

TYPES OF LIFE GROUPS

5. ACCOUNTABILITY GROUPS

Focus group: **Red**

Goal: to train people in the 3 most important habits for the growth and spiritual maturity of a disciple:

- 1. Read the Bible daily and have a personal prayer time.*
- 2. Accountability for their attitudes and behaviors.*
- 3. Define and implement an evangelization plan.*

Number of participants: 3 - 4 (maximum)

Duration: 1:30 to 2 hours maximum.

Format: Remember that the priority of these groups is to train people in the discipline of being accountable for their actions and their devotional life. Unlike the other types of Life Groups, these groups are expected to maintain a high level of commitment to the process: meeting day and time, and Bible reading.

- Think about the people you should invite. Explain that you want them to participate in a deeper growth and maturity process that will involve daily reading of the Bible and accountability in key areas of their lives.
- Define a time and place to meet once a week. Make sure that these hours are

convenient for most participants. Keep the same schedule every week.

- Remind participants that they should use a paper Bible and have a notebook.
- First meeting:
 - Give them the welcome to the group.
 - Please read and explain carefully the card used in this type of group. Ask each participant to keep that card in their Bible so that they do not lose it. Copies of this card can be found in the Connect Center of the Church facilities.
 - Ask them if they have doubts or questions. Make sure that each participant understands the conditions for being part of this type of group.

- After reviewing the card, tell them that you will give them 3 days to read it again, think about the commitment that being part of this Life Group will entail, and confirming whether they will remain in the group or if they rather integrate into a different one that does not have this level of commitment and responsibility.

- Regular meetings:

- Welcome

- Accountability questions [25-30 minutes].

If possible, all questions should be answered every week. Explain that the idea is to respond directly and without much explanation. Don't let the time for

accountability questions become a time of counseling.

- These are the accountability questions:

- 1. Have you testified of your relationship with your Heavenly Father to your unbelieving friends and family by way of your actions (works) and words this week?*
- 2. Have you committed any sin, fault or error you feel is interrupting your communion with the Father, and that you need to confess?*
- 3. Have you been angry with someone, or are you still angry or in resentment against someone? Why?*

4. *Have your family relationships been in accordance with the Word of God (love, respect, obedience, patience, etc.) with you being an example for your family?*
5. *Have you had contact with sexually stimulating material or have you had inappropriate thoughts about another person?*
6. *Is there a bad habit, custom or weakness of character that has dominated you this week?*
7. *Have you maintained your integrity in financial matters: tithes, offerings, payments or debts?*

8. *Did you congregate with the church family: Sunday Service, Life Group.*

9. *Question selected by the group participants. At the first Group meeting the leader explains to the group members that they should choose a question about some area in which everyone wants to be held accountable. This question could be changed if it is necessary.*

- Biblical reading review [45-60 minutes].

1. Group members should read a number of chapters each day. The group will have two options to do this reading:

Option 1: Start with 1 chapter of the Bible per day. The first month they will read 1 chapter per day (7 total per week), the second month 2 chapters (14 total per week) and the third month 3 chapters (21 total per week). This option is ideal for those who are not used to reading on a regular basis.

Option 2: Start with 3 chapters of the Bible from the beginning. This option is ideal for people used to reading.

2. Read only one New Testament book per week.

3. If the book you are reading has fewer chapters than you have to read that week, the same book is started again.
4. Read every day and not all the chapters in one day.
5. As you read, underline words or phrases that are important; use signs like "!", "?" next to the text to emphasize it. Write personal comments in the margins of the Bible.
6. If any of the members do not complete the total reading (the defined chapters for the week), all will repeat the reading of the same book until completing it.

7. Each week they will answer the following questions.

a. Did you complete this week's reading?

b. What did the Father speak to you through what you read this week in the Bible?

c. What did you learn through reading?

d. Was there something you did not understand? What was it?

e. Did the Bible exhort you to do or stop doing something?

f. Did you discover any promise of God to you?

- Evangelism plan: each person in the group should choose three people (family, friends, work or study partners, neighbors) who are far from the Heavenly Father. The group should develop an evangelism plan that should include:

1. Daily prayer and intercession for these people: Pray that the Father will give you opportunities to show those people His love through actions (good works). Pray that the Holy Spirit prepares your mind and heart to receive the message of salvation.

2. Acts of service on a regular basis. Explain that most people are not "looking for Jesus," but they are

looking for specific relationships with people that help them improve their quality of life. Because of this, we believe that it is very important, and before sharing the message of salvation with them, to bear witness to a life transformed by Christ and His Word. As part of that demonstration, people must see in us a spirit of love and service. Therefore, we must invest time in our relationship with them before "preaching" to them. Doing acts of service goes a long way in this process of earning trust.

3. Share with them the "plan of salvation" and direct them to receive Christ as

their Lord and Savior. Review the material called “One-on-One Evangelism” that you can find in the Life Groups section of our website (myctspanish.org). If the person is willing, they could meet at another time to study together the “Welcome to the Family” (New Believers) material. You can find the “One on One Evangelism” material and the “Welcome to the Family” material in the Life Groups section on our website (myctspanish.org).

4. Invite them to participate in a Life Group that they will open themselves,

or one of the Life Groups that already exist.

5. Invite them to participate in Church meetings on Sundays.

6. Each person in the group will give a small weekly report on acts of service, or the progress of the relationship with those who are trying to win for Christ.

- Prayer time [10 minutes]. First pray for the 3 people on each group member's list. Pray by name, interceding for their salvation. Then pray for each other's personal requests.