

2021 LIFEGROUP LEADER

COACHING GUIDE



2021 Lifegroup Leader Coaching in the Core

Vision:

Lifegroup is the place where people are known relationally and find their true sense of belonging in God's family. Modeled after the early church, Lifegroup is a place to find authentic community and learn to grow as disciples of Jesus through intentional investment in one another and by reaching out to others (Acts 2:42-47).

During the Core, we gather the people of God to look at the Word of God while listening to the Spirit of God. Each week, we study the Bible with a simple method called Discovery Bible Study so everyone can participate. This can be done in a large group or broken into gender-specific small groups.

Discovery Bible Study (DBS) *15-25 minutes*

DBS Steps:

1. Pray and invite the Holy Spirit to lead.
2. Read the passage (less than 10-12 verses) aloud and in two different translations.
3. Have someone retell the story in their own words.
4. Discussion Questions:
 - What does the passage tell us about God?
 - What does the passage say about people?
 - What does the passage say to you?
5. Personal reflection/journaling:
 - Wait quietly and listen for God to speak. Write down: "[John], I want you to know..."
 - What will I do about it and who will I tell? Write down an "I will....." statement.

DBS Coaching:

1. Encourage everyone to bring and use their journal weekly.
2. Use the discovery approach, not the teacher-led approach. Use questions and listen to what the Spirit is saying through one another. Wait. Do not over-talk, but give room for others to engage.
3. Affirm the good things people share. If something shared seems off, simply say "Where are you seeing that? What verse?"
4. Transition to one of the experiences by introducing and sharing vision for the chosen experience this week.

Four Core Experiences

20–30 minutes

Vision for experiencing Jesus

Bible study is important, but our goal is not knowledge or information gathering. It is way more than only a Bible study. It's all about relationship. Think of what you would want your children to embrace that would ground them in their pursuit of their true identity and purpose in Christ. You want them to develop a conversational relationship with Jesus through hearing and talking with him. In light of this, we are making room in the core for people to grow in their relational intimacy by activating them in four experiences to enjoy and follow Jesus.

Each week in Lifegroup, we experience a DBS together, then pick one out of the Four Core Experiences to do following the DBS. Balance your time accordingly, and rotate through the Four Core Experiences.

1. Hear the Lord (John 10:27)

1. Watch the corresponding video.
2. Break into smaller gender groups of three, and share what they heard and journaled.
3. Pray God's encouragement and empowerment over each other's responses.
4. ***Once every 6 weeks, do "Hearing God for Freedom."** Same flow, except listen for what may be hindering the flow of God's love in the form of lies, sins, wounds. Pick one to focus on each time.
 - a. Example: *"Tonight we are going to ask Jesus to reveal the lies of the enemy that we believe (John 8:44). Let's wait quietly on the Lord to speak to us asking Jesus, 'What lies am I believing about you or myself?'"* Then have the group ask Jesus to reveal what he says is true. (See Discipling Freedom card)

Hear the Lord coaching

1. Cast vision for ways the Lord might be speaking:
 - Something to start or stop doing
 - A truth to embrace or a lie to reject
 - Someone to love or forgive
2. Use scriptures like John 10:27 to evoke faith for listening to God's voice.
3. Give grace for those who feel stuck in hearing God, encourage them to listen to the Lord and affirm what they already see in scripture. You can also encourage them to begin a dialogue of prayer with God by asking, "Jesus, what do you want me to know about ____? How do you feel about ____? Why is this important to you?"
4. Always associate hearing God with obedience. In John 10:27, the sheep listen to the Shepherd's voice then follow him. We want to be a people who hear and respond with our heart and our faith.

Hear the Lord scriptures

Matthew 25:1-13	Acts 8:26-40
Mark 4:3-20	Romans 8:9-17
Luke 10:38-42	Ephesians 4:11-16
Luke 15:11-32	Colossians 3:9-17
Luke 19:1-10	1 Timothy 4:6-16
Luke 24:13-32	Hebrews 10:19-25

Next Steps

As you engage in this experience, look for these contexts to spur your group on and to grow personally and in community.

1. Disciple making relationships
2. Hearing God seminar
3. Freedom Prayer
4. Freedom Day
5. Women's Freedom groups and Men's Conquer groups

2. Talk to the Lord (Matthew 6:9-15)

1. Watch the corresponding video.
2. Break into gender groups of three, and pray together.
3. Below is an example of how in prayer you can agree with God's truth, declare God's truth over yourself, and ask for more of God's truth for yourself and others.
 - a. This is a good time to utilize the Psalms, Paul's apostolic prayers in the epistles, or the Lord's Prayer for your DBS.

I. Agree with the truth (Ex: Pray Romans 8:1)

A. Example of prayers of agreement

1. Lord God, there used to be condemnation, but not any more. It's all been taken away!
2. All condemnation is gone, there's not a ounce left—none!
3. When someone is in relationship with you, Jesus, they become innocent and free
4. Jesus, you want people to be free!

II. Declare the truth over yourself

A. Example of prayers of declaration

1. I was condemned because of my sin, but not anymore!
2. I am in Christ Jesus! This isn't just a general truth; it's a personal truth for me.
3. I refuse to abide feelings of guilt or condemnation—God, himself, declares me innocent.

III. Ask for more of the truth for yourself/others

A. Example of asking prayers

1. Jesus, I want to live like one who knows you have forgiven them.
2. Remind me, Lord, that you're not holding my past against me.
3. Let me experience the reality of your presence more deeply.

Talk to the Lord coaching

1. When I pray scripture, I speak:
 - Slowly and softly
 - Briefly—short phrases
 - Minimally—listen more than talk

2. The key is connection with the Holy Spirit as we pray.
3. Make it accessible so everyone can pray by simply praying the scriptures, and using the flow of Agree, Declare, Ask.

Talk to the Lord scriptures

Deuteronomy 6:1-8	Matthew 6:9-15
Psalms 23	Romans 1:8-17
Psalms 27	Ephesians 1:15-23
Psalms 34:1-18	Ephesians 3:14-21
Psalms 91	Philippians 2:1-11
Psalms 103	Colossians 1:9-20

Next Steps

As you engage in this experience look for ways to spur your group on and to grow personally and in community.

1. Disciple making relationships
2. Books to read:
 - *Growing in Prayer* by Mike Bickle
 - *Reset* by Bob Sorge (20 Day Prayer Challenge)
3. CrossBridge Prayer Gatherings:
 - Sunday prior to services
 - Wednesday Missions Prayer Zoom call
 - Thursday Intercessory Prayer meeting
 - Thursday Jesus Hour

3. Hear the Lord for others (1 Corinthians 14:3)

1. Watch the corresponding video.
2. Share Vision: New Testament prophecy is described in scripture to strengthen, encourage, and comfort one another for the building up of the church (1 Corinthians 14:3). Essentially, prophecy is God's thoughts and feelings towards his children shared through his people. What an opportunity we have to experience God's heart for each other!

Options to experience New Testament prophecy together

After the DBS, choose one of the following options keeping in mind that we are strengthening, encouraging, and comforting one another:

1. Have each person write their name on a note card, and the leader collect them. Next, everyone randomly draws a card with someone else's name on it. Ask the Lord for a word, a picture, a scripture, or a thought for them. Write it down and then everyone gets their card back to read. Share feedback with each other.
2. Break into groups of three. Take turns to listen and share encouragement from the Lord for one another.
3. Breakout men and women, and share encouragement for the person on your right.
4. Prophetic encouragement can be shared during worship each week. Encourage the group to

share God's heart and revelation for another person, and pray with them while the music is going on.

Hear the Lord for others coaching

1. According to 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22, we are to test prophecy, hold on to the good, and let go of the bad. We do this one of three ways:
 - a. Receive encouragement if it feels true to God's Word and your spirit.
 - b. Put it on the shelf if you are unsure whether it's for you or not.
 - c. Let go of the word, and do not receive it.
2. To test prophecy, ask yourself:
 - a. Does it align with scripture?
 - b. Does it bear the fruit of the Spirit?
 - c. Does it give God glory?
 - d. Confirm the word with a couple of other believers (1 Corinthians 14:29).
3. If someone feels stuck from hearing God, encourage them to listen to the Lord for an encouraging scripture to share. You can also encourage them to begin a dialogue of prayer with God by asking, "Jesus, what do you want me to know about ____? How do you feel about your son/daughter, ____? Why do you want them to know this?"
4. Humility is our anchor for growing in prophecy. We can acknowledge that "We know in part, and prophesy in part" (1 Corinthians 13:9). That means sometimes we get a word wrong. If we can share and receive in humility, then we make room for stumbling as we learn to grow in this gift, and extend grace when it occurs.

Hear the Lord for others scriptures:

Luke 1:41-55	Acts 9:1-19
John 1:43-51	1 Corinthians 12:1-11
John 4:6-29	1 Corinthians 14:1-3
John 10:1-18	1 Corinthians 14:26-33
John 10:22-30	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
Acts 2:14-21	

Next Steps

As you engage in this experience, look for these contexts/ways to spur your group on and to grow personally and in community.

1. Disciple making relationships
2. Prophetic Prayer Ministry
3. Prophetic Conference
4. Jesus Hour
5. Encounter Nights

4. Talk about the Lord to others (Acts 1:8)

1. Watch the corresponding video.
2. Share Vision: It's the calling of every believer to represent Jesus to those around us. We often use radiating circles of influence to envision this for us in order:
 1. Our family and Lifegroup family
 2. Our Oikos (sphere of influence includes neighborhood and workplace)
 3. Our community
 4. Our world

Options to experience talking about God to others

(The specific tools you will impart each time are in **bold**.)

1. Have a group discussion on what keeps us from sharing our stories and the gospel. Then pray into these for us to be more bold and aware of opportunities to share Jesus. (**Include Me Prayer**)
2. Walk through the acronym **iLOVE**
 - i: Initiate
 - L: Listen
 - O: Offer prayer
 - V: Visual (Bridge illustration)
 - E: Engage in DBS

You can do this in multiple weeks breaking it down or just spend one week on how to share the Bridge illustration. (*This is what is covered in Kindle*)

3. Practice sharing your **Fifteen Second Story**.
4. Discuss creative ways to engage your Oikos and bless them. Break into smaller groups to pray for your Oikos and the lost. (**Prayer/Care/Share**)
5. All go together for a **Prayer Walk** in someone's neighborhood or serve together in an outreach.
6. Share **God Stories**. Let everyone know ahead of time so they are prepared to share how God included them or what He is doing in their lives. Be attentive to areas shared that the Spirit may prompt you to pray for that person. This is an especially meaningful core to do when you have guests. It helps them see how real and present Jesus is in each life.

Talk about the Lord to others coaching:

1. Encourage the Lifegroup to fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20), which requires being missional in everyday life. Be the hands and feet of Jesus! Each of the tools will propel them forward in revealing Jesus to the world.
2. Be aware of introverts, and speak to ways everyone can engage no matter their personality type.
3. Talking about God to others can easily be forgotten. You will have to be intentional to experience this consistently in Lifegroup.
4. Utilize the Missions team to help you get started or use these tools.
5. After this experience make sure the following week to celebrate what God did by sharing their experiences with others in Lifegroup.

Talk about the Lord to others scriptures:

Matthew 28:16-20

Galatians 4:4-7

Mark 1:14-20

Ephesians 6:10-20

John 1:9-18

Colossians 4:2-6

Acts 1:1-8

1 Thessalonians 1:4-10

Acts 4:5-20

Titus 3:3-7

Romans 5:1-5

1 Peter 2:8-10

Next Steps

As you engage in this experience, look for ways to spur your group on, and to grow personally and in community.

1. Disciple making relationships
2. Kindle
3. Expand your Missional Footprint events
4. CrossBridge Impact Teams (short-term outreaches)