



LONG HOLLOW CHURCH

Life Group

LEADER GUIDE

HIS
LAST
WORDS
—
OUR
FIRST
WORK

THE VISION FOR LIFE GROUPS

MISSION STATEMENT

Life Groups create authentic community where we gather, grow, and develop disciple makers.

WHAT IF

Jesus' last words were our first work?

Life Groups are 10–20 people who commit to pursue an authentic community where members gather, grow, and develop disciple makers.

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

MATTHEW 28: 19-20 (CSB)

LIFE GROUP LEADERS

Each Life Group has one to two leaders (or families) who facilitate the life of the group.

They don't do everything, but they keep the Life Group moving in the same general direction as our whole Life Group ministry. The role of a Life Group Leader can be summed up in a single sentence:

Life Group Leaders create an authentic biblical community where people can gather, grow & develop disciple makers.

Every family has at least one relative who loves bringing people together. When it comes to the church family, Life Group Leaders are those people! They aren't perfect, nor do they have to be Bible scholars. Rather, they are humble guides who create a community where people can find a place to grow with Jesus and others. They get front-row seats to the faith journeys of others and find that their faith grows along the way!

QUALIFICATIONS

- You have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- You are growing in your relationship with Jesus Christ.
- You recognize the Bible as the authority for your life.
- You are people-oriented.
- You have the time, emotional capacity, and moral discernment to lead a group.
- You are a member of Long Hollow.

EXPECTATIONS

EMPOWER YOUR PEOPLE! (You don't have to do everything for your group.)

- Empower your people so an individual or couple can take the lead on:
 - Prayer requests
 - Missional or serving opportunities
 - Follow up (New members and absentees)
 - Co-lead the group discussion
 - Hangout opportunities
- Commit to group missional or serving opportunities provided by Long Hollow at least twice a year.
- Lead by facilitating the group meeting, monitoring its health, and promoting participation among group members.
- Recognize the influence associated with group leadership.
- For married Life Group Leaders leading a coed group, both husband and wife are committed to the group.
- Commit to lead the group for at least one year.

AFFIRMATIONS

- There is no leading alone! The Groups Team at Long Hollow supports Life Group Leaders every step — personally and with their group.
- Leaders are equipped to lead each week via teaching materials and discussion guides.
- When launching new groups, leaders will have coaches to assist along the way.
- Leaders have regular check-ins with a pastor or coach.

COACHES WILL HELP LAUNCH, CARE FOR, AND MULTIPLY YOUR GROUP.

Launch — Weekly check-ins for the first 3-6 months

Care — Monthly check-ins

Multiply — Help identify people to co-lead / start a new Life Group / create discipleship groups within the Life Group

- Leaders are given opportunities to connect with other leaders for support and collaboration.
- Leaders are provided with ongoing training to help them continue to grow as a leader and disciple.

GETTING STARTED AS A LIFE GROUP LEADER

THE PROCESS

Follow these steps to begin your journey as a Life Group Leader at Long Hollow.

LET US KNOW YOU'RE INTERESTED

Scan QR Code to fill out interest form to be a Life Group Leader.



GROUPS TEAM CONNECTION

A Groups team member will contact you to set up a meeting to get to know you.

BECOME A LONG HOLLOW MEMBER BY ATTENDING STARTING POINT

If you are not a member of Long Hollow, attend all session of Starting Point (longhollow.com/start) either in person or online and parter with Long Hollow.

LIFE GROUP LEADER APPLICATION

Fill out the Global Leader Application.

SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION TRAINING

To help keep our church family safe, every life group leader is required to complete this video-based training.

COMPLETE THE BACKGROUND CHECK

This will be a renewal process every two (2) years.

**Please know: If something appears on your background check, it does not automatically disqualify you from being a Life Group Leader. We are a grace-filled church committed to walking with people through every season of life. That said, we are also committed to operating with integrity and being above approach in all we do. If you have any questions or concerns, we're here for you — just reach out.*

COMPLETE LIFE GROUP LEADER GUIDE TRAINING

Every new Life Group Leader must complete this guide (digital or printed booklet).

MAKE A PLAN

Work with a team member to establish a plan for your new Life Group and decide when and how you will launch your group.

MARCS OF A DISCIPLE

Biblical community is more than a Bible study or a hangout time with friends; it is what happens when the people of God come together to be His Church. Looking at the practices of the early church, we see Jesus' disciples growing in these five MARCS in their biblical community.

M

MISSIONAL

A disciple is actively engaged in God's Mission, sharing the Gospel with others, and seeking to serve those outside the church.

A

ACCOUNTABLE

A disciple lives in an honest, transparent relationship with other believers, allowing them to speak into their life, confessing sins, and encouraging one another's spiritual growth.

R

REPRODUCIBLE

A disciple is actively making new disciples, passing on the teachings and practices of Jesus to others so the cycle of growth continues.

C

COMMUNAL

A disciple is committed to life within a community of believers, sharing life together, and spurring one another on toward love and good works.

S

SCRIPTURAL

A disciple is devoted to reading, studying, obeying, and applying the Scriptures (the Bible) as the authoritative guide for all of life.

PLANNING YOUR LIFE GROUP

There are five questions that need to be answered before launching a Life Group. Take a moment to think through and answer the following questions.

1. DETAILS ABOUT THE LIFE GROUP MEETING

Determine the details of your group. It's important to meet in a regular rhythm for your group so you can provide consistency for your group members.

DAY _____

TIME _____

LOCATION _____

WEEKLY EVERY OTHER WEEK

2. WILL THERE BE FOOD?

Food is not required but breaking bread together is a great way to connect. Some Life Groups have regular meals, others have snacks, and some just stick to coffee or drinks. The time of the meeting will have a significant effect on what is offered. This is by no means something completely handled by the leader. However, it is a great opportunity for ownership and involvement by the members.

WILL FOOD BE A PART OF THE LIFE GROUP MEETING? IF SO, HOW?

3. WHAT WILL WE DO WITH THE KIDS?

There are several approaches for childcare. The important thing to remember is that children are a blessing, not a burden. The Life Group is often just as beneficial for them as it is for the adults. All that to say, children obviously cannot be present for every moment of every gathering.

DO YOU WANT TO HAVE CHILDCARE FOR YOUR GROUP? YES NO

If Yes, how will the Life Group handle families with children in the group?

- CHILDREN WILL PLAY INDEPENDENTLY EACH FAMILY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR FINDING THEIR OWN CHILDCARE
- EACH FAMILY WILL ROTATE TAKING TURNS WATCHING THE CHILDREN OTHER _____
- THE LIFE GROUP WILL COORDINATE SITTEES ONSITE OR NEARBY

4 . HOW WILL THE GROUP COMMUNICATE?

Keeping in touch and communicating information is essential to a Life Group functioning well. Having one central place where everyone can see all the communication helps participation. Needs, culture, and technological adeptness all come into play when thinking through a communication medium to use.

Below are some common tools Life Groups have used to communicate.

WHAT TOOL WILL THE LIFE GROUP USE TO COMMUNICATE?

- A GROUP TEXT MESSAGE
- WHATSAPP
- GROUPME APP
- OTHER _____

4 . WHAT IS THE TARGET AUDIENCE OF YOUR GROUP?

Group Type

- MEN
- WOMEN
- MARRIED
- SINGLE
- EVERYONE WELCOME

Age(s) – Select all that apply

- 20
- 30
- 40
- 50
- 60+
- MULTI-GENERATIONAL

HEALTHY RHYTHMS

CELEBRATE & GATHER OFTEN

Take time to celebrate what's going on in your group and where God is moving in your members' lives.

MEET CONSISTENTLY

Meet weekly or every other week, growing together in the sermon-based discussion.

SERVE QUARTERLY

There are opportunities for your Life Group to serve quarterly together as a group with various ministries at Long Hollow.

EQUIPPED ANNUALLY

Attend training(s) each year as we continue to equip you to be a disciple who makes disciples.

Life Group is growing — What's next?



**SAMPLE
LIFE GROUP
FLOW**



**LAUNCH AN
ADDITIONAL
LIFE GROUP
FROM WITHIN
THIS LIFE
GROUP**



**DISCIPLESHIP
GROUPS WITHIN
LIFE GROUPS**

Thank you!

FROM LONG HOLLOW GROUPS

Biblical community is an essential ingredient in following Jesus and making disciples. The role of a Life Group leader is one that will never be thanked enough but makes a huge difference in the lives of everyone who is impacted. Friendships will be formed and lives will be changed all because you decided to say yes to spearheading a Life Group. Thank you for stepping out and starting what might just be the most impactful community in someone's life.

Who knows, it may even be your own.

Need to talk?

groups@longhollow.com

(615) 488-8212

We cared so much for you that we were pleased to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.

I THESSALONIANS 2:8



**LEADER
RESOURCES**



**NT 260
READING
PLAN**



**OT 260
READING
PLAN**



**F-260
READING
PLAN**



LONG HOLLOW
CHURCH