major part of Redemption Culture. We never want to be inward-focused!**

## SCHEDULE A OUTREACH

- We ask that all Life Groups do one service project/community project one time during the semester. You can contact your Campus Coordinator for ideas.



## MEETING A NEED

- Leadership happens when people bridge the gap between problems and solutions by meeting the needs that they identify.
- Meeting the needs of others is a great way to inspire spiritual growth in your Life Group. Serving provides an opportunity for your Life Group to display the love of Christ while simultaneously creating an experience that your members will always remember.

## THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP

- At Redemption, we concentrate all of our efforts on strategic Outreach Partners who are already having tremendous impact in our city and across the world. Our goal is to continue to reach out through partnerships that are making a difference in our community.

## SIGNING UP TO SERVE

- There are a number of ways that you can serve with your Life Group. For example, you can serve a meal at a homeless shelter, clean up a local park, or help to build a house. Make a point to connect with our Outreach Department through the Engage booth at all campuses.

## SPECIAL EVENTS SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

- There are a number of opportunities to serve at Special Events during the Semester. Be sure to keep your group members informed about upcoming events and Serving Opportunities!

# FINDING A CO-LEADER

As a Life Group leader, it is our expectation that you are thinking of the next generation of Life Group leaders.

## WHAT IS A CO-LEADER?

A 'co-leader' is someone who is learning to lead a Life Group by observing and helping with a current Life Group.

- They learn by doing, under the supervision of a seasoned (mature and skilled) leader. Co-leading is closely related to mentoring – a developmental relationship in which a more experienced person helps a less experienced person.
- They grow in maturity along with the rest of the Life Group, but he or she receives special attention and more pointed direction from the mentoring leader.

## SELECTING A CO-LEADER

A Life Group Co-Leader is an emerging leader. This person is someone who has been identified by you, the Life Group leader, as a good candidate for leading a future Life Group, based on a variety of observations. They include, but are not limited to the following:

- A growing and vibrant relationship with Christ and passion for the vision of Redemption and our Life Groups.
- An understanding of the role and the ability to live out the role of a Life Group leader.
- The person that you would least like to lose from your Life Group. It is true that the person you would least like to lose is probably the person that you need to raise up and send out the most.

## DEVELOPING YOUR CO-LEADER

As important as it is to select the right Co-Leader, it is equally as important to mentor the Life Group Co-Leader. Follow these four steps:

- 1. I do. You watch. We talk.**
- 2. I do. You help. We talk.**
- 3. You do. I help. We talk.**
- 4. You do. I watch. We talk.**



# MANAGING PERSONALITIES

We know that it would be impossible for you to take on this role and not encounter difficult people, personalities, questions and conflict along the way. Knowing how to respond in these circumstances will be the defining moments of success for your Life Group!

## BE UPFRONT & SET THE TONE

- Be the most prepared person in the room and be prayed up and ready to release a great positive attitude in the group meeting.

## OFFER DISTINCT GOALS AND CLEAR COMMUNICATION

- Open up your first Life Group with setting the ground rules. Express that the purpose of the Life Group is for Biblical Discussion, Group Encouragement and Inspiration, and Relationship Building.
- If the discussion begins to move into political opinions, personal business solicitation, gossip or slander of another person, the conversation must be stopped immediately and redirected back to the Sermon Discussion Guide.

## OVERCOMING DEFEAT

### Self Doubt

- We all doubt our abilities sometimes, so coming to terms with the myth that you will someday have perfect confidence helps. Our reliance is never on ourselves but rather on the Holy Spirit.
- Use your weekly leaders email/resources to help equip you for the task at hand.

### You do not know the answer.

- You are not meant to be the person that knows it all. Sometimes giving an honest “I don’t really know” can show more integrity than trying to come up with an answer on the spot.
- Encourage everyone to search for the answer together in the Word of God.
- Commit to praying for the right discernment for a question answered.
- Ask your Life Group Director how you should respond.



# LEADING DYNAMIC PERSONALITIES

## “The Talker”:

**This is a person that takes over the Life Group because of their zealous personality. They tell long stories that drag down the conversation flow, and they do not leave much room for other opinions or experiences. They may also tend to interrupt others.**

- Have a side conversation with this person outside of the group. Thank them for helping contribute to the weekly conversation, and ask them to help involve others in discussion. Being honest with them is important, and letting them know you want to see others engage in conversation is important as well.
- If the situation persists, you may want to use an object (like a ball) to pass around the room. The catch is that you only talk when you are in possession of the chosen item.

## “The Silent One”:

**This is a person that never talks or engages in conversation. They may be overly shy or nervous at this social situation.**

- Help them form a relationship with someone else in the Life Group. When they know someone personally, they will be more open to talk.
- Ask a question that you go around in the circle person-by-person making sure that everyone answers the question.
- Put people in pairs or groups of three and give them a question to discuss.
- Ask a question and have everyone write down his or her response in a journal or a notepad. Then go around the room and have everyone read their response.
- Always direct your question to this person by name and be sensitive to help them respond when they are ready. Never try to force someone to answer.

## “The Drama Queen or King”:

**This is the person that is hypersensitive or overly dramatic. He or she also may be very needy and brings the discussion back to their personal problems and issues.**

- Subtly downplay their response and neutralize the situation. Avoid your own overreaction in the opposite direction.
- Maintain a positive posture and one that directs everyone to God as their source.
- Offer another opinion, overtly downplaying or contradicting what a dramatic person says may offend them. But simply offering another opinion can present a new perspective.

# BUILDING ACCOUNTABILITY

Accountability has always been a key ingredient to a deeper walk with Christ. When we trust those close to us, we are more likely to share with them our greatest struggles and greatest victories. When we trust others, we are more likely to share the things that drive us closer to God or away from God. When you are able to lead your Life Group to a point of this type of sharing, you are growing your group. You are living out James 5:16.

**James 5:16**

*“Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”*

## SET THE EXAMPLE

- Your Life Group members are going to follow your lead. If you are comfortable sharing, they will be comfortable.
- Your personal and spiritual growth will foster the growth of the rest of your Life Group.

## REITERATE THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE LIFE GROUP

- Remind your members that the Life Group is a safe place to share personal feelings and reflections. You do not have to make an announcement out of it, but rather just mention it in passing. Your members will pick up your leadership habits.

## GET PRACTICAL

- Divide into smaller groups within your Life Group for a more intimate, comfortable setting.



## BE PATIENT

- Realize that members of your Life Group may be new to community and may not feel comfortable enough to share their greatest struggles. Pray for God to move in this area of your Life Group, but do not tie yourself to a timetable.