

LifeGroup Leaders FAQ



Schedule

- ▶ People are coming late
 - ▶ Be forward with the group and tell them, "We start at 6:00 and it seems like we're always running late. I want to be respectful of everyone's time and not go late. Do we need to adjust the time?"
 - ▶ Quarterly evaluation - tweak the schedule or order every few months, and use the change as an opportunity to remind the group of start time.
- ▶ People are staying late
 - ▶ Communicate respect of each other's time. Tell Co-leaders about the problem and ask them to lead by example by leaving on time or early.
 - ▶ Pray for discernment. Sometimes people linger because they need something - prayer, ministry, etc. You can't always dive into a lengthy conversation after group time. Make an appointment and invite co-leader.

Childcare

- ▶ Paying for childcare
 - ▶ In the Hill LG we ask everyone pay \$2/child. We wanted to set a precedent to future leaders that *they* were not responsible for paying for childcare. We don't want future LG leaders hesitant because they can't budget for LG childcare.
 - ▶ Communicate clear expectations with the group every week.
 - ▶ You may choose to pay for childcare, as long as co-leaders know that they are not responsible for it in the future.
- ▶ No childcare
 - ▶ Rotation: two girls or two guys per week
 - ▶ People from LGs on other nights? Students? Neighbors? Facebook friends?
 - ▶ Have a backup plan - someone to be on-call or use rotation as backup
 - ▶ Plan a monthly LG for families & make it kid-friendly

Hosting

- ▶ The stress of hosting: preparing what to say, cleaning the house, tension in family
 - ▶ Pray before you prepare for LifeGroup about the stress of hosting.
 - ▶ Your house does NOT have to look perfect when people come over!!! It actually helps make them feel more comfortable when your house looks like theirs.
 - ▶ Communicate clearly with your spouse, kids, and co-leaders about this stress & work on it together.
 - ▶ Recognize it when it starts. Don't let it escalate.
 - ▶ Print or jot down several copies of the discussion questions for co-leaders.

Staying Focused

- ▶ Don't be afraid to purposefully draw the group back to the topic or question at hand.
- ▶ Ask your co-leader to back you up when things get off track.
- ▶ You don't always need a segue. Make it funny. Smooth & effective don't always go together.
- ▶ Pray for discernment during discussion time. Don't kill discussion just because it's not on the agenda. Meaningful, off-topic discussion could lead to significant ministry time.

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Purposeful Discipleship

- ▶ Separating men & women has done wonders in creating a more open, teachable, prayerful, caring and purposeful time in the Hill LifeGroup. They start out together, go over what's going on at church and things coming up, then we pray together and separate for discussion. People have been more willing to open up and share their hearts, make commitments to one another, pray and lay hands on one another, and comfort & encourage each other. It also seems like when we separate, people stay on task better.
- ▶ Once we are in separate groups don't be shy. Ask the tough questions... Move from generic to specific and press through the fluffy stuff: What season are you in? Going down or up? What happened last week? Where do you need to be going? Are you in the Word daily? How is your prayer life? Are you sharing Jesus with others? What are your struggles? How can we help one another?
- ▶ If you have a new couple, consider staying together. The next time they come you can separate again.
- ▶ You may want to separate further into groups of two or three. These two or three would be put together purposefully and encouraged to call each other during the week to encourage one another and pray together.
- ▶ The potential for having serious ministry time is there!!!! As leaders we need to model what this looks like. Expect to see God move!!! Always!!!
- ▶ Leaders & co-leaders need to talk about how they can be intentional and logical about supporting each other.

Multiplying

- ▶ Multiplying isn't just inevitable, it's intentional. We're doing this on purpose in response to what God is doing in our church, not just cause you ran out of chairs. Let's embrace and celebrate it, not avoid and tolerate it. Here are some practical steps:
 - ▶ Pray about multiplication and for the "generations" of your group. Ask God to guide the process, even if it's in the distant future.
 - ▶ When you feel it's getting close, talk with Jen & your co-leaders regularly about multiplication. Agree in prayer together about it. Pray about "who might stay & who might go." Try to establish a timeline to multiply.
 - ▶ About six weeks before the target date, speak with deeply connected individuals in the group individually about the vision for multiplication and the timeline. Be transparent, answer questions, and pray together.
 - ▶ Announce the multiplication during LifeGroup about three weeks before the target date.
 - ▶ Plan a multiplication party the final week together. Share stories about what God has done in the group.
 - ▶ "Send" the new group on the target date. Then pray for and support the new leaders and group.
 - ▶ Plan joint activities periodically.
- ▶ The right time to multiply:
 - ▶ Group size isn't the only factor in multiplication.
 - ▶ Is there dormant leadership in your group? Has God provided a co-leader that you need to raise up and send out?
 - ▶ Will the new group be premature, full-term, or past due?