



# Group Leader Training

## Thank You

Thank you for your willingness to lead a group at Real Life. You're the reason why people feel like Real Life is home, a family where lifelong friends are made.

## Groups Vision

**Changed Lives** (*Same as the Church*)

We desire to see people move from **Lost** to **Found**, FOUND to **Fully Formed** in Christ.

## Spiritual Growth Pathway

People need to **Connect** relationally in order to **Grow** spiritually so that they can **Go** faithfully.

# The Purpose of Groups

- Connect **Relationally**

**Bottom Line:** *When you connect relationally, this is where people become friends and where friends turn into family.*

- Grow **Spiritually**

*“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. He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. **As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.** - Ephesians 4:15-16 (NLT)*

**Bottom Line:** *Growing Spiritually is about helping each other in every way to be more and more like Christ.*

## Groups Structure

### Categories

Our groups fall into 11 different categories:

- Activity
- Bible Study
- Financial
- Marriage
- Men
- MOPs
- Parenting
- Seniors
- Support
- Women
- Young Adult

## Group Leadership

Our model for group leadership includes **Coaches** and **Coordinators**.

## Group Setting

There are **multiple** locations your group can meet.

### Childcare

#### Minimal Cost Options

Group members take turns each week watching children during the lesson time. Watch a DVD, craft, small lesson, etc. in a separate room - i.e. if 10 adults in the group – it would only require watching once during a 10-week study.

If a group member lives close the home where the group meets – hire a childcare/sitter for the second home – drop off and pick up the children there for those needing childcare.

Only those with children pay or have the entire group share in the cost of childcare. \$10-20 depending on the fee negotiated – would only cost \$1 - \$2 a week each with a 10 member group.

# Group Leader Expectations

## The Role of a Group Leader

A group leader is one who meets the following guidelines:

- Professes Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior
- An Immersed Believer and Member of Real Life Church and who adheres to the Real Life Membership Covenant
- **Commitment to upholding the Core Values of Real Life Church (real, relevant, relational, excellent, effective, empowering, unified)**
- Commitment to personal spiritual growth and a healthy lifestyle. Groups leaders are to maintain a disciplined life of Bible reading and prayer.
- Models standards and expectations of leaders within Real Life Church. Group leaders are to maintain a disciplined life of Bible reading and prayer. You must also refrain from such things as:
  - Excessive Profanity
  - Indulging in too much wine or other alcoholic beverages
  - Dishonest gain
  - Illegal drugs
  - Pornography
  - Sexual immorality -- any sexual act outside of the context of Biblical marriage
  - All behaviors which might cause Christ to grieve and others to stumble
- Submits and is accountable to Groups Ministry Leadership
- Faithfully and Consistently Commits to serving
- Model giving with a cheerful heart

**Bottom Line:** Avoid controversial group discussion, i.e. politics, doctrine, etc.

As leaders, do your best to keep the main thing, the main thing in your group - Jesus.

## Engage Group Members

At Real Life, groups should **Connect Relationally**.

A Group Leader's responsibility is to **LEAD** their group in a way that helps people connect relationally and take their next step spiritually. Build a relationship with each Group Member by getting to know them, what is going on in their life and find ways to encourage and care for them.

### Confidentiality

- As a Group Leader
- Communicate with Groups Members  
In order to create an environment that is safe for open and honest participation, anything someone shares within the group should not be repeated outside of the group. However, feel free to share your own story and personal growth.
- With CCB (See CCB Confidentiality Agreement at [www.real.life/group-resources](http://www.real.life/group-resources))

***WIN:*** *To know, encourage and care for each Group Member in your Group!*

## Prepare for Your Group

As a group leader, you should prepare a positive group experience that is designed to help you group members engage with one another through icebreaker questions, curriculum content, discussion questions, and ESPN.

### Plan Your Group:

You will need to determine what **Day** and **Time** will work best for you as the leader.

## Using ESPN to lead your group

### Encouragement

One important purpose of Groups is **Encouragement**.

*“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”*

**1 Thessalonians 5:11**

### Scripture

Whether **Scripture** is the main purpose of your group or simply a small part of your time together, it should always be a priority in your group meetings.

*“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”*

**2 Timothy 3:16-17**

## Prayer

One of the best things you can do for your group is to **Pray** for them and with them.

*“Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”*

**James 5:16**

This verse shows that the early Christians did life together in community. Through sharing our **Hurts** and praying for each other we experience **Healing** and are challenged to grow in Christ.

## Next Steps

Everyone has a **Next Step** in their walk with Christ.

*“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”*

**Hebrews 10:24-25**

## Helping Your Group Members Take the Next Step

Small steps might be:

- Participating during group time.
- Inviting someone to the group.
- Praying with the group.
- Reading out loud in the group.
- Reading their bible.
- Hosting the group in their home.

Larger steps might be:

- Attending Discover Real Life and becoming a member of Real Life.
- Making Jesus Lord of their Life (Use God's Plan Handout)
- Being baptized by immersion.
- Joining a Serve Team.
- Invest in the church.

Always celebrate Next Steps! No matter how large or **small** a next step may be, make sure your **share those steps with your group coordinator** so we can celebrate with you!

## Communicate Effectively

As a group leader, you are expected to communicate key information to the Group and with the Church about the Group's upcoming activities, needs, and next steps.

- Plan, organize and communicate about the next meeting to Group Members about the next meeting.
- Follow up with Group Members after each group meeting (prayer request, situation, next step).

- Provide timely follow up with people interested in joining your group.
- Communicate with your Groups Coordinator any additional changes and/or updates.
- Work with Group Ministry and help with Group Promotion events
- Record attendance after every group meeting and report it to the church.

## Taking Attendance

Each time your group meets you will need to take attendance. You will receive an automated email reminding you to take attendance after each group meeting. Taking attendance is as easy as clicking on the link in the email and following the prompts. If you do not receive an email reminder, please contact your Group Coordinator or your campus Groups Pastor so they can make sure your group is properly set up to take attendance.

## Identifying Leaders

As a leader, it is important to identify new individuals who have the relational and leadership ability to lead the discussion or activity for the Group. We call this **Multiplication**. It's important to the success of Real Life Groups. So identify individuals that have the relational and leadership ability to lead the discussion or activity for the Group.

- Pray for God to reveal potential future group leaders.
- Ask potential leaders to help with smaller responsibilities with the group. Work up to having them lead the discussion or activity one time.
- Communicate with Groups Coordinator or Pastor of the potential leader.

***WIN:*** *To identify, invite, and involve a potential Group Leader to facilitate a one-time discussion or activity for the Group.*

## Serving Together as a Group

Groups are also a place where we can **GO** together.

There are so many ways to serve your community together. Be creative! The most important thing to remember is to make sure the serve project has an easy win for your group, is fun and serves others outside of the church.

Make sure you add and track your serve projects through Real Life's SERVE day app.

You can download the app here:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/serve-day/id1364161205?mt=8>

You can also use the app to search for serve opportunities in your area.

**WIN:** *To create opportunities for your group to serve together once a semester.*

## Promoting Groups

As a leader, it is important to help us promote Groups to the rest of our church. There are 3 areas where we want to ask for your help in promoting:

1. **Discover Group Life**
2. **Weekend Services**
3. **Inviting** people you meet that aren't in Groups to get connected to one.

**WIN:** *Promoting Groups to our community and church and helping at least one person get into a group.*

## Ongoing Training

You are also expected to take part in occasional Group Leader training resources, workshops, and events that further develop your ability to LEAD your group.

***WIN:*** *To continually develop yourself to better lead your group to help people connect relationally and grow spiritually.*

## Group Resources

### Curriculum

- RightNow Media
- [www.anthology.study](http://www.anthology.study)
- [www.real.life/group-resources](http://www.real.life/group-resources)

**If you have any questions or would like further support,  
please contact the Groups Pastor at your campus.**