

Semester Planning for Your Life Group

Each week during the semester, use this sheet to: (1) decide what you will do before the next group meeting, and (2) write into the group guide what you will do during the group meeting.

If you are a coach, show your leaders how to use this sheet to strategize for their groups.

- Dream:** Pray for God's dream for the group. (*Example of a dream for a group: Reach out with the Good Works and Good News of Jesus to the people we know and the people in our group's geographical area.*)
Share the dream with the group.
Talk about the dream at every group meeting.
Every semester, set a start date and an end date. Use this sheet to strategize steps for realizing the dream.
- Pray:** Pray daily for the group meeting and each group member.
Pray for a healthy, growing, multiplying group!
Pray for God to grow apprentices.
Keep a list of prayers & answers to prayers for group members.
Record prayer requests and answers on a big Post-It Note Easel, and use it at every meeting.
Pray and fast for the group!
- Invite:** Ask your group to make an invite list.
Ask your group members to look for Divine Appointments every day.
Pray for the invite list and for Divine Appointments every week during the group meeting.
Follow-up with each new person who visits the group.
Set dates for outreach social(s) during the semester.
Set dates for outreach service project(s) during the semester.
- Contact:** Contact a few group members every week.
Contact members to show care and get to know them, not just to give information or ask them to do things.
Vary your contact methods: phone, text, e-mail, card, e-card, visit, birthday balloon, meet over coffee, etc.
Pray for group members on the phone. Ask them if they would like to pray out loud too.
- Prepare** Prepare prayerfully each week for the group meeting.
Use this sheet each week to strategize prayerfully for continued growth.
Write or type on the group guide any items from this sheet that you want to add.
Make notes on which questions or other items on the group guide you want to use, delete, change, etc.
Delegate in advance different people to lead different parts of the next group meeting.
- Multiply:** Set a goal for multiplication, and share it with the group often.
Remind the group often that group is not all about us, but also about the people who are not here yet!
Pointedly set an empty chair into the circle at every group meeting. When you give gifts to group members (i.e. Christmas gifts, etc.), save an extra gift and give it to the next person who visits.
Acknowledge that multiplying a group is painful, but remind group members that Jesus calls us to sacrificial service, and ask them to serve sacrificially by being willing to multiply the group.
Regularly challenge everyone in the group to do SOAP-ACTS and LCG.
Share SOAP insights in the group meeting. (This ramps-up potential apprentices.)
Ask people to do parts of every meeting, coach them how to do it, and then debrief with at least 3 way-to-go's and 1 suggestion for improvement.
Go over the group covenant twice during the semester. Emphasize the purpose of the group to multiply.
Challenge everyone to take Next Steps: Following Jesus, join the church, Making Disciples 1, 1-on-1 disciple-making, Encounter, etc.
- Fellowship:** Get ideas and set dates for outreach socials and service projects. Ask someone else to organize them!
Plan dates to do communion during the Christmas and Easter seasons.
- Grow:** Evaluate your own health: spiritual, physical, relational, emotional, mental, financial time management.
Set goals in areas for improvement.
Get and maintain a relationship with an accountability partner for taking next steps in each growth area.