

Life Group leaders session

Sunday 3rd November 2019, 12-1:30pm

Life Groups re-focus

Life Groups: focused on Jesus and building each other up by

- Loving, welcoming and knowing each other
- Encouraging one another from the Bible
- Praying together
- Practically caring for each other
- Looking outwards in justice-seeking and proclaiming the good news

Life Groups and Coro vision



- Life Groups fit particularly in helping us to be ‘a people focused on Jesus’ and ‘building each other up,’ although will contribute to other areas as well.
- Individually we grow in our discipleship as we become more mature members of the bodies – this is what a disciple looks like

Life Groups and support in 2019-2020

- Elder visits in next few months re Vision
- Cat as Elder with Life Groups portfolio
- Discipleship Pastor role will allocate time to supporting Life Group leaders
- 4 training and support sessions across the year
- Semi-regular check-ins to see how you and the group are going, how we can support and pray for you
- Working towards training and equipping new Life Group leaders

Life Group reflection and priorities for prayer and support

With your co-leaders, please spend some time reflecting and filling in this page. If you're happy to share at the end, please show me (Cat) so I can take a photo – it will help immensely in understanding how we can support and encourage each group. This is not a test, but a tool for growth and informed support and encouragement!

Leaders:

Group members:

Where and when meeting:

How would you assess your group's recent activities related to:

(list N/A if not an aim of your group at the moment)

- **Focusing on Jesus?**
 - **Loving, welcoming and knowing each other?**
 - **Encouraging one another from the Bible?**
 - **Praying together?**
 - **Practically caring for each other?**
 - **Looking outwards in justice-seeking and proclaiming the good news?**
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Which area do you think is the main priority for growth in the next season?

How can Coro leadership pray for and support you as a leader? Are there things that it would be helpful to discuss further about your group?

Life Group leader equipping: How to lead a Bible study

Aims of Bible study in small groups

Some possible/desirable aims of reading the Bible in small groups:

- To model how to faithfully handle the text
- To help people understand how to approach a passage – respecting its context, genre – listening well to what God and the human author intended to communicate
- To equip people to approach similar texts on their own
- To give space for questions and discussion (an advantage over Sunday teaching)
- To engage scripture in community, so that we are strengthened and encouraged by each other's insights and perspectives
- To grapple together with difficult things in the text, so that we're not alone and are encouraged
- To pray about the text together
- To engage our heads, hearts and to allow the passage to change us
- To know God better through encountering him in his word

Categories of question/activities

Context: understanding the author, original audience, genre, historical setting

Ideas:

- Brief spiel from leader to set up the context
- Ask a group member to skim over or recap a previous passage
- Watch 'The Bible Project' video for that book
- Read the intro from a study Bible
- Ask the group what they know of the context of the passage
- Or something else

Observation: respectfully listening and seeing what God has spoken in this passage

Ideas:

- What kind of music would you set this to?
- If this was a movie, what scenes/trailer/actors?
- Draw a picture or flow-chart the passage
- Act out the passage (in person or with figures)
- Hold a debate
- Pretend you're at a book launch for this book of the Bible
- Chop up the verses of the passage and put in the correct order
- Imaginative slow reading of the passage so people can visualise
- Write yourself a letter exhorting yourself from this passage
- Re-write in your own words
- Group time to pray through the passage
- OR other thoughtful questions that help people see what is in the passage!!

Meaning: What did it mean to the original hearers? What does it mean now?

- Lots of work already done if observation is done well
- Some thoughtful questions to draw out anything that needs further exploration

Application: allowing God's word to speak with transformation and authority to us

- How does this impact our lives, either broadly or in specific areas?
- Not just 5 minutes at the end, but giving good time for the Spirit to be leading and transforming us, to discuss and pray together about what to do with this passage

[Bible study resources for any passage](#)

COMA

- Generic questions for each major genre of the Bible
- Useful if you don't have time to prepare a study!
- Also for empowers others to understand passages and lead studies
- Google 'David Helm COMA' to download sheets, Cat will also email link

Uncover Luke / Mark questions

- Uses the AFES Uncover Luke / Mark questions, which equip Christian uni students to read the gospels with seeking friends - also useful for Life Groups
1. RETELL: Are there parts I find unclear or confusing as I retell the narrative?
 2. REACT: How are different people reacting to Jesus here?
 3. REVEAL: What is revealed about Jesus, through words and actions?
 4. REASON: What reason do I think Luke had for including this event?
 5. RESPOND: How will I respond to what this part of Luke uncovers about Jesus?

Swedish method

- With a short passage, allow 10 minutes for each person to read and mark these three things
- Then cycle through category: asking each person to share one light bulb, then each person to share their questions and then each person to share arrows



A light bulb: This should be something that 'shines' from the passage—whatever impacts most, or draws attention.



A question mark: Anything that is difficult to understand in the text, or a question the reader would like to ask the writer of the passage or the Lord.



An arrow: A personal application for the reader's life.
