



GROUP LIFE Leader Playbook

2024 Summer Version

CONTENTS

GROUP LIFE OVERVIEW	1
GROUPS OFFERED	1
DISCIPLESHIP DEFINED	2
GROUP LEADER JOB DESCRIPTIONS	4
NEW GROUPS, NEW LEADERS	5
BENEVOLENCE	6
CHILDCARE	7

OUR VISION: **Courageously Living** for Jesus and **Inspiring** Others to do the same!

GROUP LIFE OVERVIEW

Jesus said, *"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."* (Jn 13:35). Later, Jesus prayed for us to have unity as a group (Jn 17). None of these can be completed without being in a relationship with other Christians. Yet often, we experience tension in our lives and want the benefit of group life without the messy difficulty of being vulnerable and close to others. Impossible. Our busyness, insecurity, past bad experiences, fear, or exhaustion can get in the way of what God's best is for us. Take the risk.

One of the last things Jesus said was recorded in Matthew 28:18-20. It is the mission statement for our church and out of it comes our vision to be a people *Courageously Living* for Jesus and *Inspiring Others* to do the same. Group Life is the heartbeat of our church's response to Jesus' command to "make disciples" of all people.

GROUP LIFE OFFERINGS

Starting Point

A 3-week Sunday morning group for those seeking to know more about "how" we live out our vision. A first step to getting connected to RCF.

Community Groups

The largest offering of our groups for a wide range of people. For couples or singles, with some offering childcare. Content follows the Sunday sermons. Available some daytime & most nights of the week.

Seasonal and Demographic Specific Groups

Young Adults

Sunday evening group specifically for those 18-25ish. Get to know your peers and grow together in the study of God's Word.

Widows Group

Monthly lunch gathering for friendship, bible study and prayer. Includes ongoing care for new widows and practical needs support

Women's Bible Study (*Women in the Word*)

Thursday morning women's groups that involve high expectations for mid-week prep. Includes large group engaging teaching and small group discussion.

Moms N Munchkins (Fall 2024)

Thursday morning. Supportive group of moms sharing in the triumphs and trials of motherhood. No prep is needed. Come, pray, be encouraged!

Men's Breakfast Connect

Relevant content for men to make connection with others and regular kickoff of short term follow up groups.

Financial Peace University (Jan 2025)

Group content designed to help you experience God's best in your finances. Get help getting out of debt, thinking long term and/or maximizing the joy of generosity.

Virtual Group

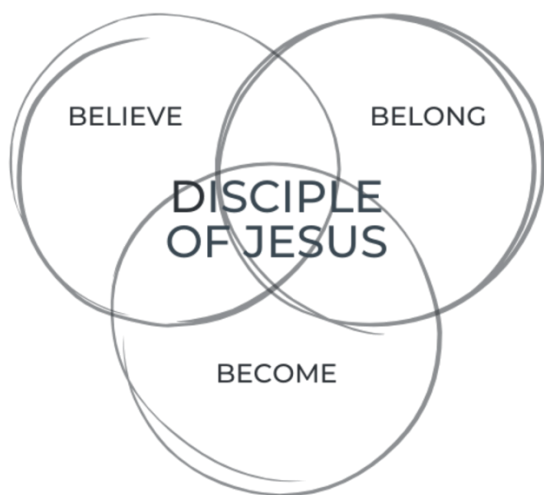
This group meets weekly via Zoom for connection, bible study, and prayer.

Single Adults

This Tuesday evening group is for those over 40 who are single/single again. They meet weekly for bible study and host frequent social events.

DISCIPLESHIP DEFINED:

A disciple is a “learner” of the way of Jesus. We talk about, practice, and learn more and more the way of Jesus. Disciples move beyond just understanding to obedience of all Jesus commanded. This is a relational life with others that results in a deepening Christlike love and transformation.



Believe: a continual *learner* from God's Word....

Belong: a disciple *embraces* life with others...

Become: a disciple is *outward* focused...

EXAMPLE OF *Believe, Belong, Become* STEPS:

As leaders, we help celebrate the steps of transformation we see in people's lives. Regardless of someone's starting point, we celebrate various types of steps toward Jesus. We are always growing as disciples and there are always steps to take and retake as we follow Jesus. We have provided a *brief* list of steps you can encourage and celebrate as you see them taken by those in your group.

What are other examples of steps you can celebrate? Add to the list yourself.

Believe	Belong	Become
⇒ Salvation	⇒ Baptism	⇒ Practice spiritual disciplines
⇒ Attend Starting Point	⇒ Attend worship	⇒ First Serve
⇒ Purchase a bible	⇒ Commit to a group	⇒ Tithing
⇒ S.O.A.P. study	⇒	⇒
⇒	⇒	⇒
⇒		

EXAMPLES OF *Believe, Belong, Become* CONVERSATIONS:

We have defined a “disciple” as a learner of the way of Jesus. The way of Jesus is a lifestyle that fully embraces Jesus’ values. This means we take his words in scripture seriously and center our values and life priorities there. Better than an “I know it,” it is an “I live it” thing.

As disciples and disciple-makers, having a framework to process life issues is helpful as we let scripture speak into our lives. This is where “believe, belong, become” begins to deeply shape our thinking personally, one-on-one, and in group conversations. It takes practice.

Here are a few common topics that may come up in conversation. Often, you will have to name it more clearly as someone expresses a hurt, confusion, or challenge. Notice, this isn’t “slap a verse on it to feel better.” This is a chance to have a conversation because we both want to be transformed by God’s Word as disciples (learners) of the way of living like Jesus. We all need Jesus’ wisdom and grace.

Potential Issue identified:

Anxiety/Worry: Matthew 6:25-34, Romans 8:31-39

Forgiveness: Colossians 3:12-15, Luke 23:33-34, 1 John 1:8-10, James 5:16

Guilt/self-doubt: Luke 15:11-32

Lack of confidence (identity): Genesis 1:26-27, Psalm 139, John 15:5-8

Sin: Galatians 6:1-2

Trust: Proverbs 3:5-6

Financial Giving: Matthew 6:2-4, Acts 4:33-35, 2 Corinthians 9:6-11, 1 Timothy 6:17-18

Grudges/Judgmental: Matthew 7:1-6

Gender/Sexuality: Genesis 1:26-28

Salvation: John 3:16, Romans 10:9, Ephesians 2:8-9

Belong Questions

- How does this issue show up in relationships?
- What am I feeling and not saying?
- What story is running through my mind?

Believe Questions

- What story/lie have I told myself about this topic?
- What does the bible say?
- How does this passage confirm or contradict my narrative? What do I need to repent of? I believed that ____ but actually ____.

Become Questions:

- What is holding me back from living this?
- What is under my control? Not in my control?
- How can I help you take a step?

GROUP LIFE LEADERSHIP

Each group is set up slightly differently due to the variety and types of groups available at RCF. However, in general, the following two roles should be present in every group.

- **Group Leader** – This is the person responsible for the health and ongoing function of the group. They are the point disciple-maker for the group as a whole and in alignment with the church mission and vision.
- **Group Co-Leader** – this is an apprenticeship role that is intentionally learning from the leader. They may at some point take over point leadership of their own group, but they do more than “fill in” and are integral to the group's health.

TEAM JOB DESCRIPTIONS

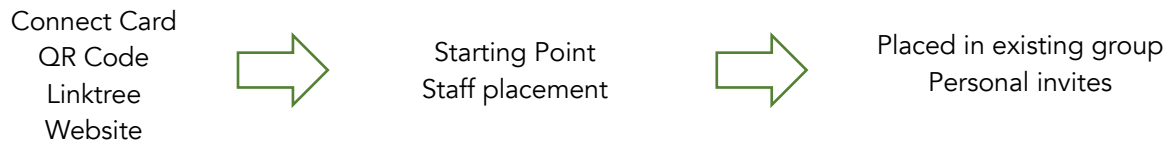
Primary Responsibilities for **GROUP LEADERS**

1. Shepherd the group by facilitating gatherings and monitoring group health.
(this would include making sure the hospitality gifts within the group are activated, especially if the leader is weak in areas of hosting, hospitality, or social connection)
2. Live and foster an environment for people to grow as healthy disciples of Jesus (as defined by “believe, belong, become”).
3. Respond and be proactive by communicating in a timely manner with group members, coaches, and staff. Use the CCB app for attendance and accurate record-keeping.
4. Committed to team leadership. If you have a question, ask and quickly involve others.
5. *Other unique duties based on the type of group you are leading.*

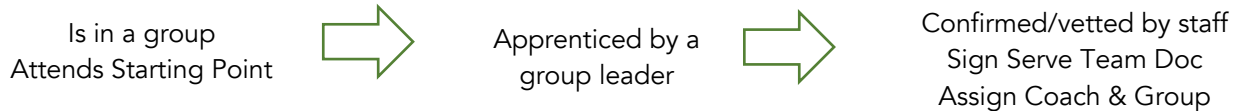
Additional Responsibilities for **COACHES**

6. Be intentional in your relationships with your assigned group leaders through equipping meetings (covering competencies, encouragement, and prayer).
7. Seasonally meet with leaders to assess the health of groups related to the discipleship definition of “believe, belong, become.”
8. Share and report stories of wins with the broader team.
9. Assist staff with planning, launching new groups, and helping new people join groups.

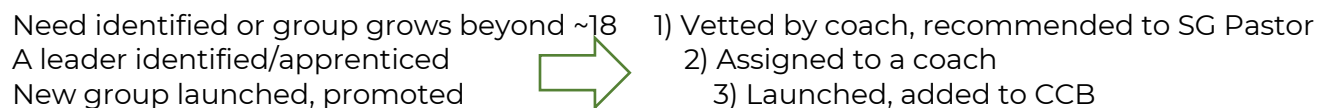
How an individual joins a group:



How an individual becomes a group leader:



How new groups launch:



Fall & January Promotion

Group Life registration focus

- Every new participant registers through a single online form (routed through Linktree, from the website, or from QR codes)
- Current group leaders confirm attendance, Cheryl cleans up group rosters
- Starting Point is the only exception to Group Life form
- Handout – simple list with day, first names of leaders, area of town, time, limited details
- Lanyards – all Group Life leaders are encouraged to wear lanyards to help people find a group

Follow-up process on sign-ups:

- 80% done by Cheryl for follow-up placement
- 20% Cheryl routes directly for WITW, YA or Singles leaders to contact. Robbie contacts Starting Point interest.

Benevolence Disbursement to Group Members

Part of leading a group is knowing what is going on in group members' lives and caring deeply in ways that show up practically. Examples include meals when sick or after surgery, celebrating a child's birth, picking up someone from the airport, or walking through grief after the loss of a loved one.

At RCF, we serve one another because Jesus served us first and gave us an example to follow. Practically, this shows up in the life of RCF by us asking that needs first be met by the group someone is in. This often works out as a blessing in the life of the group and individual. However, there are situations that arise that go beyond reasonable financial support for a single group. In those situations, we encourage you as the group leader to either reach out or assist the one in need to reach out for help from our Benevolence Team.

Here are a few general items to know:

- Requesting benevolence does not guarantee financial assistance.
- Application: there is a review process before distribution that includes financial questions.
- Cash is not given, but certain bills are paid within parameters.
- Help is available beyond paid bills. Several RCF attendees are professionally and financially trained and have offered to meet with individuals for help with budgeting and other skills.

Group Life Childcare Reimbursement

We recognize that adequate childcare can be a barrier for some groups. One of the main stressors can be the financial burden on young families, which might make participating in this ministry difficult. To alleviate this challenge here are a few guidelines in place for us to offer a subsidy.

We only subsidize groups officially part of Reno Christian Fellowship's Group Life ministry.

Criteria:

1. The Group is operating in all areas of RCF's ministry vision as stated above in the Group Life playbook.
2. The Group has been approved for childcare reimbursement.
3. Groups are responsible to find their own childcare workers.
4. The Group keeps a record of monies paid to workers each week (with a copy of checks or receipt for reimbursement).

Parameters:

1. Each worker will be paid \$30/evening of care. CG members are welcome to increase the amount paid from their own resources.
2. If the children are being cared for in the same dwelling where the group is taking place, there can be one worker for up to 8 children, depending on age and needs.
3. If sitting does NOT take place in the same dwelling, there must be two workers in order to be reimbursed.
4. Each worker must be 14 years of age or above.
5. Group Childcare reimbursement will be paid consistently through one member of the group (via BillPay) and can be paid weekly or monthly, but reimbursements must be submitted within 30 days.
6. To be reimbursed, submit requests to Cheryl Pierce and include date of service, your name, Group (if other than leader), and name and amount of person being paid.
7. The Group parents assume all responsibility for quality and supervision of their children. RCF is simply providing financial reimbursement.