

C.A.R.E. Guide For Life Group Leaders

“A method to love on and shepherd your people”

C – Cover in Prayer

A – Ask, “How are you really doing?”

R – Raise Up New Leaders

E – Encouragement

We have created an acronym for the word "C.A.R.E." to outline the key areas that our Life Group Leaders should focus on. These four values are listed in order of importance, with the first being the most crucial.

C – Cover in Prayer

Our top priority is to ensure that every individual who attends a Life Group is prayed for daily by their respective Life Group Leaders. We strongly believe in consistently building relationships and interceding with prayer for each other's needs. Therefore, Life Group Leaders need to be fully aware of the prayer requests of the attendees in their respective groups.

We also believe it's crucial that you, as a Life Group Leader, pray for them several times monthly through emails, texts, and/or phone calls. These contacts are not for bragging but for affirming spiritual support among Life Group members. They help create a culture of prayer that flows from the members.

A – Ask, “How are you really doing?”

Proverbs 27:23 says, “Be diligent to know the state of your flocks and attend to your herds.” Through regular communication, Life Group Leaders need to keep their finger on the pulse of the attendees' health and spiritual vitality.

We also believe it's essential to check in with attendees about their Bible reading and prayer habits. It's been observed that people are more likely to follow through with tasks that are being monitored. Therefore, with Love and C.A.R.E, we aim to encourage attendees in their spiritual growth consistently.

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R – Raise Up New Leaders

Life Group Leaders have a crucial responsibility to mentor potential leaders who can replicate their group to start new ones or branch their group. This vital aspect of growth and ministry advancement is often neglected if the vision is not consistently communicated to the attendees. Therefore, it is essential that leaders stay focused on this vision and work towards achieving it.

This focus on intentional growth is one of the reasons why Life Group Leaders are essential for our numerical growth. Our goal as the Adult Discipleship Team and the Life Group C.A.R.E. Leaders is to infuse the Life Group Leaders with the same desire and passion that we have to see the groups multiply and grow. We learned long ago (the hard way) that we couldn't develop new leaders to start new groups if only one person had the vision burning hot within them. We need to let that fire spread and be kindled in a team of Life Group Leaders if we want to see the dreams God has placed in our hearts come to pass.

E – Encouragement

We need Life Group attendees to be profusely encouraged all the time. We need to encourage, encourage, encourage, and after we've done that, we need to encourage them some more!

We've seen attendees quit attending if they are not strengthened to persevere because a Life Group leader was unable to take the time to see how they were doing. This dynamic is fascinating because “encourage” has the word “courage” in it. To encourage someone means to “put courage back into” so they can return to battle and fight the good fight. We know the primary way for people to stay on course is to be active in your Life Group.

In conclusion, not only does this C.A.R.E. approach work for Life Group leaders, but it also works for the Life Group members, their friends, and their families. Our Discipleship Team and Life Group C.A.R.E. Leaders will make every effort to minister to you as a Life Group leader as you C.A.R.E. for your Life Group attendees.

Following a pattern similar to the Jethro Model (Exodus 18), we should implement Life Group C.A.R.E. for every tier of leadership in our Discipleship Life Group ministry. We need every leader and attendee, at every level, covered in prayer, asked how they are really doing, raising up new leaders, and being encouraged. If we do this, we will have a thriving Life Group ministry.