

LIFE Group Coach

LIFE Group Coach: Mentors and disciples a group of 2-4 LIFE Group Leaders through encouragement, prayer, accountability, and making time available through

Mission of LG Coach:

Be a “shepherd-coach”, to speak into the lives of LG leaders; to know them, love them, and support them.

1. Time spent with a leader once a month (60-90 minutes)
 - Hear what is happening in group and evaluate
 - Talk about goals for the group, and evaluate how meeting them
 - Encourage and pray with leader
2. Call and/or e-mail leader between meetings to encourage, prayer updates, etc. It would also be wise for a coach to visit the LIFE groups their leader leads a couple of times a year.
3. Connect with Associate Director of Connection and Care at least once a month to give updates on LIFE leaders, how groups are doing, communicate what groups need, identify potential leaders and coaches in the groups they work with, and come to a “coach training” time at least three times a year (which uses the workbook in #4)
4. Work through the workbook to shepherd small group leaders called *Coaching Life-Changing Small Group Leaders* by Bill Donahue and Greg Bowman.
5. A coach may also be in a LIFE group, but not leading it. (There are exceptions if time permits for a coach to do both.) *Note: a coach needs to have been a LIFE group leader at some point and gone through those training sessions.*

Job Description Snapshot

(material from *Coaching Life-Changing Small Group Leaders* by Bill Donahue and Greg Bowman)

4 Key Skills to be an effective coach:

1. Model Christ-likeness
2. Guide
3. Envision (Dream)
4. Equip

You don't need to be perfect at them, but willing to learn and grow in them

MODEL CHRIST-LIKENESS

The best way coaches can motivate their leaders is to live a God-honoring, Christ-centered life “in such a way that no one will be hindered from finding the Lord by the way we act, and so no one can find fault with our ministry” (2 Cor 6:3).

Jesus says in Luke 6:40 that the disciple will ultimately become like his teacher.

Paul, a man of many flaws and shortcomings, was real in sharing what God was doing in and through his life. But he invested his life in Timothy and Titus, and encouraged them to follow

his lead. “I’m not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me. Friends, don’t get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I’ve got my eye on the goal” (Phil 3:12-13 MSG)

GUIDE (Shepherd Intentionally)

LIFE Group leaders will have a vision for their group, your job is to do sharpen that vision and refine the goals of how to get there.

A coach does this *first* by building a relationship with the leader. Without first building an environment where each is known (“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me.” John 10:14), then a “managed” feeling will develop. In fact, the relationship is 80% of the coach/leader relationship that listens, encourages, and cares. The other 20% is the vision and skills area.

When you meet with your leaders, learn as much as possible about their talents, skills, motivation, energy, interests, and spiritual growth.

ENVISION (Dream Together)

Having a clear vision on where the LIFE group is headed will impact the conversations you have with them. When each group knows *their* mission, they will want to make it happen and make the sacrifices necessary because they know the time given has meaning and focus. A coach will help clarify the vision for that group, and keep in mind the overall the vision the Director of LIFE groups has for the whole.

EQUIP (Develop Skills)

Again, leaders will not be open to skill coaching until you have developed a relationship with them. As you talk, watch for teachable moments to talk about your past experiences with an issue, getting material for them about a topic that keeps coming up, etc.

Ongoing equipping has these guidelines:

- Affirmation of their gifts and abilities
- Teach from experience
- Discern their growth edges
- Solve problems with them
- Utilize role plays
- Learn together

In addition, coaches are experts in helping others to shine. They may not be the best LIFE Group leaders, but they have joy in helping others become great LIFE Group leaders.

Bottom line – leaders need a person, and for our purposes a “shepherd-coach”, to speak into their lives, to know them, love them, and support them. A cared for leader is motivated to speak truth and life into those in their LIFE group. Then ordinary people become extraordinary instruments in the hands of God.