

Sermon Based Lifegroups

Weekly curriculum designed to help you lead with confidence

Build upon the 3 Pillars

Lifegroups are built on the three pillars of being relational, transformational, and missional. As you look at the curriculum and prayerfully plan your group meeting, pick elements that will support each of the three pillars.

There is more content than you can possibly cover in one meeting, so be discerning in selecting which questions to focus on. It's better to have rich conversation on 2 questions than rushing to check off more questions.

Know the structure of the materials

Each leader resource guide has a flow from beginning with an opener question, a question to review where we've been, questions pertaining to the current sermon, and faithfully following exercises that are helpful for living out the concepts. Pick and choose content from each area to help the people in your group grow deeper in their understanding of scripture, the content of the sermon, and a next step to faithfully follow Jesus. Refer to the leader tips in green italic font to help build background for you as you lead the discussion.

Remember your role

Don't worry. You don't have to know it all, and it's best to have a humble posture as a fellow learner. Your role is to facilitate discussion. Instead of feeling like you are the living "answer key", try to redirect conversation to hear from others and keep pointing people back to what scripture says.

With that said, you do need to diligently do the work of a shepherd in preparation. Bathe your time together in prayer, asking the Lord to help you select and understand the content you'll be using and have the sensitivity to lead well in a way that honors the Lord and blesses the people in your group. Think through how you would answer the questions and what prompts might get your members thinking deeply. It's also helpful to keep a handful of "forever questions" in your toolbox such as "Where does scripture help us answer this question?" or "How does this help us love God and love people?"

Know your sheep

Remember that you're leading PEOPLE, not a curriculum. Think through the needs of each person in your group (relationally, transformationally, and missionally) and where each one is at in their spiritual journey (seeker, new believer, growing disciple) as you plan your meeting and listen with the help of the Holy Spirit through your group's discussion. You could even meet with someone outside of your group meeting, following up on a discussion point or doing a "Faithfully Following" practice together.

Get your group to help carry the load

Ask others to help. Start early by asking others to ask an opener question, be the discussion leader for a question or activity, lead your prayer time, or plan a social event. In doing so, not only are you sharing the burden of leading, but you're also giving people a chance to develop skills that one day may produce future leaders. This is a foretaste of the Great Commission; disciples who make disciples who make disciples....