

**River Community Church**

**Leadership Community**

**"Encouraging one another as we lead God's people towards God's purpose for their lives."**

**Philosophy of Small Group Ministry:**

**A. Beliefs**

-What God has revealed is what is true and real.

**B. Values**

-What matters most at the end is what matters most now.

**C. Actions**

-Love God, Love people in real and practical ways.

**Group Leader Core Qualities: (Direction not Perfection)**

**A. A track record of walking faithfully with Jesus**

**B. A track record of walking faithfully with others**

**C. A heart to learn and grow**

**Group Leader Core Competencies:**

**A. Meetings:** Becoming skilled at leading "good" small group meetings.

-Content: Is the learning portion of my small group meeting fully biblical?

-Coffee: Is the "hanging out" portion of my small group meeting allowing for authentic relationships?

**B. Mission:** Continually nurturing a heart and a vision for kingdom life multiplication.

-The Great Commission: Matthew 28:19-20

**C. Member Care:** Caring for one another in community to the end that we become like Jesus in increasing fashion.

-The Great Commandment: Matthew 22:37-40

**Group Leader Core Principles:**

**A. Simple:**

-Am I continually evaluating what we do by what we value and believe?

**B. Sustainable:**

-Am I continually evaluating what we do by the overall objective of faithfulness?

**C. Transferrable:**

-Am I continually evaluating how to pass on spiritual leadership to others?

**Training Year Overview:**

**A. Leader's Dinner (January)**

-Objective: Inspired & Encouraged leaders

**B. Leader's Retreat (August/September)**

-Objective: Competent and Confident leaders

**C. Leadership Community (1.February/March, 2.April/May, 3.October/November)**

-Objective: Skilled and Motivated leaders

\*Overview of the Document

Two Reasons for Us to Investigate this Document

1. Framework / Roadmap for group life.

\*\*Story about getting off track in Colorado

2. Provides Confidence and Conviction as we lead our groups.

\*\*Story about getting the Trumpet Fixed.

## **Let's Dive into the Framework**

### **Philosophy of Small Groups**

What do we mean by philosophy?

Philosophy = lover of Wisdom

Love a Wise approach to Small Groups

What is our wise approach?

1. What We **Believe (unchanging truths)**
2. Shapes our **Values (principles that guide what's important)**
3. Which informs our **Actions (behavior, patterns of operating, activities to do and not do).**

**We are a values driven church.**

- **Not Tradition Driven** = tradition says actions must stay the same.
- **Not Personality Driven** = only value charismatic, word gifted, outgoing people.
  - **Value = F.A.T. People** = faithful, available, teachable.

**How does Valuing FAT People inform our Actions?**

**When we are identifying (Action) an LIT we ask... who is the FATest person in the group?**

Not who knows the most scripture, who talks the most, or prays the most or who do I like.

Who comes regularly (faithful), who is pursuing Jesus (faithful, teachable) who is available to serve (available), who wants to learn and grow (teachable).

**On your sheet you will see another example of our beliefs, values, and actions in small groups.**

**Believe what God has revealed is what is real and true**

- All scripture is God breathed and useful. 1 Timothy 3:16

**Value Relationship with God and People because what matters at the end matters most now.**

- Love the Lord Your God with all your heart soul mind and strength and love your neighbor as yourself this sums up the all the Law and the Prophets.

**We take action to love God and People in real practical ways.**

- Gathering in groups to pray for each other, gathering in groups to spur each other on to love and good deeds, gathering to help each other apply scripture, gathering to organize showers, and watch each other's kids, calling each other, texting, painting each other's houses, etc... That is group life.

We don't "DO" small groups because we've always done small groups

Small group flow from what we believe and value

The way we do small groups, the leadership structure, organization of groups flow from what we believe and value.

What is an Action that you do in Group?

Not just the group meeting, but some activity that you engage in with regards to group life?

Example: Text each other regularly

Why - What value does that activity flow from?

What belief is that tethered to?

Beliefs -- Shape Values --- Inform Action.

Another example - Not from Group life

Video of the man who was same sex attracted.

1. I believe God's word to be true in regards to marriage being between man and woman
2. I value obedience to Jesus as laid out in the scriptures
3. I will not action on the same sex attraction that I feel.

If our beliefs and values don't shape our actions then we will be acting based on tradition, personal preference, popular trends.

Small groups are what a lot of churches do... Let's do small groups!

We do small groups because of what we believe and value.

We do small groups a certain way because of what we believe and value.

Apply this to your group life.

Take a look at these values and actions.

How do you see these values played out in your group life?

What values the these actions flow from?

Look at these values (not exhaustive)

Pick one or two

How does your group's Actions demonstrate these values?

Faithfulness

Single Story Life

Relationship

Growth in Christ Likeness

Participate in Ministry

Open & Honest Life

Clear Relationships

Success of Others

Submit to Leadership

Support the Work Financial

Give & Receive Correction

Look at these Activities of group life and add to this list if you want.

What values do these activities flow from?

Childcare

Snacks

Bible Study

Prayer

One on one time

Service Project

Baby shower

Wedding shower

Meals for new moms

Outreach

Start/End on Time

Identifying LIT

Develop LIT

We will be coming back to Believe - Value - Do often throughout our time in LC meetings.

\*\*Next item on our list.

### **Group Leader Core Qualities**

There is a Value related to these qualities. We value faithful life direction and not perfection.

Someone read out loud those core qualities for us.

What I like about these core qualities is what is **NOT** there!!

BE a gifted bible teacher

BE like Jim Lewis

BE another Beth Moore

BE like...

BE a scripture memory rock star!!

We have to let ourselves off the hook sometimes. God is not done with us

These core qualities keep us from saying.. I gotta step it up if I'm going to lead people. Yes we want to learn and grow but we don't have to be the Michael Jordan of small group leaders in order to be faithful to lead and love those God has given us.

We are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works which he prepared in advance for us to do.

Be with Jesus

Be with People

Be Learning

These core qualities answer two questions questions related to an LIT

How do I identify an LIT?

How do I develop an LIT?

### **Silent Activity**

Think of one person in your group.

Leader - group member or LIT.

LIT - group member.

Is this person walking faithfully with Jesus (yes, no, not sure)

Is this person walking faithfully with others (yes, no, not sure)

Does this person have a heart to learn and grow? (yes, no, not sure).

- Are they applying God's word to their life?
- Do they pray for healing and without searching for help?

If you don't have an LIT and you answers Yes to 2 out of 3, you got a good candidate for an LIT.

This would be a great activity for you to do with your LIT to help them develop.

LEADER: Hey Mr. LIT - You know Tom has been coming to group pretty faithfully but I'm not sure what his relationship is like with Jesus. Would you be willing to get lunch with him and see what his walk with Jesus is like.

LIT - Sure!

You just took a step towards developing your LIT! They are walking with people and helping another person walk with Jesus!

We just answered who a group leader is suppose to be.

Be with Jesus  
Be with Others  
Be Learning

What is a group leader suppose to do?

### **Group Leader Core Competencies**

Meetings - Become skilled at leading "good" small group meetings

- Content that is fully biblical and geared towards application.
- Coffee - Does the hanging out portion of group meeting allow for authentic relationships.

Mission - Continually nurturing a heart and a vision for kingdom life multiplication.

- Selecting and Training an LIT
- Encouraging outreach - praying for non-believing friends
- Inviting new people to your group

Member Care - Caring for one another in community to the end that we become like Jesus.

- Honor one another, serve one another, pray for one another, bear each other's burdens.

These three competencies are what will inform our training topics at Leadership Community Meetings.

Next meeting Terry is going to do training on Marriage, Remarriage, and Divorce in the Bible.

Two Competencies that relate to his upcoming training.

- Member Care - how to help people with this issue.
- Meetings - gaining skill in understanding the bible so you can lead good meetings.

### **Informal Walking Survey**

Meeting, Mission, Member Care

Leave your stuff where it is - Which of those competencies are you the strongest in?

- Don't move - Which competency are you weakest in?
- If you are weak in member care and you see someone standing in member care - you might have just found your member care coach!

Now for the Open and Honest question.

Which competency are you weakest in? **MOVE NOW**

Member Care - What makes you think you are weakest in member care?

Mission - What makes you think you are weakest in mission?

Meetings - What makes you think that you are weakest in meetings?

You know what is cool... wait for this is really sweet!

You can be weak in one of these areas but it does not disqualify us as leaders - because we have a heart to learn and grow!

The Philosophy, Qualities, Competencies, and Principles all relate to one another.

I'm not great or my group is not great at Member Care. That's OK.

Are you moving towards (a direction) of growing and learn how to strengthen member care?

Can you enlist help and encouragement? Talk to your LIT.



It could be that you are better at a competency of group than you realize because we are usually our own worst critic.

Go back to your seat - Last segment of the Framework

### **Group Leader Principles**

#### **Simple, Sustainable, Transferable**

Could I get one of the College leaders to stand and read out loud the section under simple, sustainable, transferable?

Let's think about how these principles relate to competencies.

Member care is weak for me, but since I have a heart to learn and grow, I'm grow in member care.

#### **\*Positive example of Simple, Sustainable, Transferrable.**

Our current approach to content in our group meetings.

**Simple** - we are going to discuss the sermons from Sunday. Lean on the years of training our Pastor's have received and the hours of study they put in each week.

**Sustainable** - When life blows up or a crisis in group blows up, I don't have to stress getting the lesson done.

**Transferable** - I can assign someone else in my group to lead the discussion.

Let me say a word about Simple

Simple can be confusing for me. What I mean by that is sometimes I think of simple as easy.

"Oh that is simple, not problem." We are saying that is easy.

Simple does not mean easy. It means not complex or compound.

If there is someone in my group that I want to get time with and the only time we can meet is 5am. That is the simplest time for us to meet, but it will may not be easy for me to meet then.

Simple does not mean no effort required.

## **Conclusion:**

We have been given a trust. To lead people towards God's purpose for their life. To Know Him, Love Him, and make His Love Known.

You are the right people for the task. Why?

Because you are walking faithfully with Jesus, walking with Others and you want to learn and grow.

I want us to close by praying together. I am going to divide you into groups and I want you to pray for these things.

Divided by the day of the month you were born on. My birthday is May 16. I am going to go to the group 16-20.

Pray for these three things. If you are overwhelmed by group life and leading right now. Pray for yourself.

1. Thank God for saving you and bringing you into His family the church.
2. Ask Him to Help you as you shepherd the people He has entrusted to you.
3. Pray for your group to grow in depth and number.

I will close us when we are done praying.

I have one more assignment for you.

In your somewhat randomly generated groups, look for someone you do not know and introduce yourself. Maybe they are a member care expert that can help you with that competency. Get to know them. Utilize this Leadership Community because you have a heart to learn and grow.

Break into your groups and pray.