

Foundation Series

Week 1 - Getting to Know You

****If you cannot get through the below information, finish it on Week 2****

This first night is an introduction to Life Groups and getting to know each other.

Coach Introduction

Coaches were established to:

1. to get people plugged into Life Groups
2. to get new Life Groups off to a healthy start.
3. to provide guidance when needed (curriculum, conflicts and questions)

Agenda for tonight

- 1) Basic Introduction
- 2) Group Business
- 3) Establish Start time
- 4) First 30 minutes is kitchen time - provides a time buffer for people
- 5) Assignment for host
- 6) Before you leave tonight, gather key contact info (name, cell phone, email)
- 7) Create a GroupMe group
- 8) Snack/Treat schedule
- 9) Boundaries and Guidelines
- 10) Introduction to Life Groups
- 11) What is the Foundation Series?
- 12) 20 Questions - Stop on time and finish 20 questions at beginning of next meeting.
- 13) Praises and prayer requests

Basic Intro - Answer first 4 questions on 20 questions.

Boundaries and Guidelines

The first thing to discuss is a couple basic guidelines and boundaries that are key to a great group experience.

1. As a courtesy to the group, please let the host know if you are not going to be so we are not waiting or wondering.
2. Ask everyone commit to being here for the entire series. Realize that not everyone can attend every week, but at least read the material for that week you missed.
3. You can participate at whatever level you feel comfortable
4. The first is assumed Confidentiality. Meaning everything that is said in group stays in _____.
5. No arguing unless it is healthy debate - issues with a group member is discussed with facilitator/coach/pastor first.
6. No major off topic tangents unless facilitator feels the holy spirit is leading in that direction.
7. If person has an issue with host/facilitator they can reach out to a coach/pastor
8. Leaving a couple of hot topics at the door.
 - o **Politics** - We all have our opinions, views and beliefs. Some may conflict with others. Therefore, it is best to leave them at the door.

Biblically, there is nothing in Jesus teachings that even gives the slightest hint he was involved, or wanted to be involved, with any political movement. As an example,

John 6:15 says "*Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.*". He did not want that, nor did he want who he really was to be exposed to soon.

Mat 16:20 it says, "*Then he warned his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ*"

This is not to say we should not to practice our American responsibility to vote and support our political beliefs, but in the context of a Life Group we leave politics at the door unless there is a group consensus to discuss a topic as it relates to a study.

- **Sex** - This is another tricky topic. Some people are very conservative and uncomfortable discussing this topic, while other are very open and transparent. Even within marriage. A husband would be more than willing to discuss the topic, while the wife would be embarrassed, or vice versa. So in a mixed group settings, even couples, it is best to leave this topic to the side unless there is group consensus around a study
- **Other** - There may be other topics you would like left at the door (e.g. Global Warming, hunting, endangered species, fracking, conspiracy theories, etc.). Do not hesitate to throw those into the middle of the room for decision or to have a confidential conversation with the group facilitator to ask his/her discernment on the topic.

A couple methods some groups use to accommodate hotter topics is to

- Regularly split the group up into men and women in separate areas. This also provides an opportunity to discuss topics or ask question a person may not want to answer with the other gender in the room.
- Meet outside of group with individuals who are interested in openly discussing the topic.

Introduction to Life Groups

The primary goal of a Life Group is to create disciples. This comes from Matthew 28:19

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+28:19>

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

As a follower of Christ (a Christian), this is what we are biblically charged to do. To help facilitate this within Summit View Church, we have established the Life Groups ministry.

We recognize that not everyone in the church, or a Life Group for that matter, may be a Christian. But the most common way for a person to find, learn about and accept Jesus is through a friend. Therefore, **Life Groups are open to everyone attending Summit View**, Christian or not.

Just as Jesus had 12 close friends with whom He shared life, engaged in spiritual conversation and sent them out to spread the word, create disciples and grow the church, Life Groups have similar goals. The primary one being to create disciples.

We feel a healthy group size is 6-8 couples or 10-16 individuals that meets every week. The reason for this is most people have busy lives and are not able to make every week. Having 4 couples or 8-10 individuals yields a strong quorum and discussion. The combination of meeting every other week and a smaller group size commonly yields weaker relationships, groups that do not connect or last long together.

Life Groups share life experiences, grow in biblical knowledge and spiritual maturity. After 3-5 years a group member, or the group in whole, would identify/recognize an opportunity to branch out to invite new people/couples to share the same experience and opportunity. Many times, there is a life event or spiritual prompting. It could be a couple starting their own group or a group dividing into two groups and adding others.

The Foundation Series

One of the marks of a healthy group- one that fosters a sense of community – a place to belong, a place to be known, a place to be supported, a place where we contribute.

To get Life Groups on a healthy start, the Coaches spent a 1 year researching, discussing and developing a curriculum that has formed into what we call the Foundation Series. Built into this training series is what we call "the 4 pillars of Ministry" that Life Groups align with.

So the 7 week curriculum of the foundation series is as follows.

- Week 1 = Getting to know you - Which is this meeting.
- Week 2 = Getting to Know Summit View Church
 - Many people have not been to a New @ SVC class go through
 - New @ SVC to establish a fundamental baseline on what SVC believes and how it operates.
 - This is so we all have a common foundation as members of a larger body known as "the church".
- Week 3 = Care/Community
- Week 4 = Growth and Discipleship
- Week 5 = Outreach and Missions
- Week 6 = Multiplying
- Week 7 = Next Steps

For groups that know each other well, you can sometimes condense weeks 1&2 together and week 6&7 together

Go through the rest of 20 Questions

Group Profile

Every group has a profile. The question is what is yours.

- Day, time and frequency
- Married Couples, Singles, Men, Women, Mixed
- Kid friendly or not kid friendly
- Area/City