



IT'S PERSONAL

Do you know...?



HOST GAME PLAN

Getting Started

The ABC's of a Great Start for Your Life Group

A. Preparing For Your First Meeting

1. You'll be notified of your group members by Thursday, September 12.
2. It is critical going into the first meeting to make a personal contact with each of your group members and to get a response. Determine which method is best for each person for your group (phone call, text, email). Please don't rely on leaving a voicemail.
3. When you contact them, your enthusiasm is very important. Get yourself ready.
4. Ask each person to bring something (sodas, chips, cookies, etc.). This cements their attendance. They're much more likely to show if you're depending on them. Mention your childcare plans for the first meeting if applicable.
5. Review the leader guide for your first study. This will help you feel more comfortable as you lead your group through this study.

B. First Meeting

1. The first meeting of your study is designed to help people feel relaxed and comfortable with the other members of their new group and get to know each other a little better.
2. Send an address or make a map to your first meeting location if it's not at the church and send this out a week ahead of time. Include special instructions to help group members find you more easily.
3. Contact each person AGAIN a couple of days before the meeting to encourage them.
4. Use the nametags and markers that are provided in your leader kit. Relax and have fun getting to know each other.
5. Discuss the group agreement. This is an important step. Don't miss it. This helps clarify the group's expectations. (If anyone new joins the group later the agreement should be reviewed.)
6. Set a date and place for the next meeting before you dismiss and decide on your plans for refreshments.

C. Meeting Follow-Up

1. Touch base with each person who attended the meeting to encourage them. This extra step helps them to continue to forge a relationship with you. Look for them at church. Any contact in between meetings will help cement them to their new group.
2. Send a meeting reminder a couple days before your next meeting. Don't assume that they'll remember. They need your encouragement.

During a Group Meeting

1. Hang Out

(About 30 minutes)

Our lives move so fast these days. Take some time to talk about what's going on in the lives of those in your group. Asking about things like work, the health of their kids, and how their weeks are going goes a long way in building community. Use the icebreakers in your lesson guide or use "The Complete Book of Questions" by Garry Poole.

2. Watch The Video

(About 24 minutes)

Watch the video if necessary.

3. Discuss

(About 30 minutes)

Based on the message, you'll have discussion questions to think through and talk about. It is okay not to get through all of the questions.

4. Pray

(About 5 minutes)

Keep it simple and real. Some weeks will have scripted prayers to recite together, other weeks we will encourage you to pray for each other. You can always ask God to help you apply what you've learned during that session.

VIDEOS

You can find the video sessions and lesson guides that complement this study on our website beginning Sunday, September 22, 2019

stlukecolumbus.com/itspersonal

Videos can also be accessed from our YouTube or Roku channels by searching "St. Luke Lutheran Church" under streaming channels.

ROKU

 **YouTube**

Life Group Agreement

Ground Rules for a Healthy Life Group

(Pick up/print off enough copies for each group member for your first meeting)

As a group member, I agree to the following ground rules:

Priority

Group members choose to be available to attend group activities. Group time is a priority.

Participation

While prayer and discussion of curriculum are key elements, the driving force behind the group is the building of relationships. Everyone participates in group discussions, but no one is permitted to dominate. Everyone has the right to pass on any question if they aren't ready to answer.

Confidentiality

For authenticity to occur, members must be able to trust that issues discussed within the group will not be shared outside the group.

Respect

Group members should never say anything that will embarrass their spouses or other members of the group. Everyone is given the right to their own opinion; there are no "dumb" questions.

Openness

The group is always open to new members. A goal for all of our life groups that continue after the study is to grow and multiply into more healthy life groups. When we are constantly making room for more people to experience the joy of being in a life group, we are living out evangelism through our group activities.

Support

We are committed to be in each other's lives! This means being in contact with each other between meetings and having the right to call on one another in times of need.

We, the undersigned, understand and agree with the purpose and ground rules of this group. This group is a test-drive. It will not continue past the first study unless group members agree to continue.

Group Member Signatures:

Life Group Calendar

Pick up/print off enough copies for each group member for your first meeting)

Healthy groups share responsibilities and group ownership. It might take some time for this to develop. Shared ownership ensures that responsibility for the group doesn't fall to one person. Use the calendar to keep track of social events, mission projects, birthdays, or days off. Complete this calendar at your first or second meeting. Planning ahead will increase attendance and shared ownership.

DATE	LESSON	LOCATION	REFRESHMENTS
	Session 1		
	Session 2		
	Session 3		
	Session 4		
	Session 5		
	Session 6		



Sample Meeting Guide

Session 1: God's Way is Pure

September 23 – 29, 2018

Hangout (30 Minutes)

1. Ice Breakers:
 - Share your name and where you grew up.
 - How many siblings do you have and what is your birth order?
2. Briefly remind people of the Life Group Agreement and plans for your next meeting.

Watch the Video (24 Minutes)

Watch the video if necessary. If everyone viewed the sermon before the meeting, add this time to your discussion.

Discuss (30 Minutes)

It's okay if you don't get to every question. There are usually around 6 questions provided. We may recommend that your group discusses two or three specific questions.

1. What did you think of Pastor Steve's description of what we think we want in relationships versus what we want most in relationships?
2. Have someone read what James 3:13-18, the brother of Jesus, wrote.
 - What strikes you as a very true statement in these verses?
 - What did you find helpful in what Pastor Steve taught from these verses?

Pray (5 Minutes)

Leader: Jesus describes the way of God for us to follow as being "pure in heart". Let us pray for God, the Holy Spirit, to move us to be pure in our relationships.

Group: Gracious Lord, thank you that you created us to be in relationships with others. Help me to understand what I want most in my relationships. Help me to honestly examine my motivations and behavior with others. Show me any thoughts, words, and behaviors that I need to stop if I want to experience what I want most in a relationship. Help me to act with steady goodness in my relationships. Amen.