

# LIFE GROUP LEADER GUIDE

For the week of September 15, 2019

*This guide is designed to give helpful hints in preparing & leading your group in discussion.*

## Welcome to the Fall Quarter of Life Groups!

*This week we kick off our Fall Life Group Quarter. Your first meeting will include a potluck dinner, time to get acquainted, as well as time to discuss your Life Group Covenant. The study questions have been shortened this week to allow ample time to accomplish all of this.*

*To prepare for your first meeting, take some time to focus on the questions below and be prepared to share your answers with the group. Have a great meeting as you come together to connect, encourage one another to grow and see how God might work!*

## LEADER NOTES

### GETTING READY FOR YOUR FIRST MEETING

Each week in this section you'll find the most important information for your group. Check out the **Leaders Notes** at the end of this guide for more information.

#### ⇒ GOALS OF THE FIRST MEETING

- *Rekindle relationships and meet new members*
- *Clarify your group's direction / expectations / commitments using the Covenant*
- *Briefly discuss the sermon topic (if there is time – see Leader Guide above)*
- *Pray for the building of relationships and spiritual growth of the group*

#### Items Needed for the First Meeting

- *Dinner / dessert plans decided*
- *Life Group Covenants – small ones to handout and a large one for everyone to sign (these were mailed to you last week in your leader packet, and can also be found online here: <https://lifegroups.northcoastchurch.com/life-group-covenants/>)*
- *Name-tags (host should write them out ahead of time)*

#### Contact Your Group in Advance

- *Contact all members one week before the first meeting to welcome them to the group. You can check your roster online to see all the member of your group and their contact information. You can find instructions on how to check your roster here: <https://lifegroups.northcoastchurch.com/how-to-view-your-roster/>*
- *Inform them of the location and time of your group, as well as any entrees to bring for dinner*

#### Life Group Covenants

- *Covenants & Leaders Guide were all mailed to your meeting location or get them online.*
- *Go over Covenant – use last question in homework to transition into this. (See Leaders' Guide to Covenant for more info / or Listen to audio).*

## MEETING NOTES

Each week in this section you'll find the most important information for your group. Check out the **Leaders Notes** at the end of this guide for more information.

#### ⇒ AGENDA

*Looking for more guidance on your first meeting? You can find the "First Night Agenda" on how to make your first night great on the Leader Tools page of our website. (<https://lifegroups.northcoastchurch.com/make-your-first-night-great/>)*

**HOW WE MEASURE OUR SUCCESS WEEK TO WEEK: Hearing from everyone at every meeting and keeping God's Word at the center.**

**Make sure you leave plenty of time to answer the question in the "Looking Ahead" section and spend time going over the Covenant with your group.**

- **Welcome and Eat** – Potluck
- **Group Sharing** – Discussion Note: You can transition from Getting to Know You section to the Looking Ahead section.
- **Study Questions Discussion** (optional)
- **Go over the Covenant** – Use the last question in the Leader's Guide to Study Questions below and transition into reviewing the Covenant.
- **Try to get to the "Looking Ahead" section with 45 minutes left in your meeting** so you have plenty of time to have everyone answer and go over the Covenant.
- Close in prayer
- Eat (more) dessert

**NEW!** We've started an **Instagram** account aimed at encouraging and informing Leaders and Hosts. Check it out and follow us @ncclifegroupleaders

Find all of our leader resources online: [lifegroups.northcoastchurch.com/leader-tools](https://lifegroups.northcoastchurch.com/leader-tools)

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU

**Add these questions if you have new people in your group or a completely new group. If it hasn't happened while eating dinner, have everyone in the group share how long they have been attending North Coast, if they have been in a Life Group before, and their occupation. Note: You'll probably only have time to do two of these questions at most, so choose accordingly.**

As you look back on the summer months, what were one or two of your highlights (i.e. going to a concert, swimming, family gathering, vacation, barbeque, etc.)?  
*Good question to have everyone answer. At least one of the following are also fun questions to ask.*

- We all have different preferences. How would you answer the following:
  - What's the best way to start the day?
  - What's the best day of the week?
  - What's worth spending more on to get the best?
- Would you rather ...
  - ... for your birthday, receive cash or gifts?
  - ... go to a movie alone or to dinner alone?

- ... hear the good news or the bad news first?
- ... be given a lifetime supply of delicious food or books?
- ... watch the big game at home or live at the stadium?

**QUICK REVIEW:** Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

**Discussion Note:** *You can transition from “Getting to Know You” section to the “Looking Ahead” section.*

## DIGGING DEEPER

*Because of the potluck, make sure you have plenty of time to spend on the “Looking Ahead” section below. You may not have time to cover this question this week.*

Talking about God’s judgement isn’t typically an easy conversation. Yet, this weekend we were given some insight in how God’s judgement actually helps us know what it means to follow him. The ultimate good news is that as a follower of Jesus, we are saved by grace. Take a moment and read through Ephesians 2:1-10 and jot down all it says about God’s grace, judgement, and how the Spirit works in the life of a Jesus follower.

*This question gives you chance to focus on the amazing grace our God offers us.*

**Ephesians 2:1-10** – As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, <sup>2</sup>in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup>All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. <sup>4</sup>But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup>made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. <sup>6</sup>And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— <sup>9</sup>not by works, so that no one can boast. <sup>10</sup>For

we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

How might what you wrote above reflect and/or add to the message we heard this weekend?

Looking back at the message this weekend and the Ephesians passage, what is one of the most important things to remember?

**Option #1** *Discussion Suggestion & Possible Group Theme for the quarter: You could use your groups responses above to help set up a theme for your group this next quarter.*

**Option #2** *Another idea is to ask your group to brainstorm what it means to them to live to live out Ephesians 2:8-9 along with Ephesians 2:10. You could use this as a possible theme for the quarter: To live by grace and know that Christ has done the work that will make a difference.*

## LOOKING AHEAD

In preparation for going over the Covenant in your Life Group, take a moment to jot down some of the reasons you joined a group this fall. What are you looking forward to the most?

*Important question to have everyone answer.*

**Transition Statement to Covenant:** *“One of the great benefits of being in a Life Group is the opportunity to have help from others as we seek to be strategic and intentional about our spiritual growth. The Life Group Covenant is designed to serve as intentional guidelines to help us make the most of our time together.” Pass out Covenants and go over them with your group. You can download the [Leaders Guide to the Life Group Covenant](#), by going to [northcoastchurch.com/groups](http://northcoastchurch.com/groups) and clicking on “Leader Tools.”*

**Close in prayer:** *Next week the Study Questions will include an introduction to praying in a group so if you have a new group or a lot of new members, it’s suggested that you wait until week two to do any group prayer.*

**Eat dessert:** *Mingle with everyone.*

## THE PURPOSE OF LIFE GROUPS

Life Groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth through meaningful Christian relationships and the study of God's Word. (Hebrews 10:24-25). Here's how it will happen:

### SHARE

Each week we'll take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first this sharing will include planned "sharing questions." But after the first few weeks, it will become more informal and personal as we feel more comfortable.

### STUDY

Each week we'll study a section from God's Word that relates to the previous weekend's sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life.

### SUPPORT

Each week we'll learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (John 15:9-13). This care can take many forms, such as prayer, encouragement, listening, challenging one another and meeting real needs.

### SERVE

Spiritual growth is fostered not only by what we gain through the support and input of others, but also through service to others. The role each of us fills is important to the health of the church and for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the community in which we live (Ephesians 4:11-16). Throughout the quarter, it is our hope that you can find and/or be affirmed in the ways God has designed you to serve and make a difference in God's Kingdom.



### REAL MAN WEEKEND – “The Palomar Experience”- Oct. 25-27

Lookin' for some crazy guy stuff to do? Want to kick back or get refocused on God? Join us for another epic men's weekend that will get you recharged and refreshed as our speakers lead us into a look at what a real man is and isn't! The weekend will also include plenty of "man" event options like paintball, high ropes course, skeet shooting, archery, zipline, horseback riding, etc. Space is limited so don't delay!

Register online at [northcoastchurch.com/real-man-weekend](http://northcoastchurch.com/real-man-weekend)

SERMON SERIES: MARK: THE UNTOLD STORY OF JESUS  
Message #37: Here Comes the Judge!  
Mark 11:12-26

Dr. Larry Osborne  
North Coast Church  
September 14-15, 2019

## Here Comes the Judge!

### The Passage

Mark 11:12-26 [See also Matthew 21:12-13/ Luke 19:45-48/ John 2:13-16]

### Here Comes the Judge!

#### Eight Truths About How We'll Be Judged

1. Jesus will be our **JUDGE**.

John 5:21-22/ Acts 10:42

2. We will be spared from **WRATH**.

Romans 5:9/ Romans 8:1/ 1 Thessalonians 5:9

3. Calling myself a **CHRISTIAN** doesn't make me a **CHRISTIAN**.

Matthew 7:21-23/ 1 John 2:3-6

4. Judgement always starts with God's **FAMILY**, not his **ENEMIES**.

1 Peter 4:17/ Revelation 2-3/ Romans 5:8-10

5. There will be both **LOSS** and **REWARD**.

1 Corinthians 3:9-13/ Luke 19:11-27/ 2 Corinthians 5:10, Romans 14:10 & John 19:13-16

6. We're **DISCIPLINED** now so that we won't be **JUDGED** later.

Hebrews 12:5-11

7. We'll be judged by our **ACTIONS**, not our **THEOLOGY**.

James 2:19-20 & Romans 2:13/ 2 Corinthians 5:10 & Matthew 16:27  
See also Matthew 7:2/ James 3:1/ Matthew 12:36-37

8. Jesus is on **OUR SIDE**.

1 John 2:1-2

**Daily Dose:** To receive our short daily devotional video, text the keyword "daily" to 51400.  
To subscribe by email or for a free audio or video copy of this message, go to [northcoastchurch.com](http://northcoastchurch.com)



## LEADERS GUIDE - LIFE GROUP COVENANT

- **DOWNLOAD** this and other Covenants: [lifegroups.northcoastchurch.com/life-group-covenants](http://lifegroups.northcoastchurch.com/life-group-covenants)
- When discussing – use the proactive leadership style – clear direction, yet flexible

Leaders \_\_\_\_\_ Ph.# \_\_\_\_\_  
Hosts \_\_\_\_\_ Ph.# \_\_\_\_\_  
Station in Life \_\_\_\_\_ Campus \_\_\_\_\_

*Small groups thrive on participation! The purpose of this Covenant is to help you to discuss and clarify your group's goals, expectations, and commitments.*

### **LIFE GROUPS: THEIR PURPOSE**

Life Groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth through meaningful Christian relationships and study of God's Word (Romans 8:29 & Hebrews 10:24, 25). We'll do this by focusing on four primary activities:

#### **SHARE**

Each week we'll take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first this sharing will include planned "sharing questions". But after the first few weeks, it will become more informal and personal as we feel more comfortable.

#### **STUDY**

Each week we'll study a section from God's Word that relates to the previous weekend's sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life.

*Our goal is to interact interpersonally on the topic and how we can practically follow Christ, not to answer all the questions.*

#### **SUPPORT**

Each week we'll learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (John 15:9-13). This care can take many forms such as *prayer, encouragement, listening, challenging one another, and meeting real needs.*

#### **SERVE**

Spiritual Growth is fostered not only by what we gain through the support and input of others, but also through service to others. The role each of us fills is important to the health of the church and for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to our community (Ephesians 4:11-16). Throughout the quarter, it is our hope that you can find and/or be affirmed in the ways God has designed you to serve, and make a difference in God's Kingdom.

### **FIVE MARKS OF A HEALTHY GROUP**

For our group to be healthy, we need to...

- 1. Make spiritual growth our number one priority (Romans 8:29).**  
⇒ *Tangents – they are okay sometimes, but sometimes we need to be refocused. We'll need to keep spiritual growth our focus and stay on topic.*
- 2. Accept one another (Romans 15:7).**  
⇒ *We will have different preferences.*
- 3. Take care of one another (John 13:34).**  
⇒ *When crisis happens we're there to help with support, prayer, encouragement, listening, meals etc.*
- 4. Treat each other with respect (Ephesians 4:25-5:2).**  
⇒ *Listening to one another, if one's talking let's all listen, nothing worse than two conversations going on at once.*  
⇒ *Our goal is to listen, not give advice. (Advice is given when asked for) We are not here to judge or fix – unless someone asks. An example of giving advice is by saying, "Well this is what I think you should do." On the other hand, that doesn't mean we can't question what is said or what someone is doing.*  
⇒ *Some of us have the gift of gab, also known as a dominator – be careful, I as a leader might have to help you.*  
⇒ *Be careful of gossip prayers. For example, "we need to pray for (person's name) because they are doing this ..."*  
⇒ *No put-downs.*  
⇒ *What is said here, stays here – of course we never promise confidentiality if something shared would be harmful to yourself or someone else and/or if I, as the leader, need to seek counsel on how to respond to an issue in the group.*

**5. Keep our commitments to the group (Psalm 15:1-2, 4b).**

*⇒ Please give us a call if you can't make it to Life Group so we know what's going on and how to pray for you.*

**GUIDELINES & COVENANT**

- 1. **Dates** We'll meet on \_\_\_\_\_ nights for \_\_\_\_\_ weeks. Our final meeting of this quarter will be on \_\_\_\_\_. *Fill in blanks*
- 2. **Time** We'll arrive between \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ and begin the meeting at \_\_\_\_\_. We'll spend approximately \_\_\_\_\_ minutes in singing (optional), \_\_\_\_\_ minutes in study/discussion, and \_\_\_\_\_ minutes in prayer/sharing. *Fill in blanks*
- 3. **Children** Group members are responsible to arrange child care for their children. Nursing newborns are welcome provided they are not a distraction to the group!
- 4. **Study** Our studies will focus on the same topic covered in the previous Sunday's sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life. *Not to answer every question.*
- 5. **Prayer** Praying for one another. *You'll go over tips on topical prayer the second week of group. Remember - being forced to pray in group or just the idea of it can cause people to not want to come to your group. If you have new people in your group, you might want to say something like this: "It's exciting to see how God works in our lives through prayer. We also realize prayer in groups is something many have never done. Know that you will never be forced to pray." Let them know you'll talk more in the weeks to come on how we do group prayer and that we break a lot of the stereotypes of what it means to pray.*
- 6. **Homework & Attendance** Joining a Life Group requires a commitment to *attend each week and do the homework ahead of time*. Obviously, allowances are made for sickness, vacation, work conflicts, and other special events—but not much more!  
*This commitment is the key to a healthy group.*  
  
If we cannot come to a meeting, we will call \_\_\_\_\_.  
*⇒ Emphasize the importance of the commitment to attendance and preparation. (A good group starts with good preparation)*  
*⇒ Make sure that everyone is with you. (Do we agree? Is this what we want? Make eye contact, etc.)*  
*⇒ Most weeks require 20-30 minutes of homework to prepare for the group study and discussion.*
- 7. **Desserts** *Have everyone sign up for a night to do dessert.*
- 8. **Social & Service Project(s)** *Emphasize the importance of a quarterly social and service project. As a leader and host, have 2 or 3 suggestions ready and 2 or 3 potential dates. Choose a date or ask the group to bring their calendars next week. New groups are preferred to have their social by mid-quarter.*
- 9. **Other**

***We agree together in Christ to honor this Covenant.***

*(To be decided by each person on or before the third week.)*

*Have the members sign the group Covenant now if they are ready. If not, they are welcome to wait until the third week of the quarter.*

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. \_\_\_\_\_