

LIFE Group Leader

LIFE Group Leader:

Mentors and disciples a group of 5-12 people in a four-pronged approach:
pray, study, share and serve.

The Mission of a LG Leader:

“To connect people relationally in groups for the purpose of growing in Christ-likeness (study), loving one another (pray and share), and contributing to the work of the church (serve), in order to glorify God and make disciples of all nations.”

LG Leader Goals to Accomplish the Mission:

1. LG (LIFE Group) leaders should attend training at least twice a year. The focus of the training will include Bill Donahue’s *Leading Life-Changing Small Groups*.
2. Time spent with their LG Coach once a month (60 minutes)
 - Share what is happening in group and evaluate
 - Talk about goals the LG leader has for the group and evaluate how they’re being met
 - Spend time together reading and talking about *Leading from the Heart* by Michael C. Mack (there is not a deadline for completion – it is done as the leader and coach decide on pace together) When this book is finished, there are several other book recommendations or the coach and leader can determine together what will help the most with further growth.
 - Encourage and pray with one another
3. Call and/or e-mail group members between meetings to encourage, prayer updates, etc.
4. Keep updated on information from the Associate Director of Connection and Care regarding training opportunities, service opportunities, study options, etc. The website will be a useful tool for most things a LG Leader will need.
5. Apprentice: Identify rising leaders among the group, encourage them, and bring them to your coach’s attention. Then provide “on-the-job” training for those ready and called (aka, the apprentice leader)! Bill Donahue wrote the “Small [LIFE] Groups exist to teach the truth and develop future leaders who can shepherd others and disciple them in the faith.”
6. Multiply the group – the more groups available, the more opportunities for non-believers and believers to get connected with God and one another, and thus build the kingdom of God!

***Recommended Books after “Leading from the Heart” (no order intended):**

Discipleship Essentials by Greg Ogden

Jesus had a big enough vision to think small. Focusing on a few did not limit his influence. Rather, it expanded it! *Discipleship Essentials* will help you influence others as Jesus did--by investing wholeheartedly in a few.

Walking the Small Group Tightrope by Bill Donahue and Russ Robinson

This book will strengthen your ability to create a healthy group, gain confidence as a leader, and show you how to release the untapped creative and relational energy in your group.

Narrative of Job Description

(material from *Leading Life-Changing Small Groups* by Bill Donahue)

Key Skills of an effective leader: disciple maker, mentors, develops and reproduces

What do we look for in a leader?

1. A passion to follow Christ
2. Good character to become more Christ-like
3. A call to shepherd people
4. Ability to lead, guide, and care for a group
5. Commitment
6. Appropriate motive for leadership
7. Willingness to expand the ministry and multiply

You don't need to be perfect at them, but willing to learn and grow. Most importantly beyond a leader's knowledge, skills, and personality is their heart and soul. There is no substitute in a Christian leader's life for time spent with Jesus Christ. In order to have the heart of the Father, we must begin by having a heart for the Father.

J. Oswald Sanders said, "Everything in our Christian life and service flows from our relationship with God. If we are not in vital fellowship with Him, everything else will be out of focus."

Bill Donahue writes in *Leading Life-Changing Small Groups*

"Biblical leadership is the task of leading God's people into mutual ministry with one another for the purpose of building up the body of Christ and reaching out to the world (Eph 4:11-13; Matt. 28:18-20). In order to accomplish this task, leaders need to

- Establish a growing and maturing relationship with the Lord (John 15:5)
- Sense a calling or passion from the Lord to lead people (Ex 3:1-10; John 21:15-17)
- Have a vision for building up future leaders (2 Tim 2:2)

By far the most challenging model of leadership in the Bible is the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus said "follow me" (Matt. 4:19), expecting men and women to abandon self-centered lifestyles and follow Him. In return, He gave meaning and purpose to their lives. He nurtured, trained, and equipped them for a mission that was far bigger than anything they could have imagined. What caused people to follow after Christ? Two things: His vision and His example."

To become a LG Leader,

- if you are in a group, please contact your own group's leader to become an apprentice
- if you are not in a group, please contact Jan Neisess at 816.501.3039 to begin the process