

Life Group Manual



lighthouse

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Vision



OUR MANDATE

We will create a church that transforms it's community through innovation and the power of God.

VISION - WHERE ARE WE GOING

Our vision is to be a church that never shuts; a church without walls. A church that has so many laneways into the community, its only limit is the imagination of the people inside the church. Everyone is a minister all the time. We are committed to creating a church that transforms our community through innovation and the power of God.

Values

THE WORD AND PRAYER - what is God saying to you today?

Every aspect of our personal and corporate life should be established and sustained by daily communication with God through reading the Bible and prayer.

The Bible is the inspired Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16).

- It is accurate, reliable and relevant
- It is our final authority providing truth, strength and wisdom for our everyday life
- It provides every tool that we need to develop and grow a fruitful ministry
- A personal, Holy Spirit empowered prayer life is essential for spiritual health (Romans 8:26)
- Prayer gives us access to the presence of God; it is the power to build a successful ministry
- Prayer brings God's guidance, encouragement and correction
- Personal prayer brings intimacy; corporate prayer brings unity and authority



EVANGELISM - who did you share Christ with this week?

Evangelism is the communication of the gospel in such a way that it is made clear and relevant to those who don't yet know Christ.

- We must maintain a concern for the lost and be compelled by love to go out of our way to reach people
- We are called to share Christ with our friends, family and colleagues and those in our sphere of influence (Acts 1:8)
- We are to creatively share Christ personally and corporately

MULTIPLICATION - who are you intentionally growing in Christ?

We will create a culture in which all leaders recognise the call to multiply by:

- Helping people to grow spiritually in their walk with God
- Discipleship
- Developing leaders

A multiplying culture should result in exponential growth and will be created by all leaders and department heads developing strategy for the recruiting, training and releasing of leaders and volunteers.

Luke 19:16-17; Matthew 28:18-20

CARE - who are you intentionally caring for?

Care is the expression of God's divine love, grace and mercy toward people. This will be accomplished by:

- Bringing care and support to those who partner and fellowship with the Lighthouse family
- Providing general care at a Life Group level which includes practical care, authentic relationships and crisis care
- Ensuring adequate care of staff, lay people and volunteers
- Shepherding people under your ministry by
 - Strengthening the weak
 - Searching for those who are missing
 - Connecting those who are isolated
 - Identifying, discerning and meeting special needs of the people and liaising with the Pastoral Care Department



COMMUNITY - what act of kindness are you doing outside the church?

Community is moving beyond the walls of the church by:

- Providing practical and innovative initiatives
- Developing meaningful ways to carry out acts of kindness and community service
- Providing support and building the lives of those in the community
- Developing partnerships with a variety of like-minded people and organisations locally, nationally and internationally.

Leading Your Life Group



Why we have Life Groups?

Life groups are one of the key strategies we use to fulfil our Mission and Vision Statements and outwork our church values.

What are Life Groups?

Life groups are a group of 6-10 people within the community of Lighthouse Church. They meet fortnightly throughout the city in homes, parks, coffee shops and university, in the morning, afternoon or evening. They also do life together by praying, caring, socialising with one another. Life groups are not designed to be a large gathering of people but a vehicle through which people are connected and disciplined.

The groups are formed through relationships on Sundays and by the church Connect Team who allocate new people into the most appropriate Life group.

FACILITATING YOUR LIFE GROUP MEETING (GATHERING)

- Create time for each person to share about the church values
- Discuss and encourage your Life Group with the Life Group guide
- Pray and worship
- Mention important dates to your Life group
- Report Life group attendance

DOING LIFE TOGETHER (DISCIPLESHIP)

- Outwork the vision and values of the church
- A way of making big church: small church
- Help disciple new Christians
- Help connect new people into the church
- Where life questions and answers can be discussed
- Caring for each other in practical, spiritual and emotional ways
- Raise up future Life group leaders
- Helping people identify their spiritual gifts so they can serve within the church
- Provide a place of safety and community



LIFE GROUP LEADER

The information below applies to new and existing Life Group leaders.
Pre-Requirements for a Life group leader:

1. Be in a Life Group for 3 months before starting a group
2. Be a Partner of Lighthouse Church
3. Attending a Life Group
4. Read the Life Group Manual and having a good understanding of the content

Role Description

As a Life Group leader, you are:

1. Connecting people into a Christian community, by:

- Creating a warm, "open door environment" where all people at any stage of their journey are welcomed
- Taking responsibility to ensure new people find connection in your group or within another part of the church family

2. Equipping people so that they develop Christ-likeness by:

- Facilitating spiritual growth through encouragement and loving accountability
- Praying for and with the people in your Life group
- Helping people apply Bible teachings to their daily living through journaling, prayer and the word



Developing Your Leadership



Leading a Life Group isn't always easy.

We are committed to resourcing and equipping Life Group Leaders to flourish in this valuable role.

Accountability

Your Life Group leader is your direct leader for discussing things about your Life group. For any serious issues please see your ministry leader.

Connect Department

Please contact us by email at lighthouse@lighthousechurch.com.au or by calling 4229 9744 during business hours Monday to Friday if you have any questions regarding Life Group administration or support.

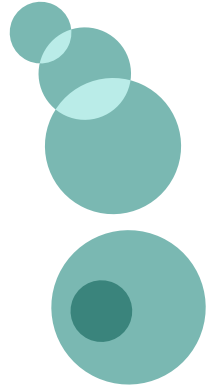
Inspire Nights

This is an opportunity for all current and future leaders to be disciplined by our Senior Pastors and key leadership team. We highly encourage all leaders to be part of these nights and encourage all Life Group members to come along too.

DNA Nights

These nights are specifically for Life Group Leadership training. We will be hosting four each year to equip and encourage all current and future leaders.

Effective Life Group Leading



LIFE GROUP MEETING: MEETING / ATTENDANCE

Recommended time required: 1 hour 30 minutes

What happens in a Life group meeting?

- Social time
- Life Group Guide
 - Discuss Sunday message
 - Share and implement church values
- Encourage upcoming church events
- Pray for one another

The Life Group Guide has been shaped with the purpose of equipping you to lead your Life Group successfully.

The Life Group Guide will be emailed to you on a weekly basis. It is also available on the church website at www.lighthousechurch.com.au, located under 'Resources'.

Life Group Guide example:



SUNDAY MESSAGE: Ps Paul Bartlett PM

Journey through Ephesians: **Sexuality**

Key Verses: 1 Cor 6: 9, 18-19

Hebrews 13: 4 / Ephesians 5: 3-5

Key Reference Text: Dr. Carolyn Leaf - *Who Switched off My Brain?*

Salvation is spiritual, yet the soul life is still bombarded with temptation and wrong thinking. In order to deal with temptation, it is important to understand our mind and have a plan of attack:

1. Our mind is a doorway - Luke 11: 34
Romans 12: 2: How can we recognise and deal with the pressure to 'conform to this world'?
2. Reflect - 2 Corinthians 10: 5. Philippians 4: 8. What are the benefits of reflection for Christians?
3. Journal - Habbakuk 2: 2
If you put it on paper, you can see non and conscious thoughts, you can see where you need to bring obedience to them.
Challenge: write the toxic thoughts down write what God says and pray about it.
4. Revisit - Psalm 119: 97-104.
A new pathway can be chartered in our mind in 21 days. It is as simple as choosing to think on good things.
5. Reach- Align thoughts with the word of God. Proverbs 3: 5, 23: 4

CHURCH VALUES:

Prayer and the Word – What has God been speaking to you through prayer and the word?

Community – Acts of service in your community

Evangelism – Sharing Christ with others

Care - Caring for others

Multiplication- Discipling others to be more like Christ



PODCAST

Jump online to check out the podcast of The SUNDAY MESSAGE

www.lighthousechurch.com.au/about-resources.php

Life Group Guide

Monday 24th October 2011

FACILITATING LIFEGROUP

Find out: What are they reading in the Bible? What are they hearing from God?.

Go through Sunday message: find out how it is impacting their life.

Discuss and encourage the church values (Church Values don't always need to be discussed. Your Life Group talking about these values and how they're implementing them is evidence enough).

End: Close in prayer.

Report attendance within 8 days.

Coming up:

INSPIRE NIGHT

TUESDAY 1ST NOVEMBER /
7PM /CENTRAL CAMPUS

CONTACT US:

P: 4229 9744

E: lighthouse@lighthousechurch.com.au

W: www.lighthousechurch.com.au

PO BOX W 73, West Wollongong NSW 2500
Office Hours: 9am-5pm, Monday-Friday

www.facebook/LighthouseOnline

www.facebook/weloveourcity

LIFE GROUP ATTENDANCE REPORTING:

www.flockwatch.com.au

lighthouse

Life Group Reporting:

It is important that attendance is reported. This helps us to better equip and care for the people of our church.

Online Life group attendance reporting procedure below:

PLEASE SEE THE Lighthouse Life Group Coordinator, email lighthouse@lighthousechurch.com.au, or call the church office on 4229 9744

Manual Life Group reporting sheets are available from the information desk.

How to care for people in your Life Group

- 1. Friendship** - We need to build relationships at LG level, it doesn't get much simpler. You will get to know your group on a personal level and can minister more effectively due to that level of relationship (1 John 1:17).
- 2. Keep in touch** - in today's world of technology it is often easier to say 'Hi' via Facebook, send a text message, make a phone call or send a card. You can pick up \$1 cards to have on hand; it's always nice when you receive a card. This tells the person that you are thinking of them and that you care (1 Thes 5:11).
- 3. Practical assistance** - this can be as simple as going a little out of your way to give someone a lift home from Life group or church. It could simply be doing a little babysitting if they have a doctor's appointment and may not have family living close by. Doctor's visits can sometimes radically change someone's life in 1 day (Gal 5:13).
- 4. Listening** - have a coffee with a friend and allow them some time to open up to you. If you don't know what to say it's often best to say nothing, the skill of listening is more valuable than even Oprah's top tips.
- 5. Encouragement** - when they are doing well, maybe they've stopped smoking recently - encourage, but have grace if they happen to start smoking again, continue to encourage.
- 6. Visiting** - someone has had a baby or an operation, visiting in hospital

doesn't have to be for long, 10 minutes is generally okay. Keep in mind hospital visiting hours.

7. Meals - Not every circumstance requires you to provide a meal. Having a bad day doesn't require a meal; probably a phone call is more valuable. However crisis situations arise and it can be more than helpful to supply a meal or two. This is where you need to include others in your LG to assist as well. You may burn out if you try to do it all. Be smart get your LG members to contribute \$5 each possibly and get some pizza vouchers. It's okay to make things simple; it doesn't have to be a 3 course meal.

8. Prayer - you may just need to say 'Can I pray for you?' Remind them that God is there for them and encourage them to always go to Him. He is the best carer (James 5:16).

9. Lead well - don't be afraid to include your other LG members, we will model to them care and as your groups expand and multiply they will have learnt these skills from you. Don't try to be the fixer of all things, God hasn't designed us to do it all alone.

How to Identify & Train Life Group Leaders

1. RECOGNISE

Pray

- Seek God for wisdom
- Have peace about it

Ground work

- Observe them in the areas they serve / their life
- How do they treat others in Life group?
- Do they have maturing faith?

2. RELATE

Informal catch up

- Mention that you see potential in them
- Ask them to facilitate a Life group session
- Look for strengths and weaknesses

Accountability / Vision / Values of church

- Life Group Leader Handbook
- Set clear expectations
- Sign off on their leadership

3. RELEASE

Start their group

- Attend first Life group with them
- Give feedback to them, help them lead
- Help them with problem solving / tackle the bigger issues

Communication

- Keep doors open / get together
- Encouragement

What to look for in a leader:

Character
Spiritual Fruit
Capacity
Leadership factor
Maturity
People skills
Passion
Alignment with Vision
Teachable
Reliable

Release Process

1. You do something
2. You show someone how to do something
3. They do it with you
4. Let them do it

Connection Pathway

The connection pathway is a journey all people are guided through when they join the Lighthouse Church. We encourage everyone to join a Life Group at any involvement level.



Stage One:	Decision for Christ New To Church	(Receive New Christian booklet)
Stage Two:	Meet The Team	(Receive Partnership booklet)
Stage Three:	Water Baptism	
Stage Four:	Serving	(Receive Discovery booklet)
Stage Six:	DNA Session	
Stage Seven:	Life Group Leadership	

LIFEGROUP

Being in a Life Group is important at any stage.

When people make a commitment to the Lord, a New Christian Booklet along with a Bible is given to them. It is important that the Life group Leader goes through and disciples them through this book. It is a question and answer booklet with in depth study which you will need to familiarise yourself with before meeting with them.

IMAGINE

If everyone in your Life group committed to pray for and disciple one person for the next 12 months.

Imagine if everyone spent time sharing, teaching, and equipping one person to disciple someone else like Jesus did.

Our Life groups would literally double within 12 months.

Our Church would increase not just in numbers but in potential, in strength, in service.

We would have greater influence in our communities, and most of all heaven becomes more populated, and Jesus is honored when we "... lay down our life for our brother."

Resources

Below are some great resources we recommend.

PASTORAL COURSES

Search For Life: 10 week program. Helps identify the cause of human tensions and introduces participants to the healing power of truth in a caring and safe environment.

Valiant Man: 10 week program. Valiant Man is about male sexual discipleship. This program with study and devotional guide is designed to fortify and restore the moral and spiritual integrity of men.

Making Marriage Better: 10 week program. Will offer couples keys and strategies to build strength into their relationship. This program is open to all whether married, separated, divorced or engaged.

CHURCH SESSIONS

Meet The Team: 45 minute session where new people can meet Pastor Paul and the leadership team. Hear the vision and culture of our church. Find out what it means to become a partner, hear what each department does in the church and how they can be better connected.

Baptism Class:

45 minute session which is a theological explanation of water baptism and Holy Spirit baptism. This is recommended before anyone gets water baptised.



DISCIPLESHIP BOOKS

The Purple Book – New Christian’s Booklet :

(Available from January 2012)

New Christian 12 week discipleship course.

The Journey – New Christian’s Booklet : (Available from church now)

Basic New Christian 6 week discipleship course.

Discovery – Spirtual Gifts Booklet :(Available from January 2012)

What are my Spirtual Gifts?

BLOGS / WEBSITES

www.andystanley.com

www.stevenfurtick.com

www.perrynoble.com

www.Churchleaders.com

Information

LIGHTHOUSE CHURCH

Central Campus
1 Railway Station Square
Wollongong

LIGHTHOUSE CHURCH

Southern Campus
4/9 Durgadin Drive
Albion Park Rail



SUNDAY SERVICES

(Children's Programs from 1 to 12 years)
Central Campus, Sunday 10:00 am and 6:30 pm
Southern Campus, Sunday 9:00 am

YOUTH NIGHTS (12-18 Years)

Central Campus, Friday 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Southern Campus, Friday 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

PHONE: (02) 4229 9744
FAX: (02) 4229 9932
POST: PO Box W73, West Wollongong, NSW 2500
EMAIL: lighthouse@lighthousechurch.com.au
WEB: www.lighthousechurch.com.au

For any questions visit the information desk on Sundays or call the office between the hours of 9.00 am and 5.00 pm Monday to Friday

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