

Life Group Resources

If you're not seeing growth in your life group try these tips.

First of all, take a second to breathe and think about how great your group is. You're leading a group of people who get together with the goal to become more like Christ through relationship and service. That's incredible. No wonder you want to grow. Here are five tips to help you do exactly that.

- Be clear. Make sure your LifeGroup has a clear vision and everyone in your group understands it. This is simple, but you need to have predictable meeting times and locations too. If you're in an open group, make sure you've posted your group on the church life group board.
- Enlist help. You're not the only one who can invite new people. Challenge your whole group to invite new people.
- Mix it up. It's possible that your vision or routine as a group has reached its potential. Maybe it's time to expand your vision or change the way you meet. You could serve one week, discuss the next, and then just eat together the next week. Whatever you do, it might be time to throw a changeup.
- Give people a reason to show. If people aren't coming back week after week, maybe they feel like they wouldn't be missed. Spread out responsibility amongst your group. Make someone in charge of communicating during the week and another person in charge of coordinating snacks etc.
- Quality x Commitment = Results. It's not always the best ideas that win. It's the ideas with the most combined quality and commitment that succeed. You might have a high quality idea for growing your group, but without your group's commitment, it won't work. On the inverse, your group might dream up a so-so idea they're committed to and it will thrive. Both quality and commitment matter.

Quick tips for growing closer and becoming friend with your life group.

You lead your LifeGroup because you live out the idea that life is better together with friends. Sometimes, however, the with friends part doesn't happen at first. If your LifeGroup is in a season like that, we've got you covered. Quick Tips for Becoming Friends with Your LifeGroup

Eat a meal. Food has always brought people together. Look at Jesus' life. He chose to eat a meal with His disciples in one of His last moments on earth—before He was crucified and resurrected. After Jesus was resurrected and ascended into heaven, the Bible tells us one of the things the disciples did was devote themselves "to the breaking of bread." (Acts 2:42) Here's the truth: people like food. It's that simple. Another truth is that people start becoming friends over food. Somehow conversations become easier when food comes into the picture. Think about adding snacks to your LifeGroup. A different person can bring them each time you meet. Try having a potluck dinner once a month. Or maybe you can meet at a restaurant every once in a while. It seems too simple, yet somehow, eating together helps create friendships.

Share your stories. Has anyone ever asked you about your life story? Most people love to share their life. When we do, our vulnerability and honesty builds trust and connection with our LifeGroup. Having a night to join together as a LifeGroup and share testimonies is a powerful and moving way to become fast friends with your LifeGroup. Want to take it to the next level? Set aside several weeks of your LifeGroup's time together for sharing. Each week, ask two people from your group to come ready to tell their life story. Don't make it complicated—just share the highs, lows, and what made you the person you are today.

Serve the Church (and your community). Some of the most fun a LifeGroup can have is serving together. You could serve together at church, Celebrate Recovery or another ministry so, think of ways you can randomly show up and serve each other through a hand-written card, an encouraging text, a thoughtful gift, or some other way. Serving together is not only fun, but it also can help deepen relationships and strengthen friendships.

Divide your connections. Your LifeGroup can form special connections through dividing into smaller groups once in a while. If you have a co-ed or married LifeGroup, you may try dividing into guys and gals for a part of every LifeGroup or even just once a month. These smaller groups can help open up more meaningful conversation and connection. You can also encourage the people in your LifeGroup to meet up for coffee or lunch every few weeks, one-on-one. These smaller points of contact can make a big difference in your LifeGroup.

Have some fun! Finally, have fun! Life is often serious, so it's good to let loose and enjoy light-hearted conversations and activities at LifeGroup. You could have a game night, a movie night, an out-and-about night in the city, or a week-end camping trip. Find whatever fun fits your LifeGroup, and have a great time together!

If you're able to eat a meal, share your stories, serve the Church, divide your connections, and have some fun with your LifeGroup, then the people in it will soon become friends.