



# LIFE GROUPS

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TO 30500





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## We're going to focus on three things today:

- First, we're going to focus on how you, as a Life Group leader, are the heartbeat of the church so that you feel clear about the role you.
- Second, we're going to explain what it will take for you to lead a Life Group successfully.
- Finally, you're going to create a Life Group Development Plan. You'll leave today with the next steps to take.

## What is a Life Group Anyway?

Small gatherings of followers of Jesus Christ meeting on their own, facilitated by a leader, are not a new phenomenon. In fact, in the first few hundred years of the church these kinds of groups were all that existed - they were pretty much the only way to experience church.

Luke describes this kind of group in Act 2:42-47 and throughout years of church history the value of these types of groups hasn't changed. At church you'll find the same healthy, independently functioning, leader-facilitated, small groups of people that Luke wrote about 2,000+ years ago. We call them Life Groups.

*"They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved."*

**Acts 2:46-47**

## Three Common Elements present in any healthy Life Group.

- ***Relationships***

Meaningful relationships develop and the group figures out how to support and take care of each other.

At Rev City, we want people to feel Welcomed, Valued, and Cared For, as they encounter Christian fellowship and experience the presence of God in our gatherings.

- **Growth**

Each person grows (usually in many areas of life) to be more of who God made them to be as a result of being around the others in the group.

- **Community Change**

Groups influence their community by taking it upon themselves to solve problems and nurture long-term relationships that develop others.

## You Are the Heartbeat of the church

As you hear these stories, you can easily see how Life Group leaders truly are the heartbeat of the church. Jesus trusted and empowered his disciples and the early church leaders did so as well as we've seen in Acts 2:42-47. Just the same, we trust you to lead and are committed to empowering you.

- Your vision is **God Inspired** and needed here. We take it seriously that God has placed you here and has given you a desire to lead others. So, we want to help you clarify your vision then give you the space to pursue it. Under the vision set by the Senior Pastor and Elders, Rev City is here to reveal Jesus in a way that revives hearts, restores relationships and brings life. As your individual group vision comes under the overall vision, you become an extension of accomplishing our God given assignment. We're committed to empowering and developing you in what God has called you to do.
- You are the **pacesetters** here at Rev City. Here and beyond, you are the energy behind our purpose to reach out, build up, train, and send out. It is because these things have been true in the lives of our Life Group leaders that church has continued to grow. God has now chosen you to play a role in perpetuating the vision of reviving hearts and revealing Jesus.
- Your leadership will result in **lasting life change** in people and in our community as we reveal Jesus through Life Groups. A changed life begins on the weekend, but it's only in community with people where the process of lasting change occurs. And it is when your

Life Group engages and builds long-term relationships in the community that our community is restored back to what God intended for it to be.

## Your Vision for Your Life Group

Take a few minutes now and write down your initial thoughts about your vision for your Life Group. Don't feel pressure to make something perfect at this point. Right now just begin to work on clarifying what you'd like to see happen as a Life Group leader. Here are a few questions to get you thinking:

- What do you picture about the relationships that will develop in your group?
- How you hope to see people grow because of your group?
- How the community will be affected because of your group?

Now, break into groups of 4-6 and share the one thing you are most excited about as you envision what God will do through your leadership and your Life Group. (There will be space in the participant notes for each person to write down their thoughts).

## Advice on How to Succeed as a Life Group Leader

In the Churches history, thousands of leaders like you have stepped up to the plate to lead. Over time common characteristics that describe Life Group leaders that succeed have become very clear, so here's our advice to you on how to succeed.

Know your **vision** and grow in the these five areas:

1. Your Relationship with God
2. Your Relationships with People
3. Your Financial Life
4. Your Physical Life
5. Your Work Life

Jump right into your role and be willing to learn **"in the game"**

## Own the **vision** and **direction** for your Life Group

- What is your vision for your group, and what type of group will it be?
- How will you recruit people for the group?
- What discussion/learning content will you use? What activities will you do?
- How and when will you transition the group?

## Assume responsibility

Assume responsibility to provide **“pastoral type”** of care to your group

- Maintain your own a vibrant spiritual life
- Replicate yourself in others
- Support others in a personal crisis

## Take **ownership** of your own development as a leader

- Seek out coaching and mentoring
- Tenaciously work through challenges
- Utilize tools and resources designed to fuel growth
- Be willing to receive feedback and become more self-aware
- Eagerly participate in development opportunities

# Expectations

In addition, there are some specific expectations that our church has for each of our Life Group leaders.

1. We strongly encourage you to consider partnering with a co-leader to help share the responsibility of caring for and leading your group.
2. Connect with group members outside of weekly meetings through phone, email, text, social media, or face-to-face.
3. Be aggressive to invite and include new people in your group all throughout the semester. Encourage your group to do the same.
4. Have fun through laughter and by creating an enjoyable environment.
5. Be a facilitator - look to graciously engage and invite others to share or participate in prayer times.
6. Pets? We all love our pets, but some people attending our groups may have sensitivities they are reluctant to tell us about. For the brief time that Life Group occurs, please kindly keep pets in a private/discreet location.
7. Always expect first time guests. If there is a shift in a time or location, please always communicate with the church staff, your group members, and post instructions so that first-time guests will be directed and included and not left feeling left out or uncertain.
8. Food and drink. Snacks and drinks can be an enjoyable part of the fellowship time each week. Consider creating a schedule so that there is shared responsibility for the food and/or beverages.
9. While it may be appropriate/enjoyable in certain settings, alcoholic beverages including wine and beer are not acceptable for Life Group gatherings. Some people have differing convictions, or may have current or previous struggles in their personal life or family history.



## Additional Expectations

1. Lead the group by facilitating the group meeting, monitoring its health and duration, and promoting participation among group members
2. Commit to engage in leadership development opportunities provided by the church, i.e. Next Steps and Discipleship
3. Manage your group online and be involved in on-going Life Group trainings
4. Become familiar with Rev City Church online platforms and or systems/databases (Zoom, ROCK, website, etc.)
5. Follow through on taking attendance and any other email requests from Rev City staff or pastors.
6. Be timely and consistent with your scheduled meetings (online or in person). If you need to cancel your meeting, please communicate in advance to your group and church staff.
7. Communicate and report any issues or concerns that arise to a Rev City staff member or pastor.

## Think About Your Leadership

Write down (on your own) the answers to these two questions:

- Based on what we've talked about, what four strengths areas would you say that you feel are going to be strengths for you as a leader?
- If there's one area you could improve in, what would it be?

## Qualifications

All those that lead a Life Group are considered to be in a leadership position; therefore, the following qualifications are necessary to lead at Rev City:

Supporting the church faithfully (Malachi 3:10; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15; Hebrews 10:23-25)

- Accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
- Be Water Baptized.
- Agree with the Statement of Faith and the overall vision of Rev City Church.
- Be faithful in church attendance at Rev City and overall faithfulness to any area of service or ministry previously held here.
- Be a member of the church.
- Complete Discovery Luncheon and the Life Group Leadership Training class.
- Practice harmony and integrity in marriage, family relationships, business relationships, personal friendships as well as moral conduct and Christian character inside and outside of the church.
- Commit to building unity, being a peacemaker and a team player. Have an attitude of grace, love, patience, long-suffering, service, and humility.
- Have an attitude of faith, positive disposition and verbal discipline.
- Focus on Jesus and the major issues of the faith as the priority of our common worship and service.
- Display an attitude of compassion and grace to those who are hurting, different, sinful or even adversarial to your faith in Christ.
- Seek to love from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith. (1 Timothy 1:5; Acts 15:29)
- Learn to lead a quiet life. (1 Thessalonians 4:9-12; 1 Peter 3:1-9)

- Practice submission to authority. (Romans 13:1-5; 1 Peter 2:13-25; 1 Timothy 2:1-3; Hebrews 13:17)
- Be diligent in your stewardship. (1 Timothy 5:8; Ephesians 4:28; 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12) Practical test - established by the practice of timely payment of all financial obligations.
- Qualifications from 1 Timothy 3:8-12

## Faith

- Do you have a consistent, daily prayer time?
- Do you have a basic understanding of the Bible? Do you regularly study Scripture?
- Are you allowing the Holy Spirit to produce its fruit in your personal life? (Galatians 5:22-23)
- Are you actively seeking the empowerment of the Holy Spirit?
- Do you recognize the authority of the elders and pastors here at Rev City? Can you receive correction or instruction from those in authority?
- Do you diligently promote unity in the local church body? Are you prone to gossip or criticism? Are you able to confront others in a healthy manner?
- Do you fully embrace the vision of the church?

## Family

- If you are married, is your marriage healthy? Do you have regular communication with your spouse? Are there critical issues that need resolving?
- Are you following the foundational marital laws of Priority, Pursuit, Purity, and Possession? (Genesis 2:24)
- Do your children respect and obey you? Do your children have any destructive or rebellious behaviors that need your attention?

- Is your family a priority over work and hobbies?
- If married, is the husband the spiritual leader? Does the wife submit to the husband's righteous leadership? (Ephesians 5:22-33)
- *Key Point: You will ultimately treat the bride of Christ the way you treat your own.*

## Finances

- Do you tithe on a regular basis to the local church? (Malachi 3:8-12)
- Do you have problematic or unnecessary debt? (Proverbs 22:7)
- Do you have a sound business reputation with those outside the church?
- Are you generous with your resources toward those in need? (Luke 6:38)
- Do you have healthy Biblical attitudes toward money and success?
- Are you a diligent and faithful worker? (Proverbs 13:11, 14:23)
- Do you faithfully pray for every financial need? (1 Timothy 6:6; Philippians 4:6)