





We are so excited that you have chosen to be apart of Life Groups here at Shady Grove Wesleyan Church. We believe that a key way that people grow both spiritually and as a body of believers is through doing life together. We hope that through Life Groups our church will have a foundation that is stronger than anything. As Shady Grove Wesleyan Church grows, Life Groups will play a vital role in our church.

As a leader we feel that you have what it takes to lead a Life Group. I know that at times this position can seem a little scary and overwhelming. However, together we know that the impact of people sharing life together is something that is both Biblical and amazing to be a part of. There is nothing greater than seeing people's lives changed into a deep and meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ.

Pastor Tony Parsons
Student & Life Group Pastor



Life Group Leader Training

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Part I: Structure

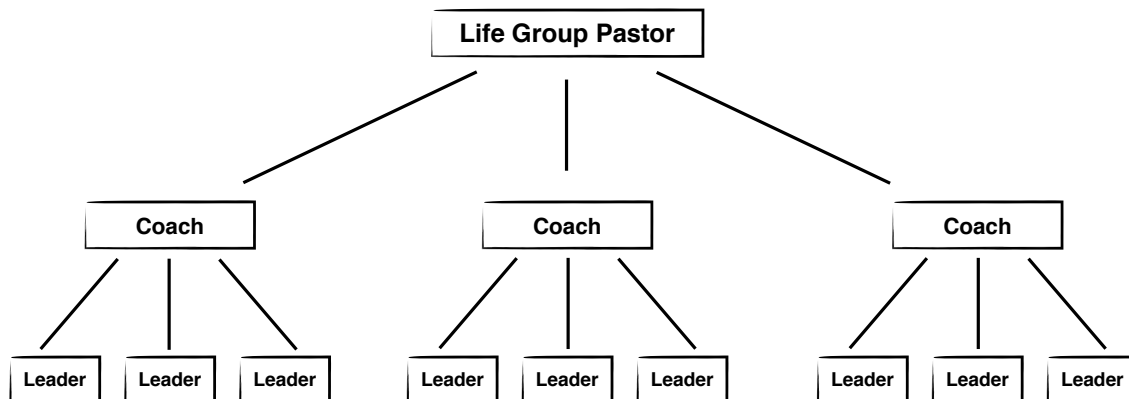
Ministry Mission Statement:

Our mission is to Reach, Teach, Give and Go in the power and love of Christ. Our central focus with Life Groups is on the aspect of Teach: teaching people to grow in God's Word and with other believers.

Vision:

We value transparency, confidentiality and authenticity. We encourage the freedom to grow or change groups as needed for the best interest of group members. We acknowledge that sharing life together begins with prayer and the study of God's Word, therefore, we base these Life Groups on the early church formation as found in Acts 2:42-47.

Dynamics:



Purpose:

The purpose of Life Groups is to incorporate their regular meetings into three main aspects:

Fellowship-sharing life together through accountability and prayer

Service-serving as a part of God's mission to the world

Depth-Biblically growing together and growing deeper through Scripture

Goals:

Provide oversight and leadership to group members

Study the Bible (learn the passages, discern the important truths)

Make personal application (apply the truth, talk about appropriate personal issues in light of the applied truth)

Pray (pray for one another and, if applicable, begin a life group prayer journal)

Connect with each group member regularly:

Letters, cards, texts, phone calls, emails, Facebook Important note: Do not Facebook, text or tweet members of the opposite sex. Do not display personal opinions when sending group reminders – stick to God's Word or the business at hand. Examples: "Reminder – LG meeting changed to 7:30 this week" or "Here's the Bible verse we discussed last time." No intermixed counseling - be above reproach with everything (texts, emails, phone calls, visits, counseling)

Keep group members accountable spiritually

Lifestyle – Make sure their walk matches their talk; when it conflicts, in love draw them back to God's Word Commitment to beliefs and doctrines of the Wesleyan church.

Make sure Fellowship Service and Depth is occurring in groups –

This is not a social club. While, superficial community exists at nearly every level of our lives, we do not want to settle and miss out on powerful relationships. Your Life Group should be a safe place where people feel freedom to be real and take risks in sharing their struggles while learning and growing in God's Word together. As you grow together, incorporate acts of service outside of your group to continue the work God is doing through you.

Attend quarterly meetings – Each quarter the Life Groups Pastor will present new curriculum and focus for each Life Group as well as provide training and support to the questions or needs you may have. Attendance is vital for the continuity of all Life Groups.

Be a regular attender through a main worship service – Consistent attendance and participation in a main worship service at Shady Grove Wesleyan Church is required for all Life Group leaders.

Attend and/or understand the process of the LifeTrack – Life Track is our process that we encourage every new person to go through. These classes will be offered Every Sunday with a repeating process. (Example: First Sunday of Month we will always teach Reach 101)

Provide updates to Life Groups pastor and Coaches – Provide your coach and/or Life Group Pastor with regular updates. Expect a support

call at least once a week from your coach to address any concerns you have. Complete and turn in any paperwork given to you by your coach and/or Life Group Pastor.

Agree and sign Life Group Leadership Agreement.



Part II: Training

Guidelines

To help promote unity in our church, our goal is that we grow together spiritually; that what you hear on Sunday morning, is discussed and studied in Life Groups. With that hope in mind, each month we will provide you with study material and questions that compliment what we learn corporately. See Appendix VI for a sample.

Diffuse and resolve conflict Biblically; uphold the values, staff and vision of Shady Grove in all communication.

No intermixed counseling, be above reproach with everything (texts, emails, phone calls, visits, counseling).

Our hope is not to take other people from their home church, but to reach the people of SGWC, and those who are unchurched.

Reasons for birthing another group:

- 1) Your group has grown so large it needs to multiply
- 2) The function of the group is not working
- 3) The ongoing process of individuals going through Life Track and they need to join a group

When any of these scenarios occur, the process to begin birthing a group is to contact your Life Group Coach, or Life Group Pastor to begin the conversation of multiplying.

DO's & DON'Ts

DON'T be afraid of silence—

Let the group sit for a moment and think.

DO value group input—

Do whatever it takes to affirm the comments of group input, but do not be artificial with your praise. Be delicate with answers that are clearly wrong. Do not feel like you have to finish, complete, or correct a person's answer.

DON'T feel like you have to know all the answers—

We are human, and it's good for your group members to see that you are limited. Never give an opinion or make an answer up, instead open up the Word of God and see what He has to say about the subject.

DON'T talk more than the group members—

Ask questions to generate discussion, ask group members to explain their answers and go into more depth. Allow multiple people to respond, even if the first person gets the "right" answer.

DO ask people if they have questions—

Encourage them to deal with the material on their own terms. Create a climate where people feel the freedom to ask any question.

DO echo some responses to your questions—

If a person's answer or comment is longwinded or unclear, repeat it back (summarize it) for clarity. This proves you are listening and it keeps the attention off the rest of the group.

DON'T move to a new question to quickly—

After a person answers a question, ask, "Would anyone like to add to that?" or "Does everyone agree/disagree with that?"

DO keep the group focused and on purpose—

Don't go down a rabbit trail and leave the topics and/or scripture passages unless something significant comes up (i.e. a family crisis). Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit and use your discretion.

DO require and maintain confidentiality—

This allows members to open up because they feel their environment is safe. However, DO NOT keep potentially dangerous information to yourself (i.e. abuse, suicide, destructive intentions, etc.) It is essential that you report any type of destructive behavior to the Life Group Pastor IMMEDIATELY! It is important to explain this confidentiality agreement to your group members.

DON'T be discouraged—

When (not "if") you have a "bad night." There is not a Life Group leader in the world that hasn't had bad nights. Understand that sometimes this happens and you have to move on to the next week

Schedule for Life Group Meetings:

1 - 1.5 hours weekly or twice a month (plan to announce commencement time 15 minutes ahead of schedule so you can begin on time)

Welcome (food, fellowship)

Time together to study

Time separate for prayer

Time together for wrap up, announcement, dismissal prayer

HOW TO TEACH A BIBLE STUDY**Teaching from the Heart—**

The best teaching comes from what God is doing in the teacher's life. This means beginning a teaching "prep" time with quiet time. Teaching like this will rarely lack passion, because you'll be talking about exciting things God is doing in your life. Focus more on the Bible, what God is teaching you, and asking questions rather than a lecture.

Basic Training—

Each group meeting, begin by introducing the topic and objective. Adding creatively to the lesson is great, but not necessary. By "creatively" we mean: object lessons, videos, dramas, etc. Some people love to be creative, so if it comes easily to you and you love

coming up with “fresh”, new and clever ways to communicate, we want you to have the freedom to create that. We certainly don’t expect everyone to do this, or want to do this; and no one should labor endlessly trying to come up with “fresh” and new ideas.

- **Read through the passage at least two times.**

It’s impossible for most to understand a passage with only one reading...Try having two different people read it. In between readings, encourage them to look for things they don’t understand and be ready to give a few explanations.

- **Summarize the basic facts.**

If the passage is a narrative, try to get a sketch summary of what’s happening. You could say, “Someone tell me what’s in the passage, give me a summary”. When one person is done, ask, “Does anyone have anything else to add?”

Key Attitudes—

Attitude is very important. Everything you perceive and communicate will pass through the filters of our attitudes. Here are a few things to consistently keep in mind when teaching:

- Check your attitude before beginning group time. When it’s time to lead, it’s time to lead.
- Do not own someone else’s behavior. It’s not your responsibility if someone doesn’t want to learn. There are a few reasons for this:
 1. You can’t make someone learn; only the Holy Spirit has control of this.
 2. There will be some who want to learn, and that makes teaching worthwhile. Just do your best and be faithful to what God has shown you in this study!
 3. You need to respond if someone is being a distraction; try redirecting the focus back to the topic at hand.
 4. Remember, our job is to lead; God is the one who makes them grow.
(1 Corinthians 3:6)

Truth To Look for When Studying—

Truth about God

The Bible reveals the heart of God, and the most important thing we can gain from Bible study is greater intimacy with Him. When we understand God’s redemption plan through the Scriptures, we see our role in it.

Truth about the World

The world is a big place, and there’s so much deception about the way things work... obviously Satan and our own ignorance perpetuates the cycle of confusion. The Bible tells us about REAL LIFE, unmasking the lies and bringing the truth to light. The better we understand the world, the better we’ll be at living the life we were meant to live.

Truth about Myself

This is really an overlap of the personal devotional side of preparing to teach. Scripture is a mirror that shows us the truth about ourselves. It's okay for you to be transparent with your group and let them see how God is working in your soul.

Layers of Understanding—

When we study the Bible and apply its truth to our lives, we can understand it on different “levels.”

The details of the text

The text stands on its own; read it carefully. Do your best to identify and eliminate any preconceived notions you bring to the text. All of us have assumptions... not all of them are bad, but most of them keep us from understanding the text in the way the author intended. Help your group understand the basic meaning of the text... who, what, where, why, when... these are great questions.

Eternal Truths

Eternal truths are always true regardless of time and place. These things should form the foundation for our thoughts and therefore, how we live. It's common for people to read a particular text and jump to the eternal truths. Encourage your group to begin with the details! Discovering these truths can be really difficult, especially when reading narratives. Remember, they must apply to anytime and anyplace; things like, “God deserves our worship”, “all humanity needs salvation”, etc; they are clearly supported by the text, and confirmed by other Scriptures.

Personal Applications—

Jesus commanded His disciples to “teach others to obey”, and this means a changed life. Obedience means the application of eternal truths to a particular situation. Every person will leave your Bible study and need to make decisions about how they live... there's a million applications, a billion implications, for each person. You could never hope to cover them all. Your prayer is for God to show you where you need to guide your group. Try to follow these steps. When a teacher jumps straight to the application, they rob the student of the process by which they can get there themselves.

Asking Questions—

The best skill you can develop is the ability to ask good questions. Good means several different things. Great teachers ask the right questions at the right time. Some questions don't have easy answers; some have several answers and some have only one answer. Some questions expose foolish thinking, others expose common questions; some appear to have easy answers, but don't, and some have easy answers but the implications are so profound that few really live in obedience to them.

Four or five questions with 10 people can last you an hour. A few questions are all you really need, especially if you start with, “What questions do you have about the text?” Generating questions during your prep time is important. Lean to think like different types of people. Read the passage and try to think how a nonbeliever would respond or

a new Christian or an arrogant Christian or a know-it-all, or as someone who is really hurting. Be able to answer your questions in at least two different ways. This way you can present both “answers” if your group members don’t come up with them on their own. This is especially helpful for the person who is “always right.”

Spiritual Tools

PRAYING FOR THE PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE GROUP

Sometime it can be overwhelming to have the responsibility to pray for 8-10 different people with about 100 different needs. An easy way to conquer this battle is found in Paul’s prayer for the church at Colosse, in Colossians 1:9-11 he writes:

“For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, for all patience and long-suffering with joy.” (NKJV)

We can break this passage down so that each day you can take one of the requests and pray it for the members of your Life Group.

Monday— pray that they will know the “will” of God for their life.

Tuesday—pray that their walk (lifestyle) before God will be pleasing.

Wednesday—pray that their work for God will be productive.

Thursday—pray that they will increase in their wisdom about God.

Friday—pray that they will utilize the power of the Holy Spirit to withstand trials and temptations.

See Appendix III for greater detail.

CONFRONTATION

You CAN NOT do ministry without confrontation. — James 5:19-20

Biblical steps to confront a person:

1. Pray— Philippians 4:6
2. Do it Privately— Matthew 18:15
3. Speak the Truth in Love— Ephesians 4:15
 - Listen first, repeat what you heard said, then speak (James 1:19)
 - Listen to what they say and try to understand where they are coming from.
You still may not agree, but may better understand their point of view.
4. Restore Them Gently— Philippians 4:5

Tips:

- Don’t manipulate
- Use Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16-17, don’t tell them what you think, tell them what God thinks. Helpful scripture:

1. God's Love: Romans 8:30-31; I John 3:13; Psalm 103:11
 2. Repentance & Confession: Psalm 51; I John 1:9; Acts 3:19
 3. God's Forgiveness: Psalm 139:13-15
 4. Struggling in Sin: Romans 7:4-8:1
 5. God's Desire for Our Lives: Jeremiah 29:11
 6. Stop Loving the World: I John 2:15-17
 7. Forgiving Ourselves Because God Does: I John 3:19-20
- Develop Action Steps (Acts 26:20)
 - Follow-up

DIFFICULT SITUATIONS

Keep in mind, every situation has unique circumstances. Before dealing with any situation, make sure to pray!! The way you approach situations can make or break the success of dealing with issues. Just a few tips: think about the approach you are going to take, think about the family situation or other special circumstances that may be part of the issue, think about your surroundings and others that are involved, and pray for wisdom from God to deal with the issues in the best way!

- 1. With a member who always has a tragedy and monopolizes small group time...**
 - a. Encourage the person to keep stories short and succinct to give other people a chance to share.
 - b. Ask if you can meet with them one-on-one that week and try to help them work through hurts in their lives.
- 2. What if your group has grown and you need to start two groups...**
 - a. Contact your coach to begin conversations on the process of multiplying your group.
- 3. When you know your Life Group members are gossiping about each other and it is causing obvious division...**
 - a. Talk with each person in a one-on-one conversation outside of the Life Group.
 - b. Bring everyone that is involved together and only you as the leader should be the one talking.
 - c. Encourage them to go to the people they need to go to in order to make things right. Follow the Matthew 18 principle!
- 4. What should I do if a member is using electronics during Life Group?**
 - a. Make a rule in the beginning that all cell phones need to be turned off or silenced and put in one location (on an end table, at the front door, etc.)
 - b. Ask members to refrain from using electronics during group time.

Each group is special and different. You may run into difficulties that are not listed above. We, as coaches and the Life Group Pastor, are here to help you! Please contact us with any difficulties or concerns.

LIFE GROUP OUTINGS

Purpose:

To organize Life Group service events outside of your regularly scheduled meeting time for relationship building, spiritual formation, serving and fun!

What it should look like:

Organized, fun, safe, relational, purposeful

What success for this segment looks like:

Leaders gather input from group members as to the type and style of service, then plan events consistently for their Life Group. This should be done on a regular basis:

For the winter session (January-May) at least two events

For the summer session (June-August) at least one event

For the fall session (September-November) at least one event

Things to look out for:

Group members that opt out of every event, calendar of events and last minute items.

Common fears:

"I don't have the time to plan an event!" "All of my group members have such hectic schedules already!"

Action steps and overcoming barriers:

Life Group events can be a great tool for getting to know one another. Try to give a personal invitation to every person. Keep in mind the ministry event calendar so you don't plan anything too close to one of the church's big events. If you're unsure about an event or date, run it by your members first to see how many can (or will) attend. Plan and promote a few weeks ahead of time, involving key members in handling the details of an event.

Appendix I

LEADING SOMEONE TO CHRIST

Hearing a person say that he/she is unaware of a personal relationship with Jesus is an awesome opportunity to share His plan for redemption. But, it can also be overwhelming. Remember to stick to the facts of the Gospel and not to get sidetracked with unnecessary questions (such as: was the wine Jesus made at the wedding fermented or not fermented?) These moments are crucial, so be prepared to show a person why Jesus chose to lay down His life for sinners.

1. God has a plan

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”
— John 3:16

2. Man has a problem

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” —Romans 3:23
“As it is written, there is none righteous, not even one.” —Romans 3:10

3. Man’s problem comes with a penalty “For the wages of sin is death...” —Romans 6:23a

4. God has provided a provision

“...but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
—Romans 6:23b
“But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” —Romans 5:8

5. Man makes personal response

“That if you confess with your mouth, Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.” —Romans 10:9-10

6. God made a promise

“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on him.” —John 3:35-36

*If someone doubts their salvation, have them read 1 John.

Follow up with new believers:

1. Life Group Pastor will meet with the person and affirm their commitment and will give them a New Believers Bible with the date they accepted Christ.
2. We will educate them about baptism and encourage them to go through the baptism class

Appendix II

NEW BELIEVER FOLLOW UP PLAN

Call the group member during the same week they made their commitment. Ask if you can pray with them about the commitment they made. Ask them if there is anything they would like you to pray about.

Sample Prayer:

Dear Jesus,

I pray that you will put your hand upon _____, comfort them and encourage them in the commitment they have made to You. Help _____, to be committed to You and be an example for You. Help them to make a difference in their life for You and to stay close to You. Help them to get in the Word and spend time talking with You each day. Bless them and keep them close to You. Amen!

Questions to Ask:

- Ask them how they are doing with their new Bible that Pastor Nate gave them.
- Ask them if they are praying

What we are sending them:

- A letter explaining their commitment.
- The list of service times at our church
- Info on baptism

It is really important that you let us know when a member has made a decision for Christ. We want to partner with you in making sure they are moving into discipleship and growing relationship with the living God. Call your coach to let them know so we can begin the process of discipleship.

Appendix III

Praying For The People In Your Life Group Going Deeper

1. **On Monday** pray that they will know the “will” of God for their life.
 - a. The will of God calls for them to:
 - i. Be saved
 - ii. That they will be holy
 - iii. That they will submit to authority
 - iv. That they might know His “will” for the service He has for them. (See Romans 12:12)
2. **On Tuesday**—pray that their walk (lifestyle) before God will be pleasing
 - a. For humility as opposed to pride. (James 4:6)
 - b. For honesty as opposed to lying. (Proverbs 12:22)
 - c. For contentment as opposed to materialism. (Proverbs 30:79)
 - d. For an obedient spirit as opposed to a rebellious spirit. (I Samuel 15:22-23)
3. **On Wednesday**—pray that their work for God will be productive. Building a prayer time around this request calls for praying for:
 - a. Their office place, coworkers, home environment and they work they do.
 - b. The activities that they are involved in outside of their main work/activities.
 - c. The activities that they are involved in with Christian service or at a church.
4. **On Thursday**—pray that they will increase in their wisdom about God.
 - a. They need to know the attributes of God.
 - b. They need to know the nature/character of God.
 - c. They need to know the names of God. (Psalm 23)
5. **On Friday**—pray that they will utilize the power of the Holy Spirit to withstand trials and temptations.
 - a. **Trials:** that they allow God to shape their character and that they handle trials with a joyful spirit as well as a trusting spirit.
 - b. **Temptations:** when it comes to handling temptations I am going to pray that they not are led into temptation. This includes being led by:
 - i. what they hear
 - ii. what they see
 - iii. who they spend time with
 - iv. where they go
 - c. **Pray** who they choose their friends and associates to be
 - i. We have to pray that they will be able to see the lies that the evil one is telling. (Psalm 30:79)

Appendix IV

HOW TO START HAVING A QUIET TIME

Some group members will have no clue how to study the Word of God. Let's look at "how" to have a quiet time. Everyone is different and has different needs. What follows are suggestions on how to establish quiet time, not some hard and fast rules. Use what you need to help you.

1. We need to first decide that our quiet time is a **PRIORITY** in our lives. This means it is part of our daily schedule. Make sure on your daily schedule you have "Quiet Time."
2. We need to make **PREPARATION**.
 - Determining the Time—if you do your devotions in the morning, set the alarm a little earlier.
 - Determining the Place—you will also need a place where you can be alone. Find a place you can consistently go to and not be disturbed. It may be your room, your prayer room, or your work lobby.
 - Get the Key Materials—you should have a good study Bible, a pen or marker and a notebook to write down your thoughts, comments and prayer requests.

Develop a PLAN for Bible reading and Prayer—

Suggestion: begin by reading one chapter of Proverbs every day.

1. Be **PERSISTENT** until consistent.
 - a. Aim for consistency rather than length of time. Consistency leads to habits.
 - b. Expect interruptions. They will come and you will have to work through them.
2. Focus on the **PERSON** you are meeting rather than the habit of quiet time. This is not a program. It is a relationship that you will want to cultivate.

Read Luke 18:1; Psalm 119:9,11; I Peter 2:2, Psalm 119:105, and Philippians 4:6-7 and see what benefits come from having a quiet time.

Take time to consider your relationship with the Lord. Is it as close as you would like? Would you consider yourself a diligent seeker of the Lord or a casual seeker? Did you see yourself more like Mary who makes it a priority to sit at the Lord's feet and learn, or like Martha who is distracted from spending time with the Lord? Make a commitment to have a quiet time. "Draw near unto God and He will draw near unto you" —James 4:8a

Some practical steps for becoming better at studying the Bible:

Learn to view the Bible study as a nonnegotiable time throughout your week. Set aside a consistent time when you are at your best. Avoid the extremes of being ritualistic (mechanical) or slothful (lazy). Begin with some realistic goals and boundaries for your study time. Be open to God's Spirit.

WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM GOD'S WORD

When reading the Bible, look for:

1. **Truth About God's Character**—God gave us the Bible so we could learn more about who He is. We don't need someone else to tell us EVERYTHING about God, we can learn on our own! Discover God on His own terms, He gave us the Bible so we could learn more about His character through alone time with Him and His Word.
2. **Truth About the Way Things Are**—God hasn't left us alone here on earth to figure things out. Life can be difficult, but when we know "how the world works" we can make better, wiser decisions.
3. **Truth About the Way Things Were**—God gave us the history in the Bible to teach us. The Bible isn't a history full of perfect people; instead, it details the lives of imperfect people like you and me. Their lives – good choices and bad – serve as an example to move us on to greater maturity. (See Hebrews 11:1-12,12:1)
4. **Truth About How We Ought to Act**—The Bible doesn't only tell us about how things are or how they were; it also reveals a picture of how things ought to be. God's love for us is so great that He accepts us where we are; and His love is greater still because He doesn't want to leave us there. God gives us commands to follow Him for our benefit and well being.

When you read, here are four questions you can ask to help learn from the Bible:

1. What does this passage teach me about who God is, how He acts, what He likes?
2. What does this passage teach about the nature of the world – about the way things are?
3. Does this passage have an example from the past that I can learn from?
4. What commands does this passage contain for me to follow with my life?

Appendix V

WHO IS JESUS?

He is God—

The high priest said to him, “I charge you under oath by the living God; tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.” “Yes, it is as you say,” Jesus replied. —Matthew 26:63-64

He became a person—

The Word [Jesus] became flesh and made his dwelling among us. —John 1:14

He taught with authority—

They were amazed at His teaching, for He taught as one who had real authority – quite unlike the teaching of religious law. —Mark 1:22

He healed the sick—

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.
—Matthew 4:23

He hung out with the outcasts—

That night Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to be his dinner guests, along with his fellow tax collectors and many other notorious sinners. The Pharisees were indignant. “Why does your teacher eat with such scum?” they asked his disciples.
—Matthew 9:10-11

He got angry at the religious fakes—

How terrible it will be for you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs – beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with dead people’s bones and all sorts of impurity. — Matthew 23:27

He was persecuted unfairly—

The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death. But they did not find any, though many false witnesses came forward. Finally two came forward. —Matthew 26:59-60

He was tempted in every way—

...for he [Jesus] faced all of the same temptations we do... —Hebrews 4:15

He never made a mistake—

...he [Jesus] did not sin. —Hebrews 4:15

But you know that he [Jesus] appeared so that He might take away our sins. And in Him is no sin. — 1 John 3:5

He died, rose from the dead, and continues to live to this day—

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead. —1 Corinthians 15:20

He made it possible to have a relationship with God—

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. —John 3:16-17

He can sympathize with our struggles—

This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses... —Hebrew 4:15

He loves Us—

May you experience the love of Christ, though it is so great you will never fully understand it. —Ephesians 3:19

Appendix VI

SAMPLE BIBLE STUDY

Identity - Go

Who We Are

1. Read through the Story of Jonah. What is something that sticks out to you that you might have never seen or heard?
2. When has there been a time that you ran from what God was asking or calling you to do? Are you still running?
3. Why is it so hard to do what God asks of us?
4. Scripture says in Jonah 1:4 that God caused a great storm to hit the boat. Have you ever thought of the storms in our life being God trying to redirect us to His will?
5. Jonah eventually went to Nineveh and a whole city turned to God. Why do you think that Jonah responded in the way he did?
6. How is God calling you to go right now?



Leadership Agreement

1. To be a good and excellent leader you first have to be a good servant.
2. Leaders will have a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.
3. Leaders must attend Shady Grove Wesleyan Church, attending services weekly.
4. Leaders will commit to the following:
 - Set a positive example
 - Be above reproach in all things
5. Leaders will commit to an atmosphere of encouragement and support, praying for each other on a regular basis, and uniting with the goal of seeing people come to know Christ.
6. Leaders will commit to have a healthy confrontational relationship and will not engage in gossip, but will instead seek immediate resolution.
7. Leaders are committed to building relationship with group members through time, investment, and consistency.

Life Group Time Commitment Investment:

- Investment Time 1 hour
- Life Group Time 1-1.5 hours weekly or twice a month investing time in your Life Group by participating in activities outside of the regularly scheduled group time as follows:
 - For the winter session (January-May) at least two events
 - For the summer session (June-August) at least one event
 - For the fall session (September-November) at least one event

Additional Time Commitment:

Leaders will commit to attending meetings, and training sessions throughout the year.

I, certify that I have read, understood, and am committed to all the above responsibilities and that failing to follow the terms of the agreement may result in my dismissal as a leader.

Signature _____ Date _____



Acknowledgment

We gratefully acknowledge Pastor Nate Kingsbury and credit him for the content of this Life Group Leader Training. He documented procedures and processes that were formulated from his extensive service and experience in ministry and generously shared that knowledge for the making of this training manual.