

HOW TO PREPARE A LIFE GROUP MEETING

1. If possible, schedule a meeting with an experienced Life Group leader to walk you through this process.
2. Pray and ask God's Spirit to give you direction as you plan your next meeting.
3. Think about the needs of your Life Group.
 - a) What issues have not been addressed? How can God's Word shed light on those areas?
 - b) Of the *7 Basic Commands of Jesus*, which one needs the most attention in your Life Group?
4. Solidify the objective(s) for your time together in a sentence or two and write them down at the top of a piece of paper.
5. Discover what in God's Word sheds light on the objective(s).
 - a) Your mentor can show you resources and methods for locating relevant Scripture.
 - b) The more you study the Word of God, the easier it will become to do this on your own. So ask your mentor to show you how to make Bible Study a part of your daily life.
 - c) See the "31 Great Topics for New Disciples" to the right. These Biblical principles provide excellent starting points if your group has new disciples
6. Think up a creative or effective way to get your Life Group to wrestle with God's truth(s).

For example: a) Role-plays or skits are great ways to involve children of all ages into your meeting time. Young children can play simple roles or make sound effects, while older children can recite lines and ask pre-planned questions to provoke group discussion.

 - b) Think up powerful, open-ended questions. These are the kind of questions that cannot be answered with a simple "yes" or "no".
7. Prepare this time together in such a way that includes as many people as possible, especially a developing leader.

For example: a) If you want to take communion together, have someone lead who have never led before. Briefly show them how in front of the group so everyone can learn.
8. Write out or type up your plans for each meeting. Give a copy to your mentor and save a copy so you can build a library of effective lessons for future leaders you will be mentoring.
9. Prayerfully submit your plans to the Lord throughout this process and always be open to the Holy Spirit. If you believe the Lord is leading in a different direction, be obedient

31 GREAT TOPICS FOR NEW DISCIPLES

1. Your new life is about relationship, not religion. Matthew 11:28-30
 2. Pray, pray, pray, pray, pray! 1 Thessalonians 5:17
 3. Don't talk to God about a few things. Talk to Him about everything. Philippians 4:6-7
 4. You can bring Christ to your friends, but God has to bring your friends to Christ. John 6:44
 5. Let Jesus Christ be number one in your life. Philippians 1:20-21
 6. Proper priorities are essential to spiritual growth. Colossians 3:1-2
 7. You can be sure that you are saved. John 10:28-29
 8. Being with other disciples is essential to your walk with the Lord. Hebrews 10:24-25
 9. Temptations will come, but God always gives you a way out. 1 Corinthians 10:13
 10. God presents to you an exciting opportunity. It's called discipleship. Mark 8:34
 11. You cannot live the Christian life. It's impossible. Galatians 2:20
 12. Keep your eyes upon Christ, not upon Christians. Hebrews 12:1-2
 13. Be encouraged—but never satisfied—by where you are spiritually. Philippians 3:12-14
 14. Life in heaven is free. Reward in heaven is earned. Revelation 22:12
 15. Set a high standard every day. 1 Peter 1:15-16
 16. Leave your old baggage behind. Colossians 3:8-10
 17. If somebody offends you, talk to that person, not about that person. Matthew 18:5
 18. Be realistic—Christians struggle with sin. Prepare for those struggles. Romans 7:19, 25
 19. You are not the owner, merely the manager, of everything you have. 1 Timothy 6:17-18
 20. Mental checkups are important to your spiritual health. Philippians 4:8
 21. Just serve, and God will reveal your spiritual gift. Romans 12:6-8
 22. Your family might think you're a religious fanatic. Matthew 10:34-36
 23. Specialize in self-examination, not cross-examination. Matthew 7:1-5
 24. Love is not an emotion. It's an act of the will. John 13:34-35
 25. Be quick to call sin what God calls it—sin. 1 John 1:9
 26. The Christian life has low moments. 2 Corinthians 7:5-7
 27. Temporary suffering can result in eternal reward. 1 Peter 1:6-7
 28. Since you are part of another world, don't love this one. 1 John 2:15-17
 29. Don't lose the contact with non-Christians—but be careful! Matthew 9:10-12
 30. When you explain the Gospel, explain it clearly. Ephesians 2:8-9
 31. Salvation is the starting point, not the stopping point. 2 Peter 3:18
- Excerpts from R. Larry Moyer *31 Days to Living as a New Believer*. © 2002

THE MENU PROJECT

If you write a lesson plan that works well with your group. Please send it to mattkristacain@cvi2.org so that it can be added to the MENU PROJECT. This project will allow your lessons to be available to other developing Life Group leaders.