At FCC we believe that life happens best in community. Our leaders play an important role in creating healthy community.

The Leader Guide is designed to help provide you with a better understanding of your role as a leader. It is also designed to help give direction and suggestions on this journey. Take a moment to review the content of this guide.

The Purpose of Life Groups at FCC

- To build relationships
- To mature in faith through studying the Word of God
- To strengthen group prayer life
- To be the hands and feet of Jesus at FCC and in our community

Leader Role

- Facilitate group meetings
- Provide appropriate study materials through collaboration with your Life Groups Pastor
- Encourage group participation and prayer
- Arrange group serving opportunities and special events through collaboration with your Life Groups Pastor

Leader Qualifications

- Personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- Recognize the Bible as authority for life
- Support the church vision and mission
- Have the time, willingness and moral discernment to lead
Leader Expectations

- Create a safe and welcoming environment for group members
- Promote group discussion (80% group discussion, 20% leader facilitation)
- Communicate with your Life Group Pastor regularly
- Attend training opportunities (as available)

Starting Point

- Pray for guidance
- Prioritize your group relationships
- Review the Life Group Agreement with your group
- Select a group study through collaboration with your Life Groups Pastor

Leader Goals

- Emphasize, encourage and guide relationship, study, prayer and serving opportunities
- Recognize and coach future leaders
- Mature in faith
- HAVE FUN!

Group Rules for Leaders

- On Time- Set and adhere to start and end times
- Listen- Try not to focus on what to say next. Rather, really listen to what is being shared.
- Pause and Allow Silence- Silence can feel awkward, but allowing for moments without talk will allow your group members to digest what was shared, and invite for further discussion.
- Limit Cross-Talk- Discourage any side conversations while group members are sharing.
Group Questions for Leaders

- How can I pray for you?
- What are you learning in your daily time in God’s Word?
- What are you sensing Jesus is calling you to do next?
- What’s your next step?

Possible Meeting Outline for Leaders

- Start each group meeting by giving everyone a chance to catch up and talk about their week.
- Try asking an Ice Breaker Question to start the conversation.
- Open with prayer. Encourage and invite other group members to pray.
- Study! (Reach out to your Life Group Pastor if you need ideas).
- Leave enough time to talk about prayer requests and to plan ahead for the next meeting.
- Close with prayer. Again, encourage and invite others to pray.
- Friendly Suggestion: Study, serve and do something fun!

Many of our groups have had great success following this meeting format.

For Fun

- Join the FCC Life Group Facebook Group! It’s an easy way to communicate, share resources and for leaders to learn from other leaders.
- Find resources on the FCC Life Groups page at https://www.1c.church/ministries

The Leader Guide should not be treated as an all inclusive guide. The kind of relationship that will enable and produce conversation, growth and serving will take time to develop. Do not be discouraged. Your Life Group Pastor is available to provide resources, encouragement and support!