

Creekside LifeGroup Leader Manual

For New Leaders

Equipping You to Lead with Confidence and Care

Vision & Role of a LifeGroup Leader

Our Vision for LifeGroups

LifeGroups are the heartbeat of our community at Creekside. We believe life transformation happens best in circles, not rows. LifeGroups create space for deeper relationships, spiritual growth, and authentic discipleship.

Our goal: To see people grow in LifeGroups as they take next steps to FOLLOW JESUS, LOVE GOD and LOVE PEOPLE.

Your Role as a Leader

As a LifeGroup leader, you're not expected to be a Bible scholar or professional counselor. You are a **facilitator, shepherd, and guide**.

Here's what that means:

- **Facilitator** – Guide group discussions, encourage participation, and create a safe space for sharing.
- **Shepherd** – Care for your group members spiritually, emotionally, and relationally.
- **Connector** – Help group members connect with each other and the larger church.
- **Multipliers** – Empower others to grow into leadership and multiply healthy groups.

Your Commitment

- **Pray** regularly for your group.
- **Prepare** weekly for group discussions.
- **Follow up** with members who miss or are struggling.
- **Communicate** regularly with your coach or team leader.
- **Attend** leader trainings and leadership gatherings when possible.

Running a Healthy LifeGroup

Weekly Group Rhythm

A typical LifeGroup meeting includes:

1. **Welcome (5–10 min)** – Casual conversation, snacks, icebreaker questions.
2. **Worship or Prayer (5–10 min)** – Optional time for centering on God.
3. **Bible Study / Discussion (30–40 min)** – Use sermon-based questions or a study plan.
4. **Prayer Requests (10–15 min)** – Take time to listen and pray for one another.
5. **Next Steps & Announcements (5 min)** – Reminders or upcoming events.

Tips for Leading a Great Discussion

- Ask **open-ended questions**.
- Let silence linger—it often leads to deeper sharing.
- Redirect **dominant talkers** graciously.
- Invite quieter members with phrases like, “What do you think, [name]?”
- Keep the group **on track**, but flexible if the Spirit leads elsewhere.

Creating a Safe & Authentic Space

- Be the first to be vulnerable—lead by example.
- Affirm others when they share.
- Gently redirect or follow up when someone shares something concerning.
- Keep what’s shared in group confidential (unless it involves harm or danger).

Common Challenges

Challenge	Tip
Low attendance	Check in with members personally. Be consistent.
Tough questions	Don’t fake it. Say, “Let me look into that.”
Someone dominates	Set group expectations early; redirect gently.
No one talks	Break the ice with a fun question or story.

Caring for Your Group & Growing as a Leader

Caring for Members

- **Pray** for your group members by name weekly.
- **Follow up** when someone misses a week—check in with care, not guilt.
- **Celebrate** birthdays, milestones, and answered prayers.
- **Support** during crisis—visit, call, and coordinate meals if needed.

Remember: You’re not expected to handle every issue alone. Reach out to your coach or staff for help with pastoral care or deeper needs.

Multiplying Your Group

Healthy groups grow—and healthy things multiply.

- Watch for members who demonstrate maturity and leadership potential.
- Invite them to help co-lead or lead part of the group.
- Consider launching a new group when the time is right.

Staying Connected as a Leader

- **You’re not alone.** You’ll be supported by a coach or ministry leader.
- Attend **regular trainings or check-ins** for encouragement and growth.
- Use leader resources, guides, and devotionals made available to you.

When to Ask for Help

Reach out if you:

- Feel overwhelmed or burnt out.
- Are unsure how to handle a conflict.
- Suspect abuse, self-harm, or serious crisis.
- Need a break or transition out of leadership.

Final Encouragement

You're doing kingdom work by leading a LifeGroup. Your presence, care, and consistency matter deeply. Don't aim to be perfect—just be faithful. Let God do the growing.

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds...” – Hebrews 10:24