



DISCIPLES MAKING  
DISCIPLES  
Life Group Leader Training Guide



**FIRST CHURCH**  
Generation After Generation

# THE WHY

Leading a life group is an amazing way to embrace and be obedient to Jesus's call of making disciples. Matthew 28:19-20: "Go and make disciples of all nations..."

Our hope is that every life group leader would not only pour into their group as a whole but would also disciple and lift up a future life group leader – living the message of 2 Timothy 2:2: "Teach others who will teach others."

By investing wholeheartedly in a single leader, you have the potential to ignite a chain reaction that reaches far beyond your initial disciple, creating a legacy of eternal investment for years to come!





When discerning a person to take on a leadership role, consider these

### **3 REQUIREMENTS**

to be a Life Group Leader:

#### **CHARACTER**

Reflecting the heart of Jesus through a reputation of integrity, compassion, morality, courage, and humility (Proverbs 10:9)

#### **CHEMISTRY**

Fostering connection, understanding, and camaraderie within a group of believers and non-believers (Corinthians 13:4-7)

#### **COMPETENCE**

Leading and loving like Jesus by great decision-making, problem-solving, delegation, and resilience (Colossians 3:23-24)

- Now that you've picked your future life group leader, get them approved by Molly or Meagan before you officially ask them.
- How to ask: "I've noticed that you have great leadership potential and a heart for the Lord. Would you be interested in becoming a life group leader? If so, I'd love to train you!"

# MEETING AND TRAINING CHECKLIST

## INITIAL MEETING

- Discuss “Disciple Training Program”– the Why behind it all
- Call out potential you see in them
- Go over Leadership Training Packet
- Sign a lifestyle agreement
- Agree to be here for a season (3-4 months)
  - Subject to change upon mentee’s readiness



## MAKE A TIMELINE

- Use the following page to write down important training dates for training

## TRAINING

- Texting group members (reminders, thank yous, prayer requests)
- Go through “Share Jesus Without Fear”
- Shadowing a one-on-one meeting
- Shadowing a life group meeting
- Run a life group together including set up and tear down

## GROW TOGETHER

- Pick a Bible plan to do together focused on becoming a great leader
- Ask these questions throughout the discipleship process:
  - “Is there an area in which you would like more investment?”
  - “Is there any way I can lead you better?”

## GRADUATION EVALUATION

- Ask “Do you feel equipped to lead a life group tomorrow?”
  - “If not, what could we do to get you there?”
  - “If yes, what kind of life group would you like to lead?”
- If they are ready, connect them with Molly or Meagan to begin setting up their group!

# LET'S SCHEDULE IT!

Decide on a timeline and write down mentor meetings, life groups, and other important dates.

WHAT:

WHEN:

WHAT:

WHEN:

WHAT:

WHEN:

WHAT:

WHEN:

WHAT:

WHEN:

WHAT:

WHEN:

WHAT:

WHEN:

WHAT:

WHEN:

WHAT:

WHEN:

Required meetings to include:  
Initial Meeting, Shadowing Life Group,  
Shadowing One-on-One, Run Life  
Group Together, Graduation Evaluation





Blank lined writing area.



A series of horizontal blue lines for writing, with a vertical margin line on the right side.



# First Church Life Group Responsibilities

## CHURCH MISSION AND VISION

To lead people in seeing generation after generation become fully devoted followers of Christ.

## LIFE GROUP MISSION AND VISION

Fearlessly pursuing others to help them grow in their relationship with Jesus.

## BIBLICAL MANDATE: CALLED TO A HIGHER STANDARD

We must become “all things to all people,” being an example to all believers in what we say, in the way we live, in our love, our faith, and our purity. (1 Timothy 4:12). We are aiding in the spiritual growth and development of the children of God which He has entrusted to us. (Ephesians 4:12, Titus 1:5-9, 1 Corinthians 9:22)

## GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- Fast, clear, and kind responses to the people you lead and the person leading you.
- Attend church regularly.
- Bring new ideas or methods to your leader before implementing them.
- Be mindful of social media content and posts, while still staying active to build relationships with those you lead.
- Have a healthy respect for leadership – always having their back in public conversations and expressing concerns or confusions privately.

## LEADER RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Initial Contact:** When given a new person for your group, please reach out to them within 24-48 hours.
- **Follow up:** Be sure to keep in contact with the people in your group by sending a text, writing a card, or hanging out with them once a month.
- **Meeting Reminders:** Send meeting reminder texts to all group members.
- **Struggles:** All leaders deal with sin. Confession is so powerful, and the Bible tells us to confess. If you are dealing with sin in your life, seek God and confess. If your sin is interfering with your ability to effectively lead a life group, seek counsel with your life group coordinator. Do not confess to people you are leading (James 3:1)
- **Conflict Resolution:** All leaders will commit to seeking their life group coordinator to discuss and coordinate care when there is an issue between group members. Leaders commit to receiving development and discipleship from your life group coordinator as you volunteer at First Church. This is not just about helping others find community, but helping you continue to deepen your own relationship. You will not be defensive but see all criticism as an expression of love and an opportunity for improvement (Matthew 18:15-17).
- **Spiritual Responsibilities:** We ask that you open 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and prayerfully reflect upon the passage, along with the fruits of the Holy Spirit found in Galatians 5:22-23, taking an inventory of your own life and the responsibilities that come with leading.
- **Bible Studies Responsibilities:** All leaders are committed to researching and finding biblically sound material that lines up with the Bible, the teachings of Jesus and the vision and mission of First Church. Any study not in RightNow Media or on the recommended study list must be approved by your life group coordinator before implementing.



## LIFE GROUP RESPONSIBILITIES

We need to keep Jesus at the center of our life groups. We do this by continually seeking God's Word.

Below are the most common parts of a Life Group. You must always include Grow Spiritually Together, Talk Together, and Pray Together.

**Grow Spiritually Together** - All groups make time to spur on spiritual growth through intentional discussions. Pick and choose from the resources below.

- RightNow Media studies
- Studies from the recommended study list on the leader resource page. Any study not on this list or in RightNow Media must be approved by your life group coordinator before implementing.
- Live It Out discussion questions located under each weekly message posted on first.church
- YouVersion Bible plans and discussions together

**Talk Together** - All groups spend some time catching up with casual conversation

**Pray Together** - All groups share each other's needs and pray together

**Eat Together** - Some groups enjoy a light snack or even a meal when they get together

**Have Fun Together** - Some groups enjoy an activity together, like golf, working out, rock climbing, motorcycles or other hobbies

**Serve Together** - Some groups serve together at church or with community ministry partners

## LIFESTYLE AGREEMENT

We know that God has called leaders in the church to a higher standard and that becoming a leader means that we will be an example to others in every area of our lives. By taking on the mantle of leadership you are committing, with God's grace, to living out the following:

- Pursuing a transforming relationship with Jesus Christ (Romans 3:23-24).
- Not having a lifestyle that is contrary to clear Biblical principles (2 Timothy 3:16).
- Attending First Church on a regular basis – passionately and wholeheartedly in support of the mission, strategy, and values of First Church (Romans 12:1, Ephesians 4:11-13).
- Must be an owner at First Church.
- Refrain from sharing gossip or participating in gossip.
- Not voicing critical opinions about any Christian church, staff, or individuals in front of those I am leading.
- Being all things to all people by not posting anything on social media that could cause someone to stumble.
- Following God's plan for sex and relationships.
- Not doing anything illegal, including drugs.
- Following God's plan for alcohol and use discernment when posting on social media.
- As leaders, we commit to removing alcohol from life group meetings.
- Financially supporting the work and ministry of First Church.
- Being available with my time and possessing the emotional capacity and moral discernment to lead others (Proverbs 16:9, Ephesians 5:16).

**By signing a printed version of this Lifestyle Agreement, you acknowledge that with God's help, you have read and are committed to being held accountable in every area included.**

## SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

### **1 Timothy 4:12**

Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.

### **Ephesians 4:12**

Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.

### **Titus 1:5-9**

5 I left you on the island of Crete so you could complete our work there and appoint elders in each town as I instructed you. 6 An elder must live a blameless life. He must be faithful to his wife, and his children must be believers who don't have a reputation for being wild or rebellious. 7 A church leader is a manager of God's household, so he must live a blameless life. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered; he must not be a heavy drinker, violent, or dishonest with money. 8 Rather, he must enjoy having guests in his home, and he must love what is good. He must live wisely and be just. He must live a devout and disciplined life. 9 He must have a strong belief in the trustworthy message he was taught; then he will be able to encourage others with wholesome teaching and show those who oppose it where they are wrong.

### **1 Corinthians 9:22**

When I am with those who are weak, I share their weakness, for I want to bring the weak to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some

### **Romans 3:23-24**

23 For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. 24 Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.

### **2 Timothy 3:16**

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.

### **Ephesians 4:15**

Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.

### **Romans 12:2**

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

### **Matthew 28:19-21**

19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

### **1 Timothy 5:8**

But those who won't care for their relatives, especially those in their own household, have denied the true faith. Such people are worse than unbelievers.

**Galatians 5:22-23**

22 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

**Ephesians 4:29**

Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.

**Proverbs 16:9**

We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps.

**Ephesians 5:16**

Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days.

**Romans 12:1**

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.

**Ephesians 4:11-13**

11 Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. 12 Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. 13 This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

**1 Timothy 3:1-13**

1 This is a trustworthy saying: "If someone aspires to be a church leader, he desires an honorable position." 2 So a church leader must be a man whose life is above reproach. He must be faithful to his wife. He must exercise self-control, live wisely, and have a good reputation. He must enjoy having guests in his home, and he must be able to teach. 3 He must not be a heavy drinker or be violent. He must be gentle, not quarrelsome, and not love money. 4 He must manage his own family well, having children who respect and obey him. 5 For if a man cannot manage his own household, how can he take care of God's church? 6 A church leader must not be a new believer, because he might become proud, and the devil would cause him to fall. 7 Also, people outside the church must speak well of him so that he will not be disgraced and fall into the devil's trap. 8 In the same way, deacons must be well respected and have integrity. They must not be heavy drinkers or dishonest with money. 9 They must be committed to the mystery of the faith now revealed and must live with a clear conscience. 10 Before they are appointed as deacons, let them be closely examined. If they pass the test, then let them serve as deacons. 11 In the same way, their wives must be respected and must not slander others. They must exercise self-control and be faithful in everything they do. 12 A deacon must be faithful to his wife, and he must manage his children and household well. 13 Those who do well as deacons will be rewarded with respect from others and will have increased confidence in their faith in Christ Jesus.

**Matthew 18:15-17**

15 "If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. 16 But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses. 17 If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. Then if he or she won't accept the church's decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector.

**We wanted to say a heartfelt thank you for taking up the challenge of raising new leaders within your Life Group.**

Your willingness to make a lasting difference and invest in eternity as a Life Group Leader does not go unnoticed, and we know this new endeavor will be such a win for the Kingdom. There's no one we would rather be doing this alongside of.

We can't wait to see the lives that will be impacted because of your willingness to pioneer with us and your commitment to praying for a new generation of leaders within our church!

**Matthew 28:19-20**

