

LIFE GROUPS ON MISSION

LIVING OUT THE KINGDOM VALUE



A LIFE GROUP LEADER GUIDE
BY CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCTION

Because God so loved us, we are compelled to share his love with our words and actions to those around us. God is on mission and invites us to join Him to experience his love, compassion, and power. He wants us in the action, walking in his kingdom purposes, not watching from the sidelines. As your Life Group follows Jesus, you are in for an exciting adventure that will bond you together in the trenches.

With all of the needs around us in our city and world, we will not be able to do everything. Yet, God has a kingdom calling for all of us and invites each one of us to do something. As you navigate this guide, you'll be journeying together in your kingdom calling. The goal is not to add a lot of new things to your plate, but to integrate missional living into your everyday lives and adopt a missional focus within your group.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

1 WEEK APPROACH

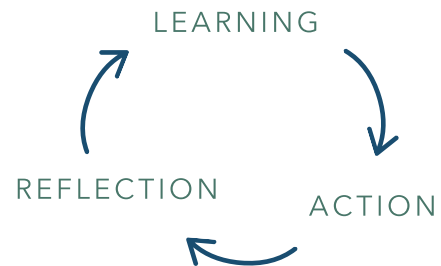
In this approach, during one life group meeting, you'll watch the life group leader video training together as an overview, and afterwards peruse the kingdom outreach calendar and other resources to discuss what your group wants to do. You'll end by deciding on a rhythm of kingdom activity for your life group (ex: outreach events, equipping events, kingdom prayer, something unique to your group, etc.).

5 WEEK APPROACH

In this approach, you'll take your time walking through the entire Kingdom Life Group Guidebook, exploring each topic together using the following schedule:

- Week 1 Kingdom Prayer
- Week 2 Explore Missional Opportunities Around You
- Week 3 Build a Rhythm of Service For Your Group
- Week 4 Equip Everyone to Live a Kingdom Lifestyle
- Week 5 Invite Others In and Multiply

In exploring this guide, you'll notice a rhythm of learning, action steps, and reflection. Spiritual growth engages our head, heart, and hands. Action steps and reflection will be key towards growing as a group. If you decide to do this guide as a group, please email Scott Quay (CA Kingdom Pastor) at scottq@cachurch.com so that he can follow up with you.



WEEK 1: KINGDOM PRAYER

LEARN

Tim Keller in his book, *Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God*, explores two types of prayer: communion prayer and kingdom prayer. Communion prayer consists of prayers of worship, abiding in God, and being content in him in all circumstances. Kingdom prayer is outward prayer and intercession. Both are very important in your life group, but kingdom prayer is vital to helping your group think outside of itself. Kingdom prayer operates from the belief that God can transform and change things, that He is powerful, able to soften the hardest of hearts, bring healing, provision, justice, and establish his kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

In the book of Acts, we see the early church filled and empowered by the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. After this they are mobilized, sent out and begin seeing incredible answers to prayer and God's promises fulfilled. And as they continued to step out on mission, the church multiplied, spreading all around the world. We can experience that same Holy Spirit today when we pray. Prayer is an important part of God's mission. When we pray, we join him in the work that He is doing - we get to be a part of it. Consider how God wants your life group to join Him in advancing His kingdom through prayer.

READ

John 15:7-8 and Acts 13:1-3

DISCUSS

- What is the link between communion prayer and kingdom prayer in John 15:7-8? Why are both important?
- How do you discern what God may be calling you to do in your missional calling (outward purpose)? Share specific examples with your group.

PRAY

KINGDOM PRAYER

First take a few minutes to quiet yourselves before God and listen to what he puts on your hearts and minds. Then start praying out loud for the people God brings to mind and intercede for them. It could be people you know who don't know Christ, your neighbors or co-workers you are reaching out to, justice issues in our city or country, unreached people groups, etc.



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PRAYER CONTINUED

PRAY FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT TO GUIDE YOU

Start praying that the Holy Spirit would lead and guide your group in your kingdom calling. Ask what next steps to take. Pray scriptures that come to mind. Pray for a willing heart like Isaiah, who said, "Here I am, send me!". Take some time to do listening prayer as well. Share what God puts on your heart and what he may be calling you to do after your prayer time.

As a resource, we have a 14 day kingdom prayer guide (Appendix 1), a prayer walking resource (appendix 2), and an unreached people groups prayer guide. Check out these resources together as a group. Decide as a group if you would like to do one of them together or individually.

DISCUSS

How do you want to integrate kingdom prayer into your group as a rhythm? It can be something you schedule into your life group meetings, or it can be as simple as adding on a prayer for those outside of your group to your regular Life Group prayer times.

ACTION STEP

A CHALLENGE FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

- Option 1: Prayer Walk (ideally in pairs). Refer to the Prayer Walk resource.
- Option 2: Give yourself to 10 min of kingdom prayer per day. You can utilize the following prayer guides or work off your own prayer list.



WEEK 2: EXPLORING MISSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AROUND YOU

REFLECT

Take 10 minutes to go around and debrief last week's lesson on Kingdom Prayer and experiences from the challenge of the week (either prayer walk or 10 minutes of kingdom prayer per day).

LEARN

This week's topic moves from praying to exploring and discussing the missional opportunities around you. Consider how God is already moving and join him. You don't have to reinvent the wheel or create a new ministry from scratch. CA is already a part of some amazing kingdom efforts in our city. Our involvement includes outreaches on school campuses, mentoring at-risk youth, foster care, combatting human trafficking and homelessness, church planting, and cross-cultural ministry to the nations.

In focusing on the needs around you, what is touching your heart as a group? Assess the felt needs and assets in your neighborhood and in your relational networks. Perhaps consider starting some newer, smaller efforts as a group as well. This could include things like prayer walking, street evangelism, community development projects, neighborhood BBQs, etc.

God has also put loved ones around us that we might minister to them. Consider our own spheres of influence: family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers. How can we share the love of Jesus with them as well?

READ

Matthew 9:35-38

DISCUSS

- What sticks out to you in this passage? Why does Jesus call the harvest "plentiful" but the workers "few"?
- When Jesus saw the crowds, he saw their need and had compassion on them. When you see people and the needs around you, who/what do you have compassion for? What kingdom efforts are you passionate about?
- How would you describe your sphere of influence?



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PRAY

Ask God to give you his eyes to see and ears to hear the needs around you. Ask for God to give you his heart of compassion for the lost and for those in need. Pray for workers for the harvest field, and that you would be a harvest field worker in your sphere of influence.

ACTION STEP

A CHALLENGE FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

- Reflect on your passions/gifts/sphere of influence handout and fill it out for next week
- Review the following missional opportunities (kingdom outreach events, life group service opportunities) and circle the ones that you most gravitate towards.
- Optional: "Exegeting the Community Exercise"



WEEK 3: BUILD A RHYTHM OF SERVING TOGETHER

REFLECT

Take 10 minutes and allow each person to briefly share from the passions/gifts/sphere of influence worksheet they filled out for last week's weekly challenge.

LEARN

Last week you explored the many missional opportunities around you. Remembering your life group will not be able to do everything, it is important to learn the passions, gifts, and spheres of influence to help determine where to serve. This will in turn help your group land on what serving together might look like in this week's topic.

Serving is not for us to feel better about ourselves, but to truly help others in their need. That is why it is important to take a humble, relational approach. Ask good questions and engage as a learner. God wants to teach you as well through relationships with those you are serving.

READ

Mark 10:35-45

DISCUSS

- What sticks out to you in this passage?
- How does service produce growth in you as a disciple of Christ? Share an experience where you were able to grow in your relationship with God and others through service.

PRAY

As a group, pause and take 5 minutes to pray and ask God to lead your discussion time and your decisions on where to serve. Ask Him to give you willing hearts and to help guide your steps.



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DISCUSS

- Look over the Kingdom Outreach Calendar and Life Group Service Opportunities. Have each person share which ones they gravitate towards and why.
- Start the discussion towards landing on a rhythm of serving together as a group. Talk through what, when, how often, etc. and mark your plan on the calendar (ideal if the life group leader guides and helps make this decision).

As your life group continues to serve together and learn together, it is ideal to find an ongoing focus point to go deeper in relationships and draw greater impact. For example, the focus point could be centered around reaching your neighbors, a justice issue, a partnering organization, evangelism efforts, etc.

ACTION STEP

A CHALLENGE FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

- This week do one act of service or good deed for someone who is not yet a Christian. It could be a family member, co-worker, neighbor, or friend. (Ex: Treat someone to a meal, send a care package, give a thoughtful note, do a service project, etc.)
- Look through the CA Outreach Events Calendar and mark the events on your calendar that you plan to attend.



WEEK 4: EQUIP EVERYONE TO LIVE A KINGDOM LIFESTYLE

REFLECT

Take 10 minutes to go around and debrief last week's lesson on service. Ask the questions: What act of service did you choose to do? How did it go?

LEARN

Last week you planned out a rhythm of service together as a life group. This is an important part of growing as a group. However, sometimes we have a tendency to compartmentalize our kingdom value as an outreach event, program, or something we give towards.

One-time service events are important, but what is more important is how each person is living out their kingdom calling where God has placed them in an ongoing manner. Our kingdom value is to be expressed as a missional lifestyle where we work, live, and play.

READ

2 Corinthians 5:20, Ephesians 2:10, and 1 Corinthians 10:31

In these passages, we see that we are Christ's ambassadors wherever we go. He made each of us unique, and He has a kingdom calling for all of us. In addition, God wants us to do all things for his glory, not just some things. He didn't say to live your life for yourselves except for times that are designated for outreach events, church services/programs.

Consider how you spend your time as if it were a pie chart. If you do an outreach event for 1 hour a week, that means that less than 1% of your time is going towards intentional outreach. However, seeing yourself as an ambassador of Christ wherever you go (where you live, work, and play), if you can reach those you have ongoing relationships with in your sphere of influence, you will have a much more lasting, further reaching impact.

One of the ways we can live a kingdom lifestyle is through our work. In the book, *Every Good Endeavor: Connecting Your Work to God's Work*, Tim Keller writes about how there are many ways to serve God through our work, which include things such as:

- Furthering social justice for the common good (that lines up with scripture)
- Being intentional in relational evangelism with those at work
- Working with integrity, skill, and excellence
- Working from a Christian motivation to glorify God, seeking to engage and influence culture to that end
- Doing work with joy, passion, and a gospel-changed heart through the ups and downs
- Making money and being as generous as you can



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DISCUSS

- What stuck out to you about the importance of seeing our kingdom value as a lifestyle, not just a series of service events?
- What could living a kingdom lifestyle look like for you in this season of your life? (consider spaces of where you work, live, and play)

PRAY

PALMS UP/PALMS DOWN EXERCISE

PALMS UP: Take time to thank God for what he has given you (ex: knowing Him, friendships, health, financial provision, gifts/talents, etc.)

PALMS DOWN: Everything good comes from the Lord. We are blessed to be a blessing. Take time to surrender these back to God and to surrender your hands as service to God (to be his hands and feet). Ask to be used by God in the work and ministry he has given you. Ask to be a vessel of his grace for others.

ACTION STEP

A CHALLENGE FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

Write out how you see yourself living a kingdom lifestyle in this season of your life in about half a page. You can refer back to the passions, gifts, sphere of influence matrix. Be specific, consider your context/life situation, work, and have faith. Develop an action plan for next steps this year.



WEEK 5: INVITE OTHERS IN & MULTIPLY

REFLECT

Share the kingdom lifestyle action plan you wrote down from last week's challenge. If it was difficult to come up with the steps, share why and what you think you would need to get there.

LEARN

As your life group is looking to live missionally and reach out to people, start inviting people into your group.

The way your life group loves one another and cares for each other's needs is one of your most important witnesses to outsiders. People deeply desire and need to see the real thing. Sometimes people need to belong before they believe.

READ

Acts 2:42-47 and John 13:34-35

Build a culture of hospitality in your group. One of the best ways to do this is to have an open Life Group. At CA, we believe that belonging is open, not closed. That means our heart is for Life Groups to be places where new people are continually welcomed.

Consider meeting in public places that are welcoming to others at times when you invite new people. You may need to be sensitive to the group dynamics for a safe space for sharing and confidentiality, so talk through this as a group.

As your group grows, consider multiplying and starting new groups by raising up another life group leader as a way to welcome more people into the community.

DISCUSS

- Who are some people that you are in relationship with that you could invite to join the life group?
- Consider creating a relational and welcoming event to invite others to (ex: park day, BBQ, outing, etc.). What ideas do you have for your group? Brainstorm ideas and make a plan.



PRAY

Take time to pray for those names and the action steps that your group decides on.

ACTION STEP

- Follow through on inviting the new people you discussed to your life group or social event.
- Reflect back on how the past 5 weeks of navigating this guidebook was transformational for your Life Group. What did you learn? What do you want to incorporate into your life moving forward?



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