

RISEN KING COMMUNITY CHURCH  
SMALL GROUP LEADER  
TRAINING



*Because  
Life is better  
in community*

# Strategic GroupLife Principles

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## 1. Prayer and dependency on the Holy Spirit

## 2. Strategic focus and purpose:

- Develop 3C Disciples
  - **C**entered on Jesus
  - **C**onnected to supportive friends
  - **C**ontributing to the advance of the Kingdom
- Provide a context for leader discovery and development.
- Help ensure that every person that calls Risen King his or her home church can have a healthy small group community in which to belong and grow as a disciple of Jesus.
- Every Risen King LifeGroup will have a **missional** element where they serve beyond the boundaries of the LifeGroup.

## 3. Types of small groups at Risen King

## 4. Tangible small group ministry system designed to promote health and growth.

- GroupLife Leader Training Seminar
- 10-12-week trimester system

### **Advantages of Time-Bound Groups<sup>1</sup>**

1. A clear beginning and end date.
  2. Easier for people to make short-term commitments.
  3. Allows time for group's promotion and sign-ups.
  4. Easier for people to get into a group when everyone is starting at the same time.
  5. More group options with LifeGroups and Focus Groups in sync and offered each trimester session.
  6. Allows for the growth that comes through a stress – and - release cycle.
- Small Group leader support gatherings and resources.

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<sup>1</sup> As described in the book *Activate* by Nelson Searcy.

5. **Decentralization**

- The Jethro Principle (Exodus 18)
- Apprentice development process:
  - I do, you watch, we talk
  - I do, you help, we talk
  - You do, I help, we talk
  - You do, I watch, we talk
  - You do, someone else watches...

6. **Intentional plan for Risen King to regularly offer additional small groups**

- Launch new Starter Groups each trimester.
- Focus Groups transition to LifeGroups
- Apprentice leaders launch a new group from an existing LifeGroup.
- What commitments can be made to help small group multiplication happen effectively?

7. **Participatory Ministry**

- Testimonies
- Teaching time
  - Use of the weekend sermon discussion questions.
  - Everyone prepares for the Bible study!
- Praying for one another

8. **Transferable ministry models**

- Teaching time
- Praying for one another
- Serving
- Outreach

9. **AMP's** (Acquaintance Making Places)

10. **Strategic Awareness at the Celebration Services**

# Interactive Bible Discussion Guidelines

- I. What AREN'T we trying to do in this time?
  - A. NOT presenting a teaching or a sermon
    1. Facilitator is not “the expert”
    2. He or she is prepared, but has the attitude of a mutual learner
    3. “Let’s find out together what this means for our lives.”
  - B. NOT “pooling our ignorance”
    1. Advantage to studying the same passage as was preached on Sunday: A gifted teacher already has examined the passage and taught on it, so people should have a running start on understanding what it means.
    2. Group members have spent some time examining the passage and thinking through the questions to be asked and the direction of the interactive discussion.
- II. Suggestions for leading an interactive bible discussion:
  - A. Questions to be asked
    1. Opener –
      - a. Orients people to some aspect of the text to be discussed
      - b. Not the same as the icebreaker question that starts the meeting
    2. Observation – “What does the text say?”
    3. Interpretation – “What does this text mean?”
    4. Application – “What does this text mean to us/me?”
  - B. Role of the leader
    1. Organization
    2. Time watcher
    3. Gate keeper
      - a. Opening the gate for discussion to some people, while limiting others.
      - b. Everybody should have an opportunity to participate.
    4. Summarize periodically
    5. Initiate (prime the pump).
  - C. Using the provided discussion questions provided in the bulletin and online:
    1. It is a guide, not a script!
      - a. Feel free to rephrase questions
      - b. Feel free to add your own questions

- c. Feel very free not to ask all the questions
- 2. Goal is to discuss the text and make application
  - a. You don't have to "make it through" all the questions to do this!
  - b. People may get there just by you asking what new insights they gained on Sunday
- 3. Honor time commitments
  - a. Leave time for unhurried prayer and ministry.
  - b. End when you say you will.
  - c. Those to whom this matters will often vote with their feet; don't judge whether or not you can go later by whether or not people are complaining

### **More Helpful Hints for Leading a Discussion Time**

1. Your attitude as the leader is a key issue. Humility, respect for the Word, genuine love, openness and concern for others in the meeting – these are all easily picked up on. Whether you are peaceful or anxious, joyful or downcast, etc. – these attitudes will be discerned and are often contagious.
2. As you begin the study time, start by reading (or having someone read) the entire text to be considered.
3. When there is not clarity with the first approach to the question, simply ask the same thing in another way. To do this effectively, you will have to think through the discussion yourself ahead of time.
4. Avoid answering your own questions. The group will quickly learn not to participate if they know you will do most of the talking.
5. Don't be afraid of silence. Often this is when the most fruitful thinking/meditation takes place. You may want to mention this now and then, i.e., that silence is OK. Sometimes, though, silence can indicate that the question was unclear or perhaps irrelevant. This needs to be discerned.
6. After an initial answer to your question, ask others for additional insights. "Does anyone else have a comment on this?" "What do you think about what he just said?" etc.
7. Genuinely affirm people's contributions, tactfully as they are speaking (eye contact, etc.) and after they are finished ("Good observation," "Excellent point," "I've never thought of it that way before," etc.)

# LifeGroup Meeting Checklist

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## **BEFORE: BE READY**

1. INTERCESSION: During the week, and especially the day of the LifeGroup meeting, think about the meeting and pray for it. Pray for the people that will attend. Ask God to fill you with faith and holy expectation.
2. RESOURCES: Make sure these things are on hand:
  - Kleenex,
  - Sound source and song sheets for worship (optional)
  - Guest book and pen
  - Name tags
3. REFRESHMENTS: (coffee, juice, finger foods, and paper goods)
4. INTERACTIVE BIBLE STUDY: Be prepared with extra discussion guides, pens and bibles.
5. ICEBREAKER: Decide who will lead this. It might be nice to have someone else lead this exercise other than the facilitator.
7. CHILDREN'S MINISTRY: *This is optional for groups, but if childcare is to be provided, do it well!* Get resources together. The room needs to be selected and set up. Consider any "baby-proofing" that may need to be done. Have any materials for the kids ready to go.
8. Arrive at the meeting before it is scheduled to begin:
  - a) Help set up the meeting room (chairs and furniture, children's rooms, worship, refreshments, etc.).
  - b) PRAY!
  - c) Be prepared to welcome guests as they arrive. The use of nametags for the first couple gatherings can help a new group to bond more easily.

## **DURING: BE EDIFYING (I Corinthians 14:26)**

1. POTENTIAL FORMAT:

7:00-7:15 – Welcome & Refreshments  
7:15-7:30 – Icebreaker/testimonies  
7:30-8:15 – Interactive bible study  
8:15-8:30 – Pray for one another
2. Be a sincere participant in worship.

3. Pray silently as others speak or pray aloud. Be ready to pray aloud, but don't be afraid of silence. Avoid being "long-winded" when you speak or pray.
4. Encourage others to participate and **be** a participant in sharing from your own heart. If the situation arises that there is "un-edifying" sharing, be ready to share something positive and redirect the group back on course.
5. Avoid sharing or raising complicated and unresolved problems, or asking controversial or academic questions.
6. Note people who seem confused, upset, etc., during the meeting. Plan to talk with them afterwards, or minister to them during the ministry time.
7. Always be ready and willing to serve others.

### **AFTERWARDS: BE EFFECTIVE**

1. As a general rule, guests and returning non-believers should take first priority in terms of your attention after the meeting. Engage in friendly conversation find out about their lives. Try to discern needs. Encourage them.
2. Be certain you have collected all the names and phone numbers of each guest. Warmly see your guests off as they go.
3. After the above is done, help to clean up.
4. Debrief as necessary with co-leaders.
5. Fill out your online attendance report.

# Small Group Leadership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Are You Ready to Become a LifeGroup Leader?

Leading a small group is a very significant ministry. RKCC needs your participation as a qualified and devoted leader or apprentice, and we also want the best for the people you will be leading.

In order to help you understand the expectations of leadership and also to understand you better, a leadership interview process is used. The first step in this process is for every prospective leader or apprentice to affirm the following standards. Please check each of the following that apply to you:

- I know that Jesus Christ is my Savior and the Leader of my life.
- I regard the Bible as the final authority for me in all of its teachings.
- I am tangibly committed to growing as a disciple of Jesus.
- I am not involved in any ongoing pattern of willful disobedience to God.
- I am tangibly committed to Risen King's strategic plan to make more and better disciples of Jesus and advance His Kingdom.
  - I am a commissioned member of Risen King or am in the process of becoming one (this is reflected in my consistent attendance/participation and faithful financial support of the ministry God has called Risen King to)
  - I will lead my LifeGroup in accordance to the strategic vision and priorities laid out by the leadership of Risen King as described in the GroupLife Leader Training Seminar. (ie., The LifeGroup will maintain a balanced emphasis between intentional **discipleship** formation, **friendship** formation and a **mission** beyond the LifeGroup)
  - I will attend the Small Group leader support gatherings and the twice-annual training event. I will strongly encourage my apprentice leaders to do the same.
  - To the best of my knowledge, I believe God has called me to serve as a LifeGroup leader.

**By God's grace I commit myself  
to lead my LifeGroup in light of these leadership standards:**

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_