

LIFE GROUPS

A GUIDE TO HELP US LIVE
FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD



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Live your life this week for the
same reason that Jesus gave His
-for the life of the world-

02//BEST PRACTICES

GETTING STARTED

Life Groups (LGs) are comprised of 3-5 people of the same gender that help us live with intentionality FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD throughout the week. You can meet anywhere & anytime in your community: a local coffee shop, at work during a lunch break, or after a workout. LGs meet 2-4 times each month to encourage each other in Bible reading, prayer, & sharing the good news of Jesus in their circles of influence. *If you/your people want more structure for personal Bible study, join a Women's Bible Study on Wednesdays or a Men's Life Group through our men's ministry.*

BEST PRACTICES

- Start a group with at least one other person that's as committed as you.
- Have a consistent day, time, & location (have a bad weather plan if meeting outside)
- Be friendly to staff & acquaintances at your meeting location.
- Have a consistent Group Time schedule (see next page). Start small: shorter time frames when you begin - 1 hour meeting, once a week, for 8 weeks, reading through a short book. After 8 weeks, evaluate: Do you need to change? What works what doesn't? Does anyone want to continue?
- At the beginning of each meeting, connect with each other through questions (use the "GET TO KNOW YOU" questions below or the Starter Questions on the next page).
- "M.A.P.S." a passage of the Bible together during the group time. To cover more ground, read a chapter together & then assign the next chapter for the group to "M.A.P.S." on their own during the week & debrief how it went at the next meeting.
*****Use and share the MAPS page and your reading plan!*****
- Read the Bible together; This is not just a social gathering. It might feel awkward at first and that's ok. It's worth it.
- Don't be upset if people can't continue. Invite them to another one next time.
- Plan for breaks in your meeting schedule during Winter/December and Summer/July.
- Make the group **simple** and **replicable**. Hopefully, your group will be trained & equipped to start a Life Group in another circle of influence.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

As you begin a new group, it's important to get a clear understanding of where each person's background & goals; these questions will help with that. DON'T ask them all in the first meeting. Trust takes time.

1. HERITAGE: How have your family relationships influenced your life? Who/What has influenced your faith?
2. HEROES: What relationships have significantly influenced your character or shaped your life direction (positively & negatively)? How? Why?
3. HIGH POINTS: What experiences have been especially meaningful and powerful for your life? When have you felt closest to God? Why?
4. HARD TIMES: What experiences have been especially difficult or painful? Why?
5. HABITS: What are some essential habits you have in place that refocus your identity, value, and purpose in Christ? (Bible study, worship, prayer, fasting, biblical community, serving, giving, etc.)
6. HANG UPS: What are some habits you have or struggles that you regularly face that are in opposition to who you are in Christ?

SAMPLE MEETING



- 20 Minutes: Get To Know You Questions or Starter Questions (Next Page)
- 10 Minutes: Read & Meditate on A Specific Bible Passage
- 10 Minutes: Apply the Bible Passage
- 10 Minutes: Pray the Bible Passage
- 10 minutes: Share with whom & how you will share this idea with a friend, coworker, neighbor, etc



03//MAPS GUIDE

MAPS is a simple way to help people in Bible reading by Meditating on the Bible passage, Applying it, Praying it, and Sharing it with someone in your life. These questions will help you model MAPS with your group.

STARTER QUESTIONS

20 MINUTES

- How are you & your circles of influence (family, work, school)?
- What’s God been teaching you since we last met?
- Were you able to "share" something with someone since we last met?
- Or choose a "Get To know You" Question.

MEDITATE

10 MINUTES

- What did you like about this passage?
- What surprised or confused you? Why?
- What did this passage mean for the original audience?
- What does this passage tell us about... God? People? The World?
- What's the timeless truth for all people?

APPLY

10 MINUTES

- How does this passage change how I view God, myself, or others?
- How does this truth change my head, heart, & hands? (thinking, feeling, doing)
- What resonates with me or what do I resist about this passage?
- Write out a simple sentence of what this verse means for me.

PRAY

10 MINUTES

- Praise - thank God for who He is & what He does.
- Repent - Confess your sins & turn toward God's plan.
- Ask - Acknowledge that you need God's provision.
- Yield - Trust His perfect purpose & plan in everything.

SHARE

10 MINUTES

Identify with whom & how you might share this week.
1) Write down what you learned today.
2) Ask God for wisdom for how/when to share.
3) Don’t preach AT people; share WITH people"
“That reminds me of something I was talking about with my friends this morning... it really challenged me to....”



04//PASSAGES TO M.A.P.S.

MEDITATE-APPLY-PRAY-SHARE

"M.A.P.S." a passage of the Bible together during the group time. To cover more ground, read a chapter together & then assign the next chapter for the group to "M.A.P.S." on their own during the week & debrief how it went at the next group meeting.

PASSAGES FOR LEARNING JESUS

Mark 1-16, Isaiah 53-55, Psalm 22, Philippians 2, Colossians 1, Hebrews 1, John 1

PASSAGES FOR CHRISTIAN FAITH AND PRACTICE

Matthew 5-7, Ephesians 1-6, James 1-5

PASSAGES FOR EXPLORING THE STORY OF THE BIBLE

- Genesis 1:1-25
Psalm 19
Genesis 2:4-24
Psalm 8
Genesis 3:1-24
Genesis 12:1-8
Genesis 15:1-6,
Genesis 17:1-8
Exodus 2:23-25, 3:1-12
Exodus 3:13-15
Exodus 34:1-10
Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 145
Deuteronomy 5:1-21; 5:32-6:2
Leviticus 4:13-31, John 1:29-37
Hebrews 4:14-16, 1 John 1:7-2:2
Joshua 1:1-12
Judges 1:1-5, 21:24-25
2 Samuel 6:20-7:29
Psalm 1
Psalm 2
- Psalm 32
Psalm 53
Psalm 139
Isaiah 52:13-15, 53:1-12
John 1:19-34
Matthew 4:1-22
John 1
John 4
Mark 5
John 11:1-44
John 14:1-14
John 19:28-42
Luke 23:1-49
Luke 23:50-56, 24:1-12
Luke 24:31-53
Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 1:6-8
Acts 17:26-34, Eph 2:8-10
2 Corinthians 5:17-21
Revelation 1:1-10
Revelation 7:9-17
Revelation 21
Revelation 22

TOPICAL BOOKS

- Reason For God, Keller
Christian Beliefs, Grudem
BLESS, Ferguson
Gentle & Lowly, Ortlund
Delighting in the Trinity, Reeves
Prayer, Keller
The Cost of Discipleship, Bonhoeffer
Knowing God, Packer
How God Makes Men, Morley
- Women of the Word, Wilken
When You Pray, Various Authors
Ruth, Minter
Take Courage, Rothschild
Elijah, Shirer



05//HELP!

Seriously... leading can be hard. We're thankful for your desire to lead & serve others well so we are here to help you do just that.

TRAININGS

LEADER TRAININGS

Listen to our group leader trainings. These are designed for Growth Group Leaders but there are so many great tips for any group leader.
WEB SEARCH: HS Leader Podcast

Q&A

JUST ASK

We would love to help you navigate your specific situation, question, idea, problem, resource, etc. - just ask!
EMAIL: Stephen@hulenstreet.com

RESOURCES

HULEN STREET COURSES PODCAST

If you're not sure how to study a passage with people, listen to our Hulen Street Courses Podcast studies for a model. Or, invite your group to listen along and talk through the podcast.
WEB SEARCH: Hulen Street Courses Podcast

HULEN STREET CHURCH APP

We have curated a variety of group resources to help you in Bible study, prayer, Gospel-sharing, and work. Open the app and click the "Become" tab. There's also phone wallpapers, reminders, memory verses, articles, videos, and more.

WEB SEARCH: Hulen Street Church App

