

LifeGroup Study
LIFEGROUP: How are We Doing?
2022-02-13
Leader Notes

OVERVIEW:

Welcome to our LifeGroup study – “LIFEGROUP: How Are We Doing?” Do you ever wonder, “How are we doing as a LifeGroup?” That’s a great question to ask! Just like it’s important to keep tabs on our physical health, checking in your LifeGroup health can affirm what you’re doing well and help you determine areas where you want to grow. For this week’s study, we’ll dive into 8 LifeGroup Essentials that can help grow your group healthy and strong.

ICEBREAKER: My Favourite LifeGroup Memory

Think back over your experience of being together in LifeGroup. What favourite memory do you have? Maybe for you it was a special meal you shared together, or a time you served together in the community. Maybe it was a time your group cared for one another in a practical way. **Share your favourite memory with the group.**

STUDY:

At Creekside our mission is to help people FOLLOW JESUS, LOVE GOD and LOVE PEOPLE. LifeGroups are a place where we encourage one another to pursue this mission as we meet together to grow our walk with God and our friendships with each other.

1. Think back over your experience of being in LifeGroup. **How has your LifeGroup helped you grow your walk with God? How has your group helped grow friendships with each other?**

LEADER NOTE: LifeGroup is designed to have an emphasis on helping grow the group’s walk with God as well as their friendships with each other. Meeting together regularly to study the Bible, pray and worship God can be a wonderful encouragement to grow our faith. Sharing our life stories, eating together and having social times help to build friendships. To get things started with this question, you may want to share a story from your perspective of how this LifeGroup is a blessing to you.

THE EIGHT ESSENTIALS

The Eight Essentials are a great way to celebrate what God is doing in your LifeGroup and to talk about how you group can grow in the coming months. As you look at each Essential, ask, **“How are we doing in this area?”**

2. ESSENTIAL # 1 – Remain in Jesus

A healthy LifeGroup is a place that encourages one another to remain in Jesus.

READ: John 15:1-5

In these verses, Jesus talks about the importance of remaining in Him. ⁵“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

- **What does it mean to “remain” in Jesus?**

LEADER NOTE: As followers of Jesus, we are intimately connected to Him in a relationship that Jesus promises will last forever. Jesus describes this connection in his teaching – “I am the vine, you are the branches.” To “remain” or “abide” in Jesus is to continue in the life-giving relationship Jesus gives us. We do this as we trust in Him, follow Jesus’ teachings and example and look to Him as our life-giving source. Remaining in Jesus is not about earning our salvation through anything we do. It is a description of the beautiful, life-giving relationship we have with Him when we put our faith and trust in Him.

- **How can your LifeGroup help one another stay connected Jesus?**

LEADER NOTE: Followers of Jesus are forever connected to Him in a life-giving, intimate relationship. He is our salvation and our hope. Our LifeGroup reminds each other of these truths as we meet together to strengthen and encourage one another. As we read God’s Word together and pray for one another we help each other centre our lives around the vital connection we have to the Vine – Jesus. It may be helpful for this question to ask your group – “How are we doing with meeting together regularly?” “How are we doing with encouraging each other to grow in our walk with Jesus?”

3. ESSENTIAL # 2 – Pray Regularly

A healthy LifeGroup prays regularly for one another and encourages each other in the habit of prayer.

READ: Philippians 4:6-7

⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- **How are things going with prayer in LifeGroup?**

LEADER NOTE: Prayer is essential for a healthy LifeGroup but it can also be a challenge! Prayer can become entirely focused on other people and events, rather than on one another. It

can become stale or routine. This question may be an opportunity for your group to brainstorm together on how to revitalize prayer in your group. Or, prayer might be an area you celebrate because things are going so well!

- **How does praying for one another impact your life?**

LEADER NOTE: Praying for one another in group can have a tremendous impact. Prayer expresses love and care for one another. It encourages group members to open up about their lives and be vulnerable with one another. Seeing God work in the lives of our group members can be a wonderful encouragement to the value of praying for one another in group.

4. ESSENTIAL # 3 – Cultivate Relationships

A healthy LifeGroup creates opportunities to build friendships with other group members.

READ: Proverbs 17:17

“A friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in times of need.” NLT

READ: Proverbs 27:9

“The heartfelt counsel of a friend is as sweet as perfume and incense.” NLT

READ: Proverbs 27:17

“As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.” NLT

- **What are some key values about friendship we get from these Proverbs?**

LEADER NOTE: “A friend is always loyal” – friends are there for each other no matter what. Friends provide “heartfelt counsel” – godly insight or advice. Friends “sharpen” one another. They encourage each other in their walk with God and help one another follow Jesus well.

- **What are 2 or 3 practical things your LifeGroup can do to grow your friendships with each other?**

LEADER NOTE: Ideas here may include time in the group meeting set aside for cultivating your relationships – for example, taking time in group to give group members opportunity to share their life story to get to know one another more. Other ideas may involve connecting outside of group – meeting for coffee, doing a fun activity together, checking in with each other throughout the week.

5. ESSENTIAL # 4 – Share Roles

A healthy LifeGroup ministers to one another by sharing the roles and responsibilities of the group.

READ: 1 Corinthians 12:7

“A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.” NLT

- Brainstorm together the various roles and responsibilities involved with being a LifeGroup. **How are things going with sharing these roles?**

LEADER NOTE: LifeGroup can be a great place for people to learn the value of being the body of Christ by sharing roles. Roles may include – i) communication – sending out notes to the group about upcoming meetings and group events. ii) prayer coordinator – keeping track of prayer requests and answers to prayer iii) group host – for online meetings or for coordinating in-home gatherings. iv) social coordinator – planning fun group activities. v). serving coordinator – researching and communicating ways your group can serve together vi). Food coordinator – planning for snacks or meals for your group to enjoy together.

6. ESSENTIAL # 5 – Compassionately Care

A healthy LifeGroup cares for one another in practical ways.

READ: Galatians 6:2

“Share each other’s burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.” NLT

- **What does it mean to “share each other’s burdens”?**

LEADER NOTE: Ken recently taught about this passage and said that there are “piano” burdens and “back pack” burdens. Sharing each other’s burdens means helping carry the “piano” burdens, those life issue that are too big for one person to manage. Sharing is not about *taking* the burden but helping to carry it.

- **What are some practical ways we can care for each other?**

LEADER NOTE: - Caring for one another starts with learning about the needs. This can happen in prayer requests, by asking, “How are you doing this week?”, in taking time to listen to the challenges we’re facing. Then, as we become aware of one another’s needs, we can work out a plan to help. Practical ways could include, helping someone in your group move, bringing food to a group member’s home, showing up at a funeral for a group member’s loved one.

7. ESSENTIAL # 6 – Meet Intentionally

A healthy LifeGroup is intentional about planning for great meetings.

READ: Proverbs 21:5

“Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty.” NLT

- Good planning can make for a great LifeGroup meeting. **How are we doing at planning for our meetings?**

LEADER NOTE: Here are some practical ways you can prepare for your LifeGroup meetings.

i) Pray for God to work as you meet. ii) Plan the various aspects of your meeting. iii) Preview the study and/or Bible passages you'll be looking at. iv) Pass along roles and responsibilities you can share. v) Prepare your heart for God to work.

ESSENTIAL # 7 – Celebrate Steps

A healthy LifeGroup notices and celebrates milestone moments in one another's lives.

READ: Philippians 1:3

"Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God." NLT

- **What are some practical ways we can celebrate milestone moments in one another's lives?**

LEADER NOTE: Celebrating milestone moments are a great way to show care and love in group. Some practical ways to do this include marking everyone's birthday on the calendar and noting their birthday when your group meets. Other milestone events we can celebrate could be anniversary's, job changes, a new home, birth of a child.

Essential # 8 – End Well

A healthy LifeGroup prepares the group for a future transition.

READ: 2 Timothy 4:7

"I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful." NLT

- **Where are we at in the life-span of our group? How can we prepare for future transition?**

LEADER NOTE: Every LifeGroup has a life-span which includes a beginning a middle and an end. While there is no timeline required for the life-span of our group, we are wise to think about where we are at and how we might end well someday. Ending a group well means taking the time to celebrate what God has done in your group and to prepare your group members for what's next.

- **Of the Eight Essentials, which do you think is the most important for your group to focus on in the coming months?**

PRAYER

This week let's pray for our upcoming event, Coldest Night of the Year. Check it out here!

<https://cnoy.org/home>

- Please pray about your group involvement in CNOY! You can form a team or join Creekside's team here <https://secure.e2rm.com/registant/TeamFundraisingPage.aspx?teamID=971466&langPref=en-CA>
- Pray that funds raised would greatly bless the organizations we support (especially Ray of Hope). <https://www.creeksidechurch.ca/rayofhope/>