

# LIFEGROUPS

## LEADER RESOURCES



### MULTIPLYING YOUR GROUP

Our goal is that every one of our Life Groups would eventually multiply. We believe that healthy things grow. Multiplied discipleship, leads to multiplied leadership, which leads to multiplied ministry. It's not just about making better disciples, but allowing our groups to be a tool that God uses to make more disciples.

When it comes to multiplication no two groups are the same. Each group will need to prayerful consider what steps to take. The following resource has been designed to help guide you as you make this important decision.

#### IS MY GROUP READY TO MULTIPLY? | *Three questions every group needs to answer.*

##### **1) Has my group caught the vision?**

Don't be surprised if not everyone in your group is excited about the prospect of multiplication. For some this could be a very difficult step of obedience to take. Your role is to help those entrusted to you, catch the vision of how God wants to use your group to build His kingdom. Make sure you allow time for the Word and the Spirit to do their work to stir up the hearts of those in your group towards these things. Moving too quickly, before you have buy-in from the majority could harm your group in the long run.

##### **2) Is there a future leader in my group?**

Someone in your group will need to take a step of faith and be willing to become an apprentice Life Group leader. This individual doesn't need to have a PHD in theology or be some super Christian. An apprentice leader simply needs to be a growing follower of Christ, who is willing to take seriously the call to make more and better disciples. *(See our resource on developing an apprentice for more information.)*

##### **3) Do we have enough people to multiply?**

We suggest that there is at least 6-8 active couples in your Life Group before you would consider multiplying. Moving forward with less than this could end up hurting the group in the long run. Ideally, each new group should have at least 3 committed couples before they would launch. This provides a solid foundation for mutual ministry to continue and provides a welcoming environment for the new people God will bring your way.

### 1) Preparation

Behind the scenes you and your apprentice leader should begin meeting to pray and figure out important details. This is also the time to contact the church and let them know of your plans. Some details you'll want to discuss are:

- Where will the new group meet?
- When will the new group launch?
- How will you handle childcare?
- What are potential objections/questions the group might have?
- Is there a natural way to divide the group up?

### 2) Communication

There is power in a personal invitation. We suggest you make a tentative list of how you would like the groups to divide. Then you and the apprentice leader should connect with those on your list to personally invite them to your group. This approach simply provides a starting point to engage in conversation about these things. They obviously have a choice in the matter, but coming prepared with your suggestion is good leadership. This step is vital to the success of your groups multiplication and needs to be covered in prayer.

After you've met one-on-one with everyone it's time to gather the group back together to share and fine-tune the details. This allows everyone in your group to be a part of the process and to confirm that everyone is on the same page.

### 3) Multiplication

The time has finally come to pull the trigger. You've set the date, people have been assigned, and now you are ready for the journey to begin. We are here to help you along every step of the way. Make sure you've communicated your final plans to the church by filling out the *Life Group Planning Sheet*. After you return this information you'll be able to pick up a *Life Group Starter Kit* which will help make the launch of the new group go smoothly.

### 4) Celebration

Now is the time to celebrate what the Lord is doing in your midst! Some might feel a sense of loss and fear of the unknown. But take heart, you are doing something difficult to build Christ's kingdom. "*He is not so unjust as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for His name in serving the saints.*" (Heb. 6:10) Just think, families not yet known to you will reap the blessings of your obedience as God sovereignly directs them to the new groups.

## PLANNING A LIFE GROUP REUNION

We recommend within the first 2 months scheduling a reunion. One of the best parts about multiplying your group is the family reunions you'll get to attend! There's nothing sweeter than months, years, from now gathering back together for a potluck, camping trip, or picnic to meet your extended Life Group family. You'll get to see first hand the fruit of your ministry and all the new lives that have been impacted by your decision to multiply. Just think about all the new people who will be able to join a group and grow as a disciple all because you made the choice to be committed to making disciples!