

## **Leadership Tips from Experienced Coaches and LIFE Group Leaders**

Leadership Tips is a new area that summarizes some of the best suggestions made by those leading and facilitating LIFE Groups throughout the church. Hopefully you will find some of these tips useful as you work towards making your own group meetings more effective and God honoring.

There are several tensions experienced by small groups as they study, fellowship, serve, and work to extend God's love to each other and those in the greater community. Whether your group is service oriented meant to perform a function for the church, life stage oriented, or geographically based, all groups go through specific challenges as they meet.

---

### **Balancing Truth and Life**

How do you manage your time between bible study and fellowship so group members feel both challenged in their walk and connected to each other???

How do you determine if there is a problem?

Take a self assessment (see web site)

Can you answer these questions positively?

Are you praying together each week as a group?

Is your bible study causing changes in members' lives?

Is your group growing closer and are there signs of greater intimacy?

Are group members seeking to extend God's love to others outside the group?

Do people in the group feel heard and cared for?

Ask your group members these same questions and be prepared for feedback!

If you identify that your group may be straying from a balance in these areas, take heart! Seasoned LIFE Group leaders give the following key suggestions:

#### 1. Pray

Oftentimes our last resort, but should be the first step in the solution. Ask others to pray as well.

#### 2. Set a basic schedule

Determine a schedule and discuss it with all group members so the issue is out in the open. Although allowing the Spirit to move during a meeting is an important idea to keep in mind,

following an approximate schedule that spells out study, prayer, and fellowship time that everyone can agree on helps maintain a balance that prevents one area from getting out of balance.

### 3. Find an assistant

Relying on an assistant to help keep you on track is a key to successful meetings

### 4. Avoid getting sidetracked during discussions

There is only so much time available for your meeting and discussions that consistently get off on tangents can consume your study or prayer time, negatively impacting your ability to keep all elements of a healthy group in balance.

But how do you know if you are getting off track?

Ask if discussion is related to topic? If entire group consensus says yes, you probably are.

A leadership void is always filled-If you don't take control, someone else will.

How do you solve the problem?

Keep dominant people in discussion next to you and helpers across the room from you in order to make effective eye contact when necessary

Meet with problem group members separately to compassionately discuss the issue

Get additional training-DVD's and books are available from COS

Visit another LIFE Group or talk to other leaders to see how they handle the problem

Staying current on the latest suggestions through training offered on Sundays is a great way to keep your skills sharp.

Remember that a healthy small group starts with the leadership. Make sure your preferences are not tipping the balance in one direction too far. Be realistic when planning your evening without neglecting the areas you would rather avoid and you will go a long way to meet the needs of everyone in your group.