

COMMUNITY – STARTING WELL

PASTOR MARK WALKTHROUGH OF THE CURRICULUM

* Online materials available at www.flagchurch.com/lifegroups or the LifeGroup button on the FLAG Church App

YOU WILL NEED:

CONVERSATION GUIDE – THIS IS A PRINTED BOOK, BLUE COVER

- This is where you will get the discussion questions to ask
- Available online if you are in a pinch

LEADER GUIDE

- This will prep your heart and mind for the upcoming session
- This will also give you great Icebreaker questions to use to start discussion times
- Pick up at Welcome Center or access online*

DVD – OR ACCESS FILES ONLINE*

- This is where the small video teaching bits will come from
- Confirm your DVD will work in the player you are going to use

LIFE MAP EXERCISE – 4 PAGE PDF PRINT OUT OR ACCESS ONLINE*

- You will need a copy for each person, but not until the end of Session 3
- Access online*, or contact church to print some out for you

BEFORE SESSION 1

READ THROUGH ENTIRE LEADER GUIDE

- Flip through Conversation Guide for Session 1
- Watch DVD Session 1

WHAT TO DO DURING THE LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION SESSIONS 1

START WITH A NON INVASIVE (LEVEL 1) ICEBREAKER QUESTIONS YOU'VE CHOSEN FROM THE LEADER GUIDE

- Go around so everyone answers.
- Encourage everyone to give their first/last name before they answer.
- Mark the one you've chosen, so you don't use it again!

WATCH THE DVD SESSION

- The curriculum encourages you to read aloud the "Weekly Reading." You may if you wish, we encourage you to skip that, or just hit the highlights.

AFTER THE VIDEO, IT IS TIME TO START THE CONVERSATION.

- Session 1 does NOT have discussion questions in the Conversation Guide.

I (MARK) CREATED 2 DIFFERENT QUESTIONS YOU COULD* USE:

- "You can't grow spiritually unless you are connected relationally." – If you agree, please explain. If not, please explain.
- "Show up. Join in. Be real." – Which one is the hardest for you? Which one do you think is the most important, and why?
- *If you don't want to use those questions simply go through and ask 1-2 more Level 1 icebreaker questions.

THE CURRICULUM ENCOURAGES YOU TO READ THE "MOVING FORWARD: SECTION OUT LOUD WHEN FINISHING.

- This is not a bad idea, and a great way to bring things to a close.

CLOSING

BE PREPARED TO COMMUNICATE

- When/where the next meeting is
- Who is leading the next meeting
- Thank them for coming
- Close in prayer. I would NOT take personal prayer requests at the first session of a new LifeGroup.

BONUS:

- After saying, "Amen," ask who can name everyone in the LifeGroup.

WHAT TO DO DURING THE LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION SESSIONS 2, 3, 7, 8

START WITH A NON INVASIVE (LEVEL 1) ICEBREAKER QUESTIONS YOU'VE CHOSEN FROM THE LEADER GUIDE

- Go around so everyone answers.
- Encourage everyone to give their first/last name before they answer.
- Mark the one you've chosen, so you don't use it again!

WATCH THE DVD SESSION

- The curriculum encourages you to read aloud the "Weekly Reading." You may if you wish, we encourage you to skip that, or just hit the highlights.

AFTER THE VIDEO, IT IS TIME TO START THE CONVERSATION.

- Avoid asking, "What did you think of that?"
- This indicates a lack of a plan. You are leading. Give direction.
- I (Mark) simply followed the script and asked each question directly from the [Conversation Guide](#).

AFTER ASKING THE FIRST QUESTION DO NOT ANSWER IT YOURSELF FOR AT LEAST 5 SECONDS. SIMPLY SMILE AND WAIT.

- Count to yourself. 1 2 3 4 5. Seriously, this is what I did.
- They will eventually talk out of pity for you. This is good.
- Move on to the next question, skipping any questions you don't like.

THE CURRICULUM ENCOURAGES YOU TO READ THE "MOVING FORWARD: SECTION OUT LOUD WHEN FINISHING.

- This is not a bad idea, and a great way to bring things to a close.

CLOSING

SESSION #7, #8 → START TALKING ABOUT NEXT STUDY

BE PREPARED TO COMMUNICATE

- When/where the next meeting is
- Who is leading the next meeting
- Thank them for coming
- Close in prayer. If you want to take prayer requests, encourage "personal" prayer requests.
 - ~~Pray for my neighbor's dog, it got hit by a car.~~
 - Pray that I can minister to my neighbor, George. He is discouraged as he lives alone and his dog got hit by a car.

BONUS:

- Sessions #2, #3 → After saying, "Amen," ask who can name everyone in the LifeGroup.

WHAT TO DO DURING THE LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION SESSION 4

START WITH A LEVEL 2 OR 3 ICEBREAKER

- Go around so everyone answers.
- Encourage everyone to give their first/last name before they answer.
- Mark the one you've chosen, so you don't use it again!

SHOW THE DVD SESSION 4. LET THEM KNOW THIS VIDEO IS A BIT LONGER

- Let the LifeGroup know that there are no discussion questions. We are going to share our story.
- But rather than unplanned rambling, hand them the Life Map sheets.
- Ask office to print some out for you, or access online. *

YOU GO FIRST. SHOW THEM HOW YOU USED THE LIFEMAP EXERCISE. IT IS VERY HELPFUL.

- Keep your story to 10 minutes.
- When done, ask this, "Does anyone have any questions they would like to ask me about my story?" Wait at least 5 seconds!

WHEN I LED OUR GROUP IN THIS, THESE SESSIONS ARE WHAT KNIT THE LIFEGROUP TOGETHER!

- The Q and A after the stories are honoring to the people sharing their story.
- We aren't prying, we are learning about each other and what makes them, them.
- It is reasonable depending upon the size of the Group, for each person to share their story at the next session.

CLOSING

AS YOU DISMISS, REMIND EVERYONE TO BE PREPARED TO SHARE THEIR STORY, AS DETAILED OR AS BLAND AS THEY WOULD LIKE, AT THE NEXT SESSION.

BE PREPARED TO COMMUNICATE

- When/where the next meeting is
- Who is leading the next meeting
- Thank them for coming
- Close in prayer. If you want to take prayer requests, encourage "personal" prayer requests.
 - ~~Pray for my neighbor's dog, it got hit by a car.~~
 - Pray that I can minister to my neighbor, George. He is discouraged as he lives alone and his dog got hit by a car.

WHAT TO DO DURING THE LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION SESSIONS 5 AND 6

START WITH A LEVEL 2 OR 3 ICEBREAKER

- Go around so everyone answers.
- Encourage everyone to give their first/last name before they answer.
- Mark the one you've chosen, so you don't use it again!

REMIND PEOPLE THAT THERE IS NO DVD

- Ask for someone to go first in sharing their story.
- If they get stuck oversharing, and look like they will share for 30 minutes, you will need to interject and move them along.
- If you don't, the person oversharing will demoralize everyone else in the group.

WHEN DONE, ASK, "WHAT QUESTIONS DO WE HAVE FOR THEIR STORY?"

- You should then immediately ask a very simple, factual question, like, "You mentioned your Dad, what did he do for work?"
- Let two or three questions be asked, then move to the next person.

IF YOU CAN GET ALL THE STORIES INTO SESSION 5, GREAT, YOU CAN SKIP SESSION 6

- If not, have some share in Session 6.

CLOSING

BE PREPARED TO COMMUNICATE

- When/where the next meeting is
- Who is leading the next meeting
- Thank them for coming
- Close in prayer. If you want to take prayer requests, encourage "*personal*" prayer requests.
 - ~~Pray for my neighbor's dog, it got hit by a car.~~
 - Pray that *I can minister* to my neighbor, George. He is discouraged as he lives alone and his dog got hit by a car.