

new life
GROUUPS

Leader Guide

Updated 12/12/12

new life GROUPS

2	-----	A Letter from Pastor Gregg
3	-----	Our Core
3	-----	Our Commitments: Personal, Intentional, Missional
4	-----	5 Values in a leader
5	-----	3 Layers of Groups – 3 Layers: 10 Categories
6	-----	Steps for Becoming a Leader - Requirements
6	-----	Five Suggested Groups for First-Time Group Leaders
6	-----	Planting New Groups
6	-----	Listed and Unlisted
6	-----	Activity Release Forms
7	-----	7 Goals for a Leader
		Maintain New Life Membership
		Layer Two Training
		Layer Three Training
		Group Leader Ministry Description and Covenant
		Leader Evaluation
		Group Leader Coaches
		Time Off
8	-----	Additional Ways to Connect
		Group Leader Appreciation Events
		Group Visits
		CONNECT Sunday
		Our Correspondence with You
		Connection Point
		Badges
		Seasonal Groups Catalogue
9	-----	When Do Groups Meet: Seasons and Dates
		On-Campus Groups and KidsLife
		Off-Campus Groups
9	-----	KidsLife and Reservations
		Off-Campus Childcare Policy
10	-----	Group Leader Ministry Description and Covenant
		Things Leaders Do Things Leader Don't Do
		Faith Family Finances



Connecting: A Biblical Mandate

There is no shortage of scriptures that speak of God's desire to connect with His creation, or verses that reveal the Father's heart for His people connecting with each other. From God's declaration with Adam and Eve, "It is not good for man to be alone" to John 1 explaining "the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us" we see God connecting people to Himself and to Each Other.

Because of Jesus, we are permanently and ultimately connected. Not hypothetically, philosophically, or theoretically speaking, but literally, biblically, and presently. We are connected to God in His Trinity, and to each other by our belief in Jesus Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

A common misconception is that we need something in common, or an affinity with each other (in addition to Jesus), in order to connect with each other and for relationships to spark or grow. But this is not the testimony of the Bible or the Holy Spirit and this thinking can ultimately lead to lines being drawn that don't belong between us as believers.

Jesus teaches us in John 14 how He abides in the Father and He in us. We learn later in Romans 12 (and many of Paul's other writings) how we are one body and how we are "in each other" and "belong to each other." Galatians 3 also teaches us "there is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave nor free, male or female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus." *Division is destroyed in Jesus.*

NewLifeGroups is founded on the belief that just as Jesus summarized the Greatest Commandments, "love God and love others," we are called to "connect with God and connect with others."

Groups based on commonalities will always be a part of our ministry. BUT, growing deeper, we are making a concerted effort to lead people into groups based around our truest connection in Jesus Christ and some of the key focuses the Bible would have us deepen our roots into.

Let's dig into the Layers of Life together, with roots going deep, branches reaching toward heaven, bearing fruit for hungry hearts. We need nothing more than faith in the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit as our connection.

Christ is our Connection!

PASTOR CREGG



NewLifeGroups CORE

The CORE of NewLifeGroups is to Help People Connect With God and With Each Other.



The circles in our logo guide us through some of our beliefs about groups.

The CENTER circle points to our Core.

It has two parts: God and Others. The most basic purpose of a group is to connect people with God and each other.

NewLifeGroups COMMITMENTS



The SECOND circle in our logo has three parts. They are our Commitments. Personal, Intentional, and Missional.

Being Personal - Jesus told His disciples in John 15:15 He no longer called them servants but considered them friends.

Personal examples are -
learn peoples' names
let them know you're praying for them
choose relationship above program

Being Intentional - Looking at Jesus' life you sense His Intentionality in all He accomplished.

Intentional examples are -
contact your group members
prepare for your group in advance
pray for your group members in private

Being Missional - Missional isn't a one-time event, but a lifestyle.

Missional examples are -
stay open to newcomers (if possible), or
serve a local need as a group, or
partner with "Global" and go on a trip together

Five VALUES In a Leader



The **THIRD circle** of our logo represents the 5 values we look for in the hearts of our leaders. With them, you will continue to grow as a leader and be effective in connecting people with God and Each Other.

Integrity - Jesus told us in Mark 7:15 “you are defiled by what comes from your heart.” Integrity speaks to having wisdom and discernment: being able to keep confidences and know when to seek help. Integrity is being the same person in all situations.

Honesty - Jesus told His disciples in John 15:15 “I have told you everything the Father told me.” Jesus held nothing back. When leading a group you will be presented with opportunities to give of yourself or hide your true self. Honesty is what leads us to share from the heart. Honesty also leads us to confront difficult situations if they arise.

Friendship - Jesus told his disciples everything because of friendship. This is also found in John 15:15. “I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn’t confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends...” NewLifeGroup leaders are seeking to be friends with those they lead.

A Willingness to Learn - The disciples were constantly asking Jesus to explain His parables and teachings. They could have easily pretended to understand all things and led in ignorance, but leaders ask questions. Great leaders must be great followers.

A Desire to Please the Lord – The Apostle Paul had a ferocious desire to be with the Lord. In Philippians 1, Paul says, “I’m torn between the two desires: I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better to me. But for your sakes, it is better that I continue to live.” Paul put pleasing the Lord above pleasing himself. And as we lead a group, so ought we.

new life GROUPS

3 Layers of Groups – 10 Categories

Our logo can also be used to remind us of our layers and categories.
There are **Three Layers** of Groups with a total of **Ten Categories**.

Layer One: This is where we Start



Layer 1 - **General Groups**

Running, Book Studies, Photography, Climbing, etc

Dinner Groups

Eat together, Read scripture together, Pray together

Layer Two: This is where we Grow



Layer 2 - **Prayer & Fasting** **Worship** **Bible Studies**

Layer Three: This is where we Share



Layer 3 - **Serving** **Missions** **Evangelism** **Disciple-making** **Practicing Spiritual Gifts**

Each Group's "category" is based on what they spend the majority of their time on.



Steps for Becoming a Leader

- 1. Fill out the Dream Team Application** – found at www.NewLifeChurch.org
- 2. New Life Next: Worship** – 1st Wed. of the Month, 6:30pm World Prayer Center
- 3. Interview** – with a pastor so we can get to know you and your heart

Five Suggested Groups for First-Time Group Leaders and New Attendees

First-time group leaders at New Life are encouraged to lead one of five groups (this refers to someone with no experience leading a group).

New Life will provide the leader guide and curriculum, but participants will be responsible for their own study guide. We will try and stock participant guides in the Book Store.

- 1. Dinner Group – at least 4 meetings over 4 months**
- 2. Ten Steps Toward Jesus – Book Study – 10-12 Sessions**
- 3. Experiencing God – DVD Study – 13 Sessions**
- 4. Read the Bible for Life – DVD Study – 9-11 Sessions**
- 5. Secondhand Jesus – DVD and/or Book Study – 10-12 Sessions**

Planting New Groups

We aim to plant new groups from existing groups in addition to starting completely new groups with new leaders. We suggest existing groups identify or welcome potential leaders to join their group, learn how to lead a group, and then plant their own group.

Listed or Unlisted Groups

When you submit a group online you will have the choice of making it “listed” or “unlisted.” Listed groups will be online and in the seasonal magazine.

We are very thankful for unlisted groups as well, because they help us know community is happening. A group can switch between being listed or unlisted anytime.

Activity Release Forms

If you lead a group that requires physical activity or you think there is any chance of injury during your group time, you will need to print off Activity Release Forms from www.NewLifeGroups.com and have each of your group attendees fill one out and have the forms returned to the HR department at New Life.



Current Leader Status

7 goals for NewLifeGroup leaders.

I hope you will find all these goals are aimed at bringing life and are not meant to weigh one down, but offer support and encouragement.

Maintain New Life Membership

Consistently attending and giving to New Life

Group Leader Description and Covenant

Do your best to consistently meet the description and calling of a NewLifeGroup leader as described in the Description and Covenant.

Layer One Training

Each leader will have the opportunity to attend Training. We will hold this 2-3 hour training a few times a year. **For your convenience, you may attend after already beginning your group.** *We're also working on turning this into videos for your convenience.*

Layer Two Training

We'll send an email 3 times a year from the groups department with an embedded video that will be helpful to you as a group leader. We believe leaders are learners!

Leader Surveys

3 times a year we'll send out a link to an online survey for you to offer your feedback about groups.

Group Leader Coaches – A Coaches is an Encourager, not a Boss

Coaches aren't an authority figure, but a listening ear and an encouraging voice. We hope to line up Coaches to follow up with the Primary Leader of a group. They'll call/email to encourage you as a leader throughout a group season.

Time Off

We encourage every leader to schedule some time off from leading a group each year. Rest is very important and encouraged by scripture.



Additional Ways to Connect

Group Leader Appreciation Events

The NewLifeGroups department holds two Appreciation events each year. One event in January as a part of the Dream Team Party, and one Picnic on the first Saturday of May.

Group Visits

A NewLifeGroups staff member will visit any group upon your request (email)

CONNECT Sunday

Connect Sunday is our opportunity to communicate a community of Groups. Every group will be encouraged to have a table. We want to share the breadth of groups on CONNECT Sunday and would like to see as many groups as possible with a table. You will be sent a registration form for this.

January, June, September

Our Correspondence with You

NewLifeGroups makes the commitment to email at least monthly, make seasonal phone calls, and email tri-annual video training

Groups Connection Point

Group leaders are invited to the area just outside the Bookstore on Sunday morning to connect with others trying to find a Group. This will be a helpful way of finding people for your group and helping new people find a connection point. **Please contact us first and we'll schedule you for this.**

Group Leader Badge

We encourage all of our group leaders to have their picture taken and receive a group leader badge. We encourage you to wear your badge on Sunday mornings to help people identify group leaders. This allows us to help people connect more effectively.

Seasonal New Life Magazine (Groups Catalog)

A printing of the current groups at the beginning of each Season – Available at the Lobby Info Center.



When Do Groups Meet? Seasons and Dates

ON-Campus Seasons, KidsLife (hours listed later) & Available Reservations Dates

1. Winter / Spring Season 2013 - January 6th – May 11th, 2013 (18 weeks)

KidsLife Availability, Jan 7th to May 9th

Connect Sunday – January 27th

2. Summer Season 2013 – June 2nd to August 17th 2013- TBD

KidsLife Availability TBD

Connect Sunday – June 2nd

3. Fall 2012- September 1st to December 22nd, 16 weeks

KidsLife Available TBD

- **September 24-26** Blacked Out for New Life Conference
- Blacked Out FOR the FULL WEEK of **THANKSGIVING**

ON-Campus Groups and Childcare– on-campus groups meet during “seasons”

1. to build in times of rest for our groups, group leaders, and building.

2. to build in anticipation for when a batch of new groups will be starting.

3. to simplify and streamline Reservations, Hospitality, and KidsLife systems.

On-campus groups, *with or without a need for KidsLife*, start and end within the seasons.

OFF-Campus Groups – off-campus groups are able to start or end any time of year.

KidsLife and Reservations – *all reservations for KidsLife and Rooms on-campus are done through your edit group page.* You will need to **log in and resubmit a request for KidsLife and a room reservation each Season.** Please don't call these departments without first submitting a request.

Group leaders and attendees need to call and/or email KidsLife and Reservations to cancel in the event the group will not be meeting at a time previously booked.

Off-Campus Childcare –childcare in your home is a big responsibility. We suggest parents provide childcare for their children in their own homes. If you provide childcare, these are your **REQUIREMENTS*** for off-campus childcare:

- 1. There should be at least 2 childcare providers, non-related**, with children at all times--children should never be left under the supervision of only one person.
- 2. Only the guardian** can take their own children to the bathroom or change diapers.



Group Leader Ministry Description and Covenant

Responsible to: Groups Coach (if one is assigned)

Supported by: Groups Staff and Pastors

Do your best to keep this Group Leader Ministry Description and Covenant

Things Leaders Do

Leaders connect people with God and each other

Leaders are Personal, Intentional, and Missional with their Group

Have Integrity, Honesty, Friendship, Willingness to Learn, Desire to Please the Lord

Leaders are **expectant that God is going to move** in their group

Leaders identify a co or assistant leader when possible to possibly plant a group

Things Leaders Don't Do

Leaders do not incorporate alcohol in any of their meetings

Leaders do not use their group for personal business purposes

Leaders do not have questionable curriculum or controversial guest speakers

Leaders do not make commitments or contracts on behalf of New Life

Leaders don't make money from groups or take offerings (REIMBURSEMENTS OK)

Faith - Maintain a healthy relationship with Jesus Christ through...

regular study of the Scriptures and daily time in prayer

obvious fruit of the Holy Spirit in your life

diligently promoting unity in the local church body

Family - Maintain a healthy family through...

acknowledging the priority of your family and marriage (if married)

continually pursuing your spouse for a lifetime, maintaining sexual purity

healthy and pure relationships with the opposite sex (if single)

Finances - Maintain a healthy financial lifestyle by...

tithing regularly to New Life Church

avoiding problematic or unnecessary debt

being generous with your resources toward those in need