



LIFE GROUP Leader Orientation Training

A. Why Gateway LIFE Groups exist

Life Groups have one, simple purpose—to [bring people together](#).

We believe life change happens in the context of [relationships](#)

“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up”. **Ecclesiastes 4:9-10**

Our LIFE Group’s vision and purpose is for everyone to:

1. **Love God and others**

*Jesus said, “You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself. **Matthew 22:37-39***

2. **Experience freedom**

Jesus said, “If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed”. **John 8:36 NIV**

3. **Discover their purpose**

Paul said, “We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them”.
Ephesians 2:10 ESV

4. **Make a difference**

You didn’t choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name.
John 15:16

B. What a small group looks like

1. **Your LIFE is Your GROUP**

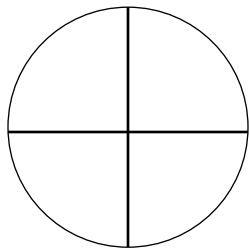
Everyone already is in some type of a group. There are groups within a family, a workplace, neighborhoods, various clubs and associations, etc. We simply encourage you to invite those you are already in relationship with and start a Life Group.

At Gateway we have various types of groups based on age and gender.

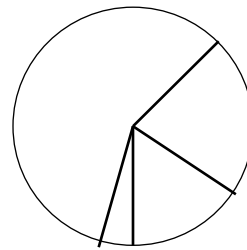
- Adult – Men, Women, Married & Coed
- Young Professional Men, Women, Married
- Young Adult (College)
- Youth Life Group – Gateway Youth

2. What does a healthy group look like?

Healthy Balanced Group



Unhealthy Group



3. Group Structure

- Groups meet throughout the year in three semesters.

Winter/Spring - 12 Weeks

Summer - 6 Weeks

Fall - 13 Weeks



- Groups meet weekly or bi-weekly during each semester.
- Groups meet in a variety of places like homes, restaurants, coffee shops or online.
- New groups start every semester making it easy to build community.

4. Each group meeting should be made up of four things

- **Casual fellowship** - Laid back time for group members to talk and get to know each other.
- **Discussion**- Use the weekly sermon note handouts with the Dig Deeper section. Or you may use other authorized books or studies to have a time of sharing and discussion.
- **Prayer** - Ask for prayer requests from group members and pray at the beginning and/or the end of each group meeting.
- **Application**- Always look for ways to apply what you've learned in every day life. Ask this question, "how can you use what you've learned in the coming weeks?"

C. Your Role as a Small Group Leader

1. Help care for and love God's people

*He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love. **Ephesians 4:16***

2. Be aware of what people are looking for in a small group
 - Acceptance – do I fit and belong here?
 - Friendship – Does anybody want to know me?
 - Value – Am I needed?
 - Benefit – What is the advantage of those joining this group?
 - Expectation – What is required for joining this group? Vocalize group's expectation.

3. Help group members **move one step** in their walk with God.

Here is a guide of some next steps you can help people take:

- Start attending Sunday services
- Start reading the Bible regularly
- Start praying regularly
- Be water baptized
- Attend Cleansing Streams
- Complete the Gateway's Grow Tracks
- Join Team Gateway
- Start tithing
- Attending our Team Gateway Gatherings
- Invite a friend to church or a Small Group
- Attend a Life Group Leadership Training
- Attend Gateway School of Ministry

4. **Pray daily** for the members of your group.
5. Consider partnering with a **co-leader** to help share the responsibility of caring for and leading your group, as they grow to eventually starting their own group
6. **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.
7. Have **fun** through laughter and by creating an enjoyable environment.
8. **Rally** the group around a member going through a crisis.

D. How to start your LIFE Group

1. Get signed up!

- Ask God for direction about what type of group to lead and who to invite.
- Choose a place and time to meet. Will you meet at a location or online? You can refer to our Online Training addendum for more information on how to host an online group.
- Register your group by visiting mygatewaycity.church/lifegroups and fill out the “I’m interested in leading a Life Group” online form.
- Invite people you know or meet to come check out your group.
- Pray for God to do great things through your Small Group.

2. Preparing for your group

- Send a message to group members reminding them about the first meeting.
- Arrive early to set up a welcoming environment
- Consider having nametags available to help everyone learn names for the first few weeks.

3. 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.

4. Choose wisely and prayerfully Bible study topics

- Use already prepared courses and books
- Create your own study
- Use Pastors Sunday notes to study and go deeper.

6. **Life Group Leader LEAD App for attendance**

We encourage all Life Group Leaders to sign up for an account in our Gateway Connect database and use the LEAD App for managing your group.