

TYPES OF LIFE GROUPS

3. PRACTICAL APPLICATION Groups

Focus group: **Green** and **Blue**

Goal: To provoke a conversation (discussion) whose purpose is to learn to apply and put into practice the principles and concepts presented during the Sunday sermon. In addition to promoting a sense of community among the participants; a feeling of "we are growing in life together".

Number of participants: 4 - 12 (maximum)

Duration: 1:30 to 2 hours maximum.

Suggested Format: Remember that the priority of these groups is to provide an environment that promotes the participation of all attendees. Although passages from the Bible will be studied, these are not deep Bible study groups in which someone preaches or teaches.

- Think of people outside of church (family, friends, co-workers or students, or neighbors), or people who irregularly attend church and need to assert themselves in the faith.
- Define a time and place to meet once a week. Make sure that time is convenient for most of the people you want to reach. Keep the same schedule every week.

- Use all possible means to promote your group and to remind them of the date and time.
- Promote the use of a paper Bible among participants, however do not make this a rule.
- First meeting:
 - Welcome them to the group and read the guidelines for this type of Life Group described in the Study Guide.
 - Explain the goal: to have a conversation in which everyone expresses their opinions and ideas about the concepts presented in the Sunday sermon, and especially how those principles could be applied to their own lives.

- Remind them to pay attention during the Sunday sermon. Encourage them to take notes as the communicator shares the message. If for some reason they cannot attend the Sunday service, ask them to watch the sermon video on the CT Spanish YouTube page before the meeting.
- Explain the order of the meeting each week:
 1. Welcome and dynamic icebreaker (optional)
 2. Review and discussion of the Study Guide.
- Summarize no more than 15 minutes about the main points and biblical

passages of the Sunday sermon. Remember: don't preach the message again.

- Lead the conversation using the discussion questions. Remember that you can, and should, adapt the questions to the characteristics of the group. You can change the questions or add more if you need to.
- Remember that your goal is for **EVERYONE** to participate in the conversation and express their opinions.
- Avoid getting into controversial topics (politics, other religions, racial issues, etc.).

3. Prayer time:

- Begin this time by asking them if they have personal prayer requests.
- Then invite them to believe in Jesus and give their lives to Him.
- Model of prayer to receive Christ:
“Before finishing our meeting today I would like to invite those who want to receive Jesus into their hearts to pray this prayer with me: Lord Jesus, today I have decided to believe in you, that is why I want to ask that you enter my heart and that you are the Lord of my life. I repent of my sins and acknowledge that you died on the cross to pay the price for those sins so

that I can enjoy a personal relationship with my Heavenly Father. Fill me with your Holy Spirit so that I can continue to grow as a child of God.”

4. Time to share food. This is perhaps one of the most important moments of this type of Life Group since people can be better known through informal conversations around a meal. People open up more and delve into personal issues in this time of the atmosphere. Remember to create a safe and respectful environment.

- Regular meetings:

- Welcome and dynamic icebreaker [15 minutes].

- Review and discussion of the Study Guide:

1. *Review of the main points and biblical passages [15 minutes].*

2. *Conversation (discussion) based on the questions [30-40 min].*

3. *Prayer time [10 minutes].*

4. *Time to share food. You could start the meeting with time to share food.*

What is done after a person receives Christ in his heart?

1. You must ensure that you maintain regular contact with the person who has just received Christ, outside of the Life Group meeting time. Remember that the enemy will do everything possible to discourage that person in such a way that he is discouraged and departs from the faith.

2. If the person is eager to learn and grow more in his new life:

- You may meet with the person at other times to study the "*Welcome to the Family*" (new believers) material together.

You can find this material in the Life

Groups section on our website (myctspanish.org).

- Invite the person to attend Sunday services. If the person continues to attend, invite them to complete the Connect Track.
- At the end of the Life Group season, you could invite the person to participate in a Practical Application Group, a Bible Reading Group. You can open and lead that group if you want.
- If you see that the person has truly surrendered to Christ as their Lord and Savior, explain to him about water baptism and encourage him to be baptized.

- If you find it appropriate, explain to him about the baptism in the Holy Spirit and pray that he will receive it.