



**Impact Life Cell Groups**  
**LEADERSHIP GUIDE**

We base our Life Group model on the early church as described in the Bible, in the book of Acts. In Acts, you can read about the tremendous growth of the first church in Jerusalem, where Life Group meetings in homes helped lay the foundation.

*Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.*

ACTS 5:42

### **Life Groups offer people:**

#### **1. A Place to: connect**

*Yes, whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so that he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him.*

*1 Corinthians 9: 22 TLB.*

We were not made to do life alone. God created us for community, and Life Groups provide a place to connect with others, share life, and grow in faith together.

#### **2. A Place to: protect**

*We know what real love is because Jesus gave up His life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters.*

*1 John 3: 16 NLT.*

*It is through life together that our problems become smaller, and God uses others to bring support and encouragement to our lives. Life Groups become a place where others don't just know your name, but care about what is happening in your life and want to support you in your spiritual journey.*

#### **3. A Place to: grow.**

*As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.*

*Proverbs 27: 17*

*We believe every person is created with God-given potential to make a difference in the world. Life Groups are a place where you can grow with others to become more like Jesus and reach the potential that God has put inside you.*

## WHAT A LIFE GROUP LOOKS LIKE

We want people to gather together based on things that are important to them. Essentially, the things you are already doing in your life are the things that can make up your Life Group. We believe that life is better together. All groups fall within these hubs:

- ❖ Men
- ❖ Women
- ❖ Marriage
- ❖ Family
- ❖ Young Adults
- ❖ Prayer
- ❖ Outreach

### Groups Structure:

Life flows in seasons, and we want to make it easy for you to be in the right life group for you in each season. This is why we have life groups that start and stop four times during the year, in what we refer to as “terms”

**TERM 1** > FEB TO APRIL

**TERM 2** > MAY TO JUL

**TERM 3** > AUG TO OCT

**TERM 4** > NOV TO DEC

**BREAK** > JAN

**BREAK** - During the month of January Life groups are not normally run.

Groups meet in a variety of places, such as homes, parks, restaurants, coffee shops, and office buildings. At band practice, we can change the pattern, but the message will remain the same: it's about Jesus Christ.

New groups start every term, making it easy to build community and enjoy different types of groups.

**No matter what your group meets about, each meeting should be made up of four things:**

**1. Casual Fellowship**

Laid-back time for group members to talk and get to know each other

**2. Activity or Discussion**

This will vary based on what kind of group you're leading; it could be an activity like Frisbee or outreach, a discussion about a book, or a Sunday message.

**3. Prayer**

Ask for prayer requests from group members and pray at the beginning and or the end of each group meeting.

**4. Spiritual Component**

Whether it's through activities or discussions, always find a way to include the Word of God. This can be as simple as sharing something God is teaching you with the group, talking about a verse you read that week, or discussing our lesson provided by the Senior Pastor.

**LIFE GROUPS ARE NOT A PLACE FOR:**

- ❖ Business.
- ❖ Offering.
- ❖ Unapproved materials or speakers.
- ❖ Controversial topics.

**YOUR ROLE AS A LIFE GROUP LEADER**

God has a part for all of us to play in the church, and Life Group leaders come alongside the pastors and staff of Impact Church to help care for people.

*Now these are the gifts gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do His work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.*

The primary role of a Life Group Leader is to help group members grow in their walk with God.

*Be sure you know the condition of your flocks; give careful attention to your herds.*

*Proverbs 27: 23*

**People in your group will be at different places in their spiritual lives, and each person will have different next steps to take. Here is a guide to some next steps you can help people take:**

- ❖ Start attending Sunday services
- ❖ Start reading the Bible regularly.
- ❖ Start praying regularly
- ❖ Be water baptized
- ❖ Join the ministry
- ❖ Invite a friend or neighbor to church or a Life Group
- ❖ Attend a Life Group Leadership Training to become a Life Group Leader

**How to be a successful Life Group Leader:**

1. **Prayer Daily** - for the members of your group
2. Consider partnering with an **Assistant Leader** to help share the responsibility of caring for and leading your group.
3. **Connect** - with group members between weekly meetings through phone, email, text, social media, or face-to-face. Encourage group members to connect with each other throughout the week as well.
4. Have **fun** through laughter and by creating an enjoyable environment.
5. Respect people's **time** by beginning and ending your Life Group on time.
6. **Invite** the group around a member going through a crisis. Use wisdom and be sensitive.

**The Importance of Prayer:**

Prayer is a **foundation** of our church, and it is important for your Life Group.

*If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*  
2 Chronicles 7: 14

**How to pray for your group:**

- ❖ Pray for any requests group members share.
- ❖ Ask for the presence of the Holy Spirit in your group.
- ❖ Pray that God will open people's hearts to hear His truth.
- ❖ Pray for authentic community to develop.
- ❖ Pray for wisdom and strength to lead your group well.

**Confidence as a Life Group Leader:**

If you only do what you feel comfortable doing, you don't need God. God's best is often found outside your comfort zone.

When you serve God and people by leading a Life Group, He will equip you and give you the strength and wisdom to lead well.

*For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.*

*Philippians 4: 13 NLT.*

*For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.*

*2 Timothy 1: 7 NLT.*

**When you feel uncertain about leading a group, use Scripture to overcome the lies of the enemy:**

1. When you feel like you don't have the time, remember **God has created you for this**, and His timing is perfect.
2. When you feel unqualified, remember **God has equipped you**.
3. When you feel like your past disqualified you, remember **God uses imperfect people**.

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in*

**When you feel like you don't know how to help someone in your group, remember ESPN:**

**E:** Encourage

**S:** Share Scripture

**P:** Pray

**N:** Next Steps

### **Leadership Support**

As a Life Group Leader, you are never alone in creating community. We have pastors and the Life Group Team who are all working alongside you to invest in a great Life Group at Impact.

### **How to create good group dynamic**

#### **❖ Set expectations.**

A key to helping people feel comfortable in your group is to let them know what to expect. Take time to share how the group will flow from week to week. This can include things like explaining the times you will begin and end the group, how discussions or group activities will happen, and how group members can share prayer requests or best engage.

#### **❖ Follow the 70 - 30 - rule.**

Give the members of your group room to speak up instead of you doing all the talking yourself. About 70% of the talking should come from members and 30% from you as a leader.

#### **❖ Keep the discussion positive.**

If conversation takes a negative or destructive turn, guide it back to a healthy place. If someone needs to talk about a sensitive or complex issue, you can follow up with them after the group or call your coordinator to help you respond well.

#### **❖ Keep the conversation relevant to everyone.**

Remember people in your group will be at different places in their spiritual journey. Be thoughtful when you talk about spiritual concepts or church terms that might be unfamiliar to new Christian or churchgoers.

❖ **Respect boundaries.**

Men should minister to men, and women should minister to women. A couple may minister to a single person. We want to maintain integrity and purity in the Life Groups. These boundaries will help protect the leaders and group members from entering into uncomfortable or inappropriate situations.

**Stay Connected:**

Throughout the year, stay connected to the Life Group Coordinator about group attendance, potential new Life Group leaders, and how members are growing.

**HOW TO START YOUR LIFE GROUP**

1. Ask God for direction about the Life Group.
2. Once you decide on a topic, receive the lesson from the pastor or activity for your group, and choose a place and time to meet.
3. Pray for God to do great things through your Life Group.

**Preparing for your meetings:**

- ❖ Send a message to group members reminding them about the meeting place and time.
- ❖ Always arrive early to set up a welcoming environment.

**Conversation:**

- ❖ How did you learn about our group?
- ❖ What are your hobbies?
- ❖ What brought you here?
- ❖ What are you hoping to get out of this Life Group?
- ❖ Have you given your life to Jesus Christ?
- ❖ Have you been baptized in water?

THANK YOU FOR BEING AN IMPORTANT PART A LIFE GROUPS AT IMPACT CHURCH.