

# life groups

NLC Life Group Through the Bible Study

Week of January 28, 2018  
Sermon: Life Group Launch—Short



NEW LIFE  
CHURCH

# Life Group Schedule

**15 MIN**      Eat, Meet & Greet

**15 MIN**      Ice Breaker Game: **Connecting Stories.** This game is all about finding common experiences or themes between people. The goal of the game is to connect mini-stories in an interesting way.

Materials required: Pens and Post-it Notes or notecards.

Divide into small groups of 6-8 people. Each person must share at least one item that connects to the other mini-stories. The longer the chain of items that can be created, the better. Write down a few words on a post-it note to keep track of each part of the story.

The first player begins by sharing an interesting memory or experience that they have. For example, one player can say: "One time, I accidentally locked myself out of the house. So then I spent the entire day at a coffee shop." Any other person can tell a related story that has any similar themes or elements to the previous story. For example, the next person can say, "I am a total coffee addict. Every day I drink 3 cups of coffee, and it sometimes prevents me from being able to sleep at night."

The next player, based upon the previous story shared, can say something related, such as: "I don't sleep much at night because I play lots of computer games until early morning." Any person can then add to the story, by saying something like, "I also love computer games." To help the group remember each part of the story, write a few words on a post-it note for each part of the story chain. The more interesting or funny the story, the better.

The group with the longest connected chain of stories wins. This activity is a fun way to get people to share stories, while helping them learn similarities or common interests.

## OPENING PRAYER

### 45-60 MIN    Life Group Launch

- Relationships are crucial to living out the Christian life. But like any relationship we must put forth a little effort...we must try!
- At NLC, this is our main purpose for you.
- In late 2008, the GLR building was being dedicated and Pastor Rick asked Andy Stanley from Northpoint Church in Atlanta to speak.
  - › While he was speaking he had a 6 ft. step ladder on the stage behind him.
- He began teaching a sermon from Acts chapter 15:
  - › After Jesus had died and ascended into heaven, many non-Jews

(called Gentiles) started to believe.

- › The Jewish believers tried to make those Gentiles become Jewish first, then become a Christian.
- › This would involve learning the Jewish law, circumcision, and other practices.
- › Why? Because Jesus was the Messiah promised to the Jews in the Old Testament, and when Jesus chose his disciples, He selected 12 Jewish men. So it was reasonable for them to think that this was just a continuation of Judaism.

**READ ACTS 15:1-2, 5**

- Both Peter and Paul stood up and argued against this to the council
  - › It became very contentious, and as a result this one statement was issued about the situation from James the brother of Jesus.

**READ ACTS 15:19**

- › At this point Andy Stanley went to the ladder, removed the bottom 3 rungs, and said, “I want everyone to climb this ladder with me.”
- › This is what we often do to unbelievers or new Christians: we make it hard for them to follow or get involved.
- I thought about this example in relation to LG’s
  - › Are we as a church making it easy enough, attractive enough?
  - › Or have we removed a few rungs from the ladder?
- Pastor Rick referred to the idea of us trying harder, initiating an idea that we first began 17 years ago—helping people to connect to relationships, even the most stubborn, through demographics based on life stages.
  - › Our hope is you will meet friends and start a LG or serve one day, because you will be more connected to others, with someone checking on you.
- TODAY we are launching two demographics:
  - › Young Families w/ kids 1st grade thru young teens
  - › Empty nesters
- In weeks to come, we will launch:
  - › Families with kids in HS or College
  - › Youngest families with babies up to around 5 or 6
- Now we are asking you to do your part!
- Walk around, look at the LG’s, and give one a try!
- The fact is – our God is a relational God. Everything God has ever done – He’s done it in relationship. It’s the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

- Look at creation. Bees swarm. Wolves run in packs. Cows herd up. And when God made us, He made us to be in relationship with one another. We get more out of life. Find encouragement/ bear one another's burdens.
- There are probably some relationships in our life that need to be severed. Some relationships are toxic.
- There are others that need to be nurtured. Maybe you slipped out of a life group. You need to step back in and nurture those God-given relationships.
- There are many many of you in here today that need to initiate some new friendships. That is what today is all about. Walk across the room and initiate.

**Q1.** Do you have margin in your life for real relationships? Do you share moments—victories and failures—together with others?

**Q2.** In what stage of life are you in right now? Start with that in mind as you look for a life group.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**