

GRUPOS DE VIDA

LIFE GROUPS



MANUAL FOR
LIFE GROUP LEADERS
OF COMUNIDAD TRANSFORMADORA



MISSION

To provide spaces that stimulate, in an organic way, interpersonal relationships of spiritual growth, so that people get to know the Father in a personal way, grow in their communion with Him, understand His purpose for their lives, and develop their potential.

THE “WHY”

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV) 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

- This is a mandate for all of us, children of the Heavenly Father.
- We have to go where the people are, and not just wait for people to come to congregational meetings.
- The ultimate goal is to make disciples, not just to add believers to the local congregation.

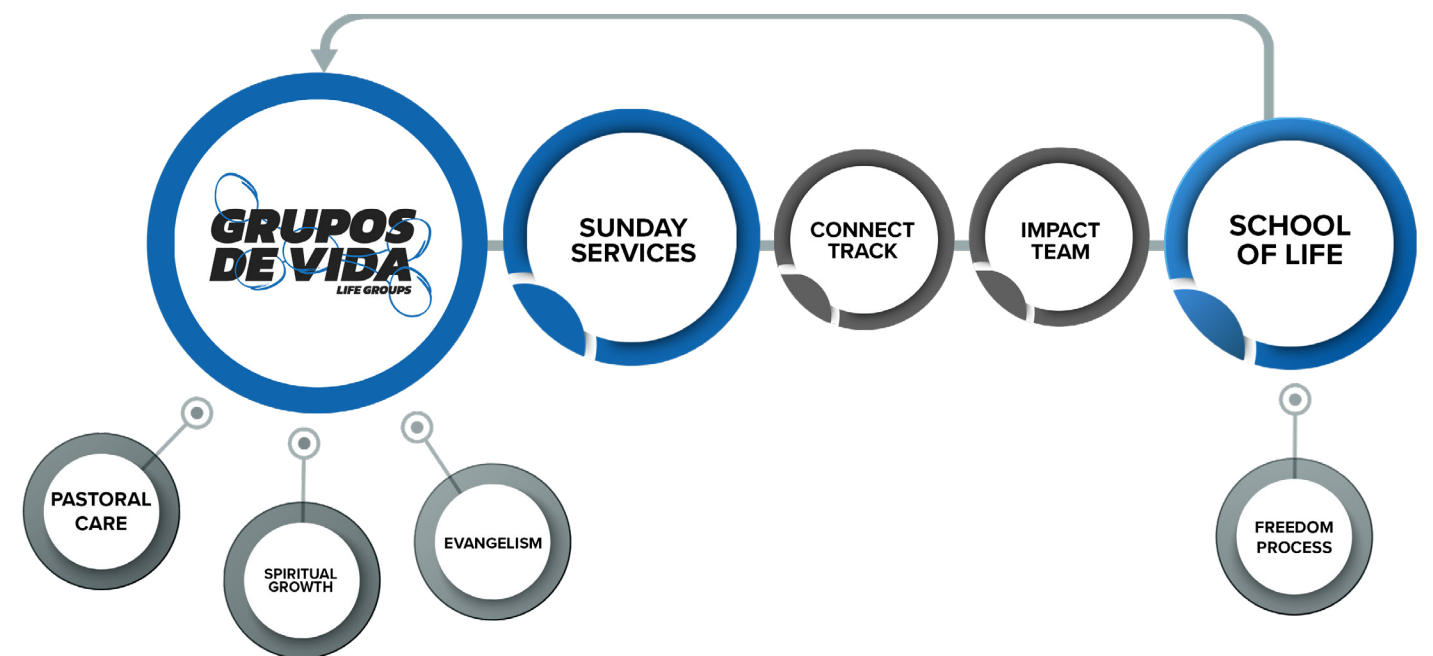
THE “HOW?”

Acts 5:42 (NIV) “Day after day, in the **temple** courts and from **house to house**, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.”

The Christian church of the first century, the most successful in the expansion of the Kingdom of God and in the transformation of its members, met in 2 places on a regular basis: in the temple and in homes. In difficult times, especially of persecution, when it was not allowed to meet in the temple, the church survived and grew through meetings in houses. In the homes, interpersonal relationships are developed that the Heavenly Father uses to bring salvation, healing, freedom and spiritual growth.

In the temple, experiences with Heavenly Father are provided; experiences that inspire and promote faith in Him. In the temple we celebrate what Heavenly Father has done in the homes, we learn about the vision of the local congregation, we receive training to develop ministry in the homes and for the transformation of the community.

In “the houses” the message of salvation is shared and the biblical principles for Christian living are taught. In the houses, immediate personal needs are met, the power of God is experienced and personal discipleship is developed. We have defined that the center of our work as a congregation is Life Groups. While we strive to provide inspiring and quality Sunday services so that those who attend us have an understandable and meaningful experience with Heavenly Father and His Word, we realize that personal transformation happens through meaningful interpersonal relationships and discipleship. These interactions are only possible in small groups. For that reason, Life Groups are at the center of our congregation’s strategy and structure.



Our philosophy for Life Groups:

- 1** Life Groups are the most important thing we do at Iglesia Comunidad Transformadora.
- 2** Life Groups are the main “gateway” to the church community for those who are far from Heavenly Father.
- 3** Life Groups are units of pastoral care, discipling, and of spiritual growth.
- 4** The Word of God in the heart of the leaders and their testimony of life are the two elements that make our Life Groups effective.
- 5** The growth and multiplication of Life Groups depends mostly on the group leader themselves. The leader is the best source of promotion of their own group. An enthusiastic leader, who takes the initiative to invite others with a personal touch (one on one) can ensure a good attendance to their group and consequently its growth and consequent multiplication.

IN LIFE GROUPS:

- The “lost” are rescued; they are now sons and daughters of Heavenly Father
- The new sons and daughters of Heavenly Father are healed and delivered so that they can discover and understand God’s Eternal Purpose and develop the personal purpose and assignment for which they were created.
- New sons and daughters of the Heavenly Father learn the basic principles of God’s Word so that they become mature sons and daughters
- These sons and daughters become disciples who reflect the character of Christ in all areas of

their lives. These sons and daughters participate in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20)

- Disciples develop the personal leadership that the Father has given them in order to fulfill their personal purpose and assignment.



TARGET groups

In order to be more effective with the work “in the homes” through the Life Groups, we have classified people according to their closeness to Heavenly Father and according to their interaction with our congregation.

GREEN GROUP

The people in this group are the number one priority of our Life Groups. This group is composed of:

Family members, friends, co-workers, classmates and neighbors who are far from the Heavenly Father; and therefore have not received the gift of salvation through the sacrifice of Jesus.

All those who do not regularly attend an evangelical Christian congregation.

BLUE GROUP

Family, friends, co-workers and neighbors who are open to hearing about the Bible and the message of salvation.

People who are in the process of salvation and reconciliation.

People who regularly attend a Life Group but are not yet involved and serving in the general services of the congregation.

RED GROUP

People who, although they regularly attend a Life Group and/or Sunday services, still require a maturity process.

People who require a process of accountability that allows them to break habits and cycles of sin.

People who desire to grow in their commitment to Heavenly Father and to reach out to people who do not yet know Him personally.

Identify your "Oikos"

THE "WHO?" - MY OIKOS

Before we think about what kind of group we would like to have, we must think about the people we need to reach. Remember that the Great Commission is "Go". In the Bible, the Greek word "Oikos" is used to describe people whose lives intersect with ours. The word "oikos" includes family members, neighbors, co-workers and friends.

Think of 8 people who are close to you but far from God. They can be neighbors, family members, co-workers or friends; people you interact with on a daily or weekly basis.

It is the Father's desire that entire households (whole Oikos) join the family of God. Jesus' model for evangelization is organic multiplication... we want to follow His example.

Of the 8 people you thought of, which ones are close to you (an ongoing relationship), but far from God? Or maybe they all know Christ personally but need a safe place to be accountable and grow in faith.

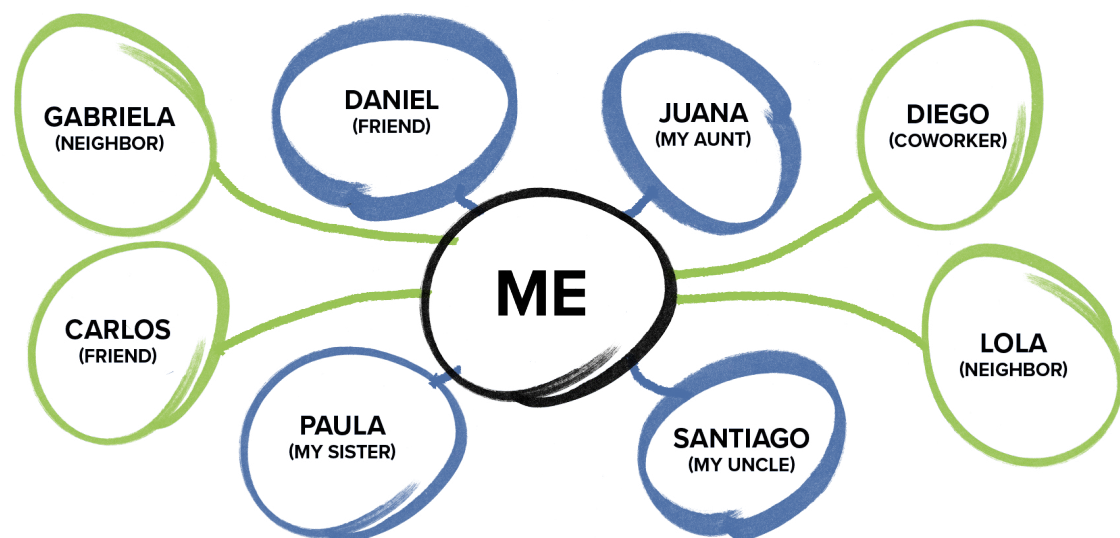
The key to reaching them is to think about what these people need in order to know the Father and grow in their new life in Christ. Think about what they need on their "way to Christ".

Your Life Group's strategy and plan should be focused on the needs of those people, not on your own tastes or desires.

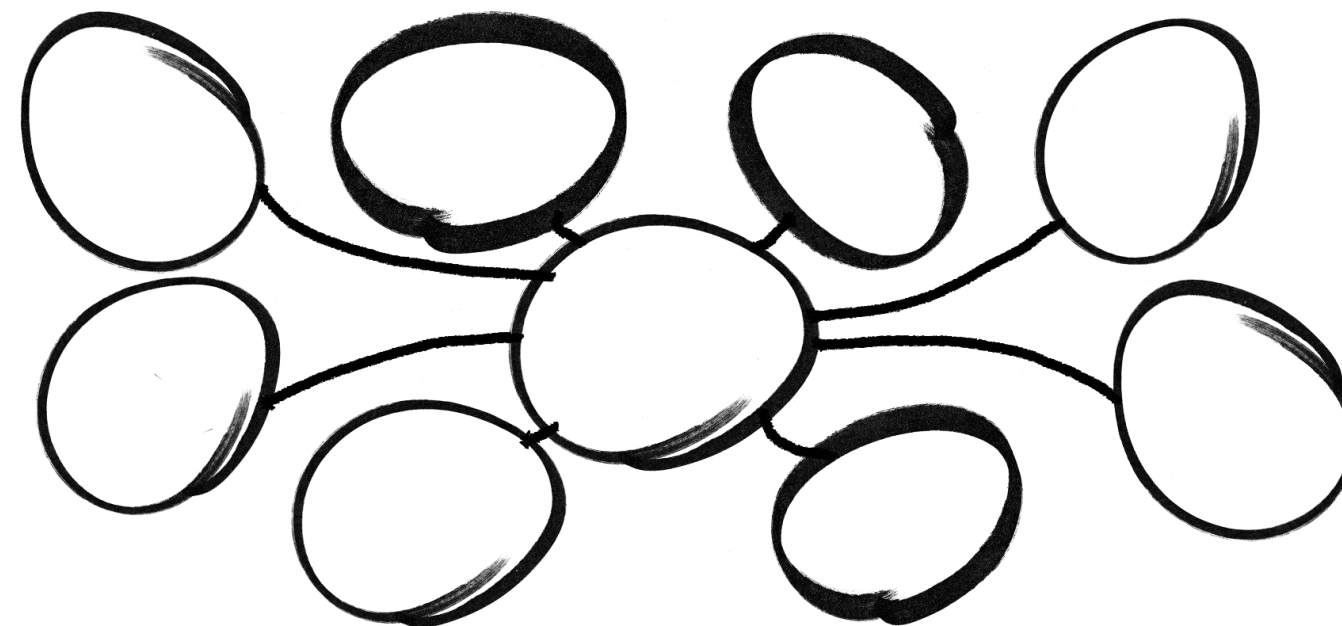
We want to be intentional in reaching out to those who are not close to the Father, and in creating spaces for those who need to grow in their faith. Therefore, first of all, we need to identify the "who"... meaning, our "OIKOS"

Who are in my "OIKOS"?

In the map below, you can see an example. In the center is your name. In the 4 circles around you are the people who are most "open" to receiving the Gospel message (Blue Group). The 4 outermost circles are the people who are a little less "open" to hearing the Gospel (Green Group).



Write down the names of the 8 people in your oikos that you "feel" the Father has put on your heart to develop an even closer relationship, to witness to them about what Christ has done in your life, and to invite them to draw closer to God the Father.

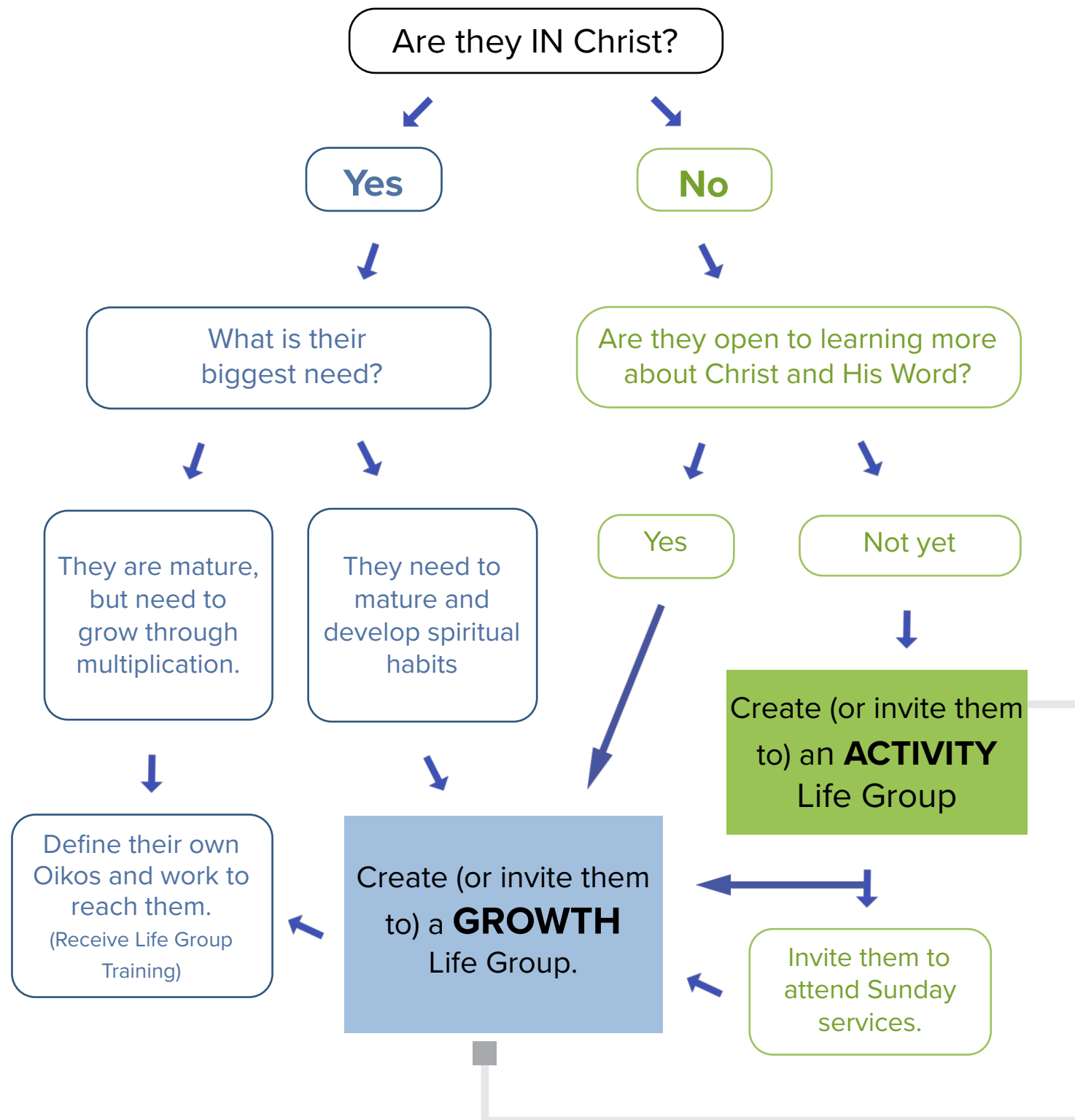


Steps to reach your "oikos"

1. Pray for them every day. Ask the Heavenly Father to let you see them the way HE sees them; with mercy, compassion and a clear "vision" of what they can become if they receive Christ as their Lord and Savior.
2. Develop an even closer and more intentional relationship with them. Interpersonal relationships prepare the heart to receive the Gospel of Salvation.
3. Perform acts of service for those people. While we do not believe in transactional evangelism, (which would be, us doing something so that people feel compelled to come to our groups or church), we serve because that is the nature of Christ in us. Service always opens doors in the minds and hearts of those who are far from the Father.
4. Be intentional about having "spiritual conversations". By "spiritual conversations" we don't mean religious conversations, but conversations in which you share how Christ has transformed your life for the better. Since you know these people, you can prepare for these conversations in advance and seize the moment when the opportunity arises.
5. Invite the person to your Life Group before inviting them to Sunday church services. Statistics show that people who attend a Life Group for a while usually stay and get involved when they start attending Sunday services.

Choose your ideal Life Group

Use the following diagram to determine the type of Life Group that will work best for the people in your “oikos”.



ACTIVITY Life Groups

They are used to reach people in the **GREEN** group. These types of Life Groups revolve around a special activity based on the interests of those people who are still in the process of “opening themselves up” to Christ and His Word.

These activities are of a sporting, recreational, intellectual, artistic, cultural, etc. nature.

Objective: to create meaningful relationships that allow for spiritual conversations that lead the person to receive Christ in His heart and open themselves to listen to His Word.

GROWTH Life Groups

They are used to reach and affirm people in the **BLUE** group and to provide deeper and more intentional spiritual growth for people in the **RED** group. If anyone in the **GREEN** group would like to participate, they are welcome to do so.

This type of Life Group revolves around the Word of God.

Objective: to read, study and reflect on the Word of God in such a way that people understand it better and mature in their spiritual life in such a way that the life of Christ governs them.

To achieve this we will have 3 formats:

1. Topic Study Groups.
2. Bible Reading groups.
3. Accountability groups.



THE BASIC STRUCTURE OF A LIFE GROUP

ACTIVITY

Many groups develop special activities based on the particular interests of their members.

CONNECTION

Every Life Group meeting should begin with a time of connection and fellowship. This is the opportunity to greet each other, get to know each other and make everyone feel welcome.

CONVERSATION

This is the most important part of a Life Group, and the one to which more time should be devoted. Interaction and participation should always be encouraged. It is not about “teaching”.

PRAYER

Every Life Group meeting should always have a moment of prayer: for needs and for salvation.

REFLECTION

(or meditation)

The structure of the reflection time will be different depending on the type of Life Group you have.

CONNECTION

At the beginning of the Life Group, take time for everyone to introduce themselves, especially first-time attendees. If you have any important announcements, this is a good time to communicate them. You can also eliminate the “awkward” atmosphere with an “icebreaker” question to get everyone talking. Eating is practically mandatory at any Life Group. Sharing a meal or snack helps people let their guard down, relax and “open up” more.

REFLECTION or meditation

Based on the Bible, a book or text

1. Prepare

- Before the meeting prepare what you are going to share.
- Do not improvise.

2. Be enthusiastic

- About the subject and towards the people in your group

3. Be a facilitator, not a preacher.

- Remember that your goal is to get participants to process the concepts, reflect and construct their own thinking.

4. Help everyone have a chance to give an opinion

- Silence is not a bad thing. Use the “awkward pause” to help people come out of their “shell.”
- Ask specific people to give feedback when they don’t volunteer to respond.

5. Keep the reflection “on track”

- Gently guide the conversation back to the defined topic for the Life Group meeting - Don’t allow someone to hijack or take control of the Life Group.

6. End with a challenge

- Ask your group members to come up with an action step to begin to put what they have learned into practice. This is a good starting point for a one-on-one conversation.

PRAYER

Always take time to pray for one another:

- Pray for needs
- Pray for acceptance of Christ
- Pray giving thanks for everything.

DISCUSSION

This is the part of the Life Group to which most of the time should be devoted. The next few pages will explain in more detail what this time might look like depending on the different types of groups.

ACTIVITY

Many Life Groups conduct activities based on the interests of the people they want to reach.

NOTES:

GROWTH GROUPS

Choose one of the 3 following formats to develop your growth group. You may change formats each Life Group season.

Format 1:

TOPIC Study

TARGET GROUPS: BLUE (and RED)

Suggested number of participants : 4-10

Duration : 1.5 to 2 hours maximum.

GOAL

To provoke a conversation (discussion and reflection) on a relevant biblical topic, so that participants learn the biblical principles of that topic and know how to put them into practice in their daily lives.

Also, to promote a sense of community among the participants; a sense of “we are growing in life together”.



STUDY GUIDES

You will receive a Study Guide with the content that will be developed in the Life Group. This way you will not have to worry about preparing the theme and content of your meetings.

The Study Guides will be delivered before the new Life Group season begins, in a meeting with Pastor Alex and Pastor Brianna. At that meeting the content of the Guides will be reviewed and any doubts that may exist will be clarified.

It is possible that, on some occasions, the Study Guide will be based on the series of messages that are being developed on Sundays during the service, so don't miss them.

BEFORE BEGINNING THE GROUP

Remember that the priority of these groups is to provide an environment that promotes the participation of all attendees. Although biblical topics will be studied, these are not in-depth Bible study groups. Avoid preaching.

Think about the people in your “oikos” who belong to the **blue** group: family, friends, co-workers, classmates and neighbors who are “open” to hearing God’s Word. You could also invite people who irregularly attend Sunday services and who need to be affirmed in the faith; **red** group.

Define a place and time to meet once a week. Make sure that the time is convenient for most of the people you want to reach. Keep the same schedule every week.

Use every means possible to promote your group and to remind them of the date and time.

Encourage participants to use a paper Bible, but don't make this a rule.

FORMAT OF THE MEETINGS

FIRST MEETING

1. Welcome the group. Ask everyone to introduce themselves. Do an icebreaker dynamic (10-20 minutes).

2. Explain that the objective of the group is to have a conversation in which everyone expresses their opinions and ideas about the concepts presented, and especially, to talk about how these principles could be applied to their own lives.

3. Presentation of the topic using the Study Guide. You, or someone you have designated, will present the topic using the Study Guide (20-25 min).

4. Reflection, conversation and discussion using the Study Guide questions (30-40min).

- Remember that you can, and should, adapt the questions to the characteristics of the group.

You can modify the questions or add more questions if needed.

- Remember that your goal is for EVERYONE to participate in the conversation and express their opinions. Do not allow “hoarding”

- Avoid getting into controversial topics (politics, other religions, racial issues, etc.).

5. Prayer time (10-15 min)- Begin by praying in relation to the topic that was studied.

- Then ask if there are any personal requests. Pray in faith believing that God will be glorified in those situations.

- Invite those who have not yet received Jesus as their Lord and Savior to do so. At the end of this material you will find recommendations for doing this.

6. Time to share food. This is one of the most important moments in a Life Group, as you can get to know people better through informal conversations. People open up more and go deeper into personal matters in this type of environment.

7. Remember to create a safe and respectful environment.

REGULAR MEETINGS:

1. Welcome. Ask new attendees to introduce themselves. Optional: do an icebreaker dynamic (10-20 min).

2. Presentation of the topic using the Study Guide (20-25 min).

3. Reflection, conversation and discussion using the Study Guide questions (30-40min).

4. Prayer time (10-15 minutes)

5. Time to share food.

You could start the meeting with time to eat, if that is more convenient for you.

Format 2:

BIBLE Reading

TARGET GROUP: BLUE (and RED)

Suggested number of participants: 3-8

Duration : 1 - 2 hours at the most.

GOAL

That the participants become familiar with the Bible; that they learn to read it correctly, that they learn to listen to God's voice through that reading, and that they develop the habit of doing a personal devotional at least 4 times a week.



BEFORE BEGINNING THE GROUP

Remember that most of the people who will participate in these types of groups have not had much contact and experience with the Bible, therefore the priority is that they learn to read it correctly and that they can extract its principles on their own. These should not be in-depth Bible study groups. Avoid preaching.

Think about the people in your "oikos" who belong to the **blue** group: family members, friends, co-workers, co-workers and neighbors who are "open" to reading the Bible. You could also invite people who irregularly attend Sunday services and who need to be affirmed in the faith; **red** group.

Define a time and place to meet once a week. Make sure that time is convenient for most of the people you want to reach. Keep the same schedule every week.

Use every means possible to promote your group and to remind them of the date and time.

Remind participants to use a paper Bible and keep a notebook. Use a Bible version that is understandable: New International Version.

MEETING FORMAT

FIRST MEETING

1. Welcome the group. Allow everyone to introduce themselves. Do an icebreaker dynamic (10-20).

2. Explain that the objective of the group is to learn to read the Bible correctly and to learn to hear God's voice through it. Make it clear to them that this will not be an in-depth Bible study group where only one person will speak, but that everyone will share what they are understanding and "hearing".

3. Explain how they should read the Bible:

- They should pray before reading, asking God to help them hear His voice as they read.

- Each day they will read one chapter. If possible they will read it in the morning before "starting the day". The goal is to read 5 chapters of the Bible a week. You may "miss" 2 days.

- As you read you should be very attentive to what God the Father wants to tell you through the Bible.

- You should keep a journal where you will write what God spoke to you. Use a paper journal, but if it works better for you, you can use your cell phone.

- Explain that in the journal they will try to answer the following 6 questions:

a. What did Heavenly Father speak to you through what you read today?

b. Did the Heavenly Father exhort you to do something, or to stop doing something through what you read?

c. What principle, truth or lesson did you discover or learn through what you read today?

d. Were there any promises from God for your life?

e. In what ways can you apply or put into practice what Father spoke or taught you today?

f. Was there anything in the reading that you did not understand or that was not clear?

- Explain that they will not always find answers to all the questions in the daily reading. In that case, write down what they found.

4. Define the book of the Bible you are going to read. Everyone should read the same book of the Bible. If you finish with one book, you can start with another.

Read only New Testament books so they will be affirmed in Christ. Suggestions:

To learn more about Jesus and his public ministry, read the 4 Gospels in this order: **Mark, Luke, Matthew and John.**

History of the first church: The Book of **Acts.**

If you want to see how Christ fulfilled the entire Old Testament, read **Hebrews.**

If you want to affirm who we are IN Christ, read **Romans, Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians and 1, 2 and 3 John.**

If you want to work on Christian character and conduct, read **James, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Peter and Jude.**

If you want to study about personal leadership, read: **1 and 2 Timothy, Titus and Philemon.**

If you want a more "light" reading, you could read the book of **Proverbs.**

Do not read Revelation yet as, due to its symbolic language, it requires explanation.

5. When starting a new book of the Bible you should make an introduction to the book explaining:

a. Who wrote the book?

b. To whom is the book directed?

Explain to the people that the Bible was not written directly for us, therefore not everything it describes should be applied to us literally. However, the principles and truths are for us.

c. What is the historical context of the book?

d. What was the purpose of the book?

This is the frame of reference for understanding specific passages in the book.

e. What are the main themes of the book?

We recommend that you use a Study Bible. This type of Bible has an introduction to each book in which these questions are answered. They also contain explanations of difficult passages and notes on the historical context. Some study Bibles are: Life Application Bible and the Life in the Spirit Bible.

VARIANT OF THIS GROUP TYPE:

If the level of the participants in the group requires it, they could do the Bible reading during the group meeting instead of doing it each one at home. In this case:

- Everyone should use the same version of the Bible to avoid confusion.
- Explain to the people that they will read at least 1 chapter of the Bible together, maybe more or less.
- Choose one person to read the chapter aloud, someone who reads well and at a good pace.
- Then each person will read the chapter quietly.
- Then each person will answer the questions in his or her journal.
- Finally, they will share what they wrote. They could do this in two ways:

- a. everyone answers the first question, then the second and so on.
- b. people choose what to share from what they wrote in the diary.

This type of group will progress very slowly, but is suitable for people who have a very low reading level.



REGULAR MEETINGS:

1. Welcome. Ask new attendees to introduce themselves (10 min).

2. Pray for the Holy Spirit to speak to you as you share (5 min).

3. Time to share what they wrote in the journal. Ask the person to read the portion of the Bible God used to speak to them (60-70 min).

You could do this in two ways:

- a. everyone answers the first question, then the second and so on.
- b. people choose what to share from what they wrote in the diary.

Obviously it will be impossible for everyone to share everything they wrote in their diary, so focus on what Father spoke to them most.

Important: it is very possible that at some point someone will ask a question about something that was not clear or that they did not understand, and for which you do not know the answer. In this case:

- Do not try to invent or assume an answer.
- Use your study Bible, maybe the explanation is there. Don't spend a lot of time searching.
- Be honest and tell them that you don't know the answer but you will look it up and bring it to the next meeting.
- Write the question down so you don't forget it - Contact the Life Group pastor or one of the more knowledgeable pastors or church leaders and ask them the question.

4. Prayer time (10-15 min) Pray according to what Father spoke to you through the reading. Ask if there are any personal requests. Pray in faith believing that God will be glorified in these situations.

5. Time to share food. You could start the meeting with a time to share food, if it is more convenient for you.



TARGET GROUP: RED

Number of Participants: 3 - 4 at the most

Duration : 1.5 - 2 hours at the most.

GOAL

To train people in the 3 most important habits for the spiritual growth and maturity of a disciple:

1. Read the Bible daily and have a time of prayer and communion with the Heavenly Father.
2. Be accountable for their spiritual life; attitudes and behaviors.
3. Define and implement a plan to testify about their new life to the people in their circle of interaction or influence, (their "oikos").

Formato 3:

ACCOUNTABILITY Group

BEFORE BEGINNING THE GROUP:

Remember that the priority of these groups is to train people in the discipline of being accountable for their actions and their devotional life. Unlike the other types of Life Groups, in these groups people are expected to maintain a high level of commitment to the process: meeting day and time, and daily Bible reading.

Think about the people in your "oikos" who belong to the **red** group: people who irregularly attend Sunday services and or a Life Group and who need to be affirmed in the faith and make a greater commitment to their spiritual growth.

Explain that you want them to participate in a deeper process of growth and maturity that involves daily Bible reading and accountability in key areas of their lives.

Define a time and place to meet once a week. Make sure that time is convenient for most participants. Keep the same schedule each week.

Remind participants that they should use a paper Bible if possible, but don't make this a rule. They may find it more convenient to use their phone for reading.

Accountability card. Accountability cards are recommended for this type of group. Contact the Life Group pastor for the cards you need.

MEETING FORMAT

FIRST MEETING

1. Welcome the group. Allow everyone to introduce themselves (10 minutes).

2. Read and explain the accountability card carefully. Ask each participant to keep this card in their Bible so they don't lose it.

Copies of this card are available at the Connect Center at the church. You may also request them from the Life Groups pastor.

3. Ask them if they have any questions or doubts, and make sure that each participant understands the conditions for being part of this type of group.

4. After they have reviewed the card, tell them that you will give them 3 days to reread it, think about the commitment involved in being part of this Life Group, and to confirm whether they will stay in the group or join a group that does not require this level of commitment and responsibility.

REGULAR MEETINGS :

1. Welcome [5 minutes].

2. Accountability Questions [25-30 minutes].

3. Bible Reading Review [45-60 minutes]

4. Prayer Time [10-15 minutes]

Accountability Questions

If possible, all questions should be answered each week. Explain that the idea is to answer directly and without much explanation. Don't let the time for accountability questions turn into counseling time.

Each member of the group should respond to all the questions. No one can say "I pass".

Here are the accountability questions:

1. Have you been a witness of your relationship with your Heavenly Father to your unbelieving friends and family by your actions (deeds) and words this week?
2. Have you committed any sin, fault or allowed an attitude that you feel is disrupting your fellowship with the Father, and that you need to confess?
3. Have you become angry with someone or are you still angry, resentful and bitter toward someone? Why?
4. Have your family relationships been in accordance with God's Word (love, respect, obedience, love for others) being an example to your family?
5. Have you had contact with sexually stimulating material or have you had inappropriate thoughts about another person?
6. Is there a bad habit, character weakness that has dominated you this week?
7. Have you maintained your integrity in financial matters: tithes, offerings, payments or debts?
8. Did you Congregate with the church family: Sunday Service, Life Group?
9. Question selected by the group participants. At the first Group meeting, the leader explains to the group members that they should choose a question about an area in which they all want to be accountable. This question could be changed if necessary.

Bible Reading Review

1. Group members will be required to read a number of chapters each day. The group will have two options for doing this reading:

Option 1:

Start with 1 chapter of the Bible per day. The first month you will read 1 chapter per day (7 in total per week), the second month 2 chapters (14 in total per week) and the third month 3 chapters (21). This option is ideal for those who are not used to reading on a regular basis.

Option 2:

The 3 chapters of the Bible are read (daily) from the beginning. This option is ideal for people who are used to reading.

2. Read from only one book of the New Testament per week.
3. If the book you are reading has fewer chapters than there are chapters to read that week, start over the same book.
4. Read each day and not all the chapters in one day.
5. As you read, underline words or phrases that are important; use signs such as "!", "?" next to the text for emphasis. Write personal comments in the margins of the Bible.
6. If any of the members do not complete the total reading (the chapters defined for the week), all members will repeat the reading of the same book until all members complete the total reading.
7. Each week they will answer the following questions:
 - a. Did you complete this week's reading?
 - b. What did the Father speak to you through what you read this week in the Bible?
 - c. What did you learn through the reading?
 - d. Was there anything you did not understand? What was it?
 - e. Did the Bible exhort you to do or not do anything?
 - f. Did you discover any of God's promises for you?

Recommendation: Read only New Testament books so they will be affirmed in Christ.

To learn more about Jesus and his public ministry, read the 4 Gospels in this order: **Mark, Luke, Matthew and John.**

History of the first church: The Book of **Acts.**

If you want to see how Christ fulfilled the entire Old Testament, read **Hebrews.**

If you want to affirm who we are IN Christ, read **Romans, Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians and 1, 2 and 3 John.**

If you want to work on Christian character and conduct, read **James, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Peter and Jude.**

If you want to study about personal leadership, read: **1 and 2 Timothy, Titus and Philemon.**

If you want a more "light" reading, you could read the book of **Proverbs.**

Do not read Revelation yet as, due to its symbolic language, it requires explanation.

Evangelism Plan

Each person in the group should choose three people (family members, friends, co-workers, neighbors) who are far from Heavenly Father. but close to them (Oikos). The group should develop a plan to witness to them about life in Christ, that should include:

1. Daily prayer and intercession for these people: Pray that the Father will give you opportunities to show these people His love through actions (good deeds). Pray that the Holy Spirit will prepare their mind and heart to receive the message of salvation.

2. Regular acts of service. Explain that most people are not "looking for Jesus," but they are looking for meaningful relationships with people who will help them improve their quality of life. Because of this, we believe it is very important, before sharing with them the message of salvation, to give testimony of a life transformed by Christ and His Word. As part of that demonstration, people must see in us a spirit of love and service. Therefore, we must invest time in our relationship with them before "preaching" to them. Doing acts of service will go a long way in this process of gaining trust.

3. Share with them how they can receive Christ as their Lord and Savior. If the person is willing, you could meet at another time to study together some of the materials for new believers.

4. Invite them to participate in a Life Group that they themselves will open, or one of the Life Groups that already exist.

5. Invite them to participate in the Church meetings on Sundays.

6. Each person in the group will give a small weekly report on the acts of service, or the progress of the relationship with those they are trying to win for Christ.

Prayer Time

First pray for the 3 people listed for each member of the group. Pray name by name, interceding for their salvation. Then pray for each person's personal requests.

GRUPOS DE ACTIVIDAD



TARGET GROUP: GREEN

Number of people : There is no minimum or maximum.

Duration : The duration of these groups will depend on the type of activity they are doing.

GOAL

Connect with people who share similar interests and passions, and who would like to develop community with others. The main objective of this type of group is to develop meaningful relationships and friendships in an organic way, with the goal of gaining their trust, especially of those who are far from Heavenly Father. Once trust is gained, you will have the opportunity to have spiritual conversations: presenting the message of salvation and promoting faith in Heavenly Father.

EMPHASIS

The emphasis of these groups is on the activity of interest, and not on a Bible study or religious activity, therefore, you should avoid religious language and any kind of formal preaching. Your focus should be on witnessing through your character and attitude of service.

BEFORE BEGINNING THE GROUP

Remember that the priority of the Life Groups is the people, so you must adapt to the characteristics of the participants. You can change the order of the activities to achieve a greater and better effect.

Think about the people in your “oikos” who belong to the **green** group: family, friends, co-workers, classmates and neighbors who are far from God and whom you want to reach.

Choose an activity that you can lead that will appeal to these people.

Invite those people to participate in your Interest Group. Make this invitation as personal and direct as possible.

Define a time and place to meet once a week. Make sure that this time is convenient for most of the people you want to reach. Keep the same time each week.

Use every means possible to promote your group and to remind them of the date and time.

If possible, start each meeting with the activity of interest and plan to have a break at some point to share with them the reflection you have prepared in advance.

MEETING FORMAT

1. Welcome the group. Allow everyone to introduce themselves. (10 Minutes)

2. Explain to the participants what the meeting agenda will be. It is important for them to know that you will do a reflection at some point during the meeting. Explain that in that reflection you will share principles and thoughts that have helped you in your personal life, family, work, etc.

3. At the time of the reflection, tell them that you will pause the activity so that you can share a reflection that will help them improve their quality of life.

- Do not say things like, “Now we are going to do a Bible study.”

- Make sure the reflection is no more than 10 minutes.

- Depending on the characteristics of the group you can do your reflection using a passage from the Bible or simply mention it (without reading it). Do not use more than 1 Bible passage. This passage should be short.

- We recommend that you use the book of Proverbs as it contains principles for successful living described in a very simple and short way.

- These reflections should be very simple and practical. They should not be confrontational, and should promote faith in Heavenly Father.

- Here are some ideas to prepare your reflection:

1. Choose a single topic and look for a single passage you can use.

2. Read the passage several times and in several versions.

3. Think of real-life examples with which you could explain the passage.

4. Always try to present practical ways in which people could apply the principle you shared.

5. If the type of group allows, ask questions such as:

a. What do you think about what I just shared?

b. How does this connect to your life?

c. How might we apply this principle to life today?

4. Depending on the characteristics of the group, you may want to take a few minutes at the end of the reflection to pray for the needs of the participants. You might ask, “Do you have any personal needs that you would like me to pray for before continuing with the activity? Pay close attention to the prayer requests so that you do not omit any.

Recommendation: write the prayer requests on your phone or in a notebook so that the following week you can ask them directly how they have been doing with that need.

- At the end of the prayer, make sure you always say this “Father we know that you love us deeply and that you sent Jesus to die on the cross for us, so that we can enjoy a personal relationship with you and an abundant life.” In this way people will become accustomed to hearing the message of salvation in a roundabout way each week.

REMEMBER

- Remember that you must adapt to the group and not the group to you, therefore, you may modify the order of the activity and reflection parts of the meeting.

- You should intentionally create opportunities for one-on-one conversations during the time of the activity or at some other (opportune) time when you will present the message of salvation to them.

-For those groups that will be reading a book or using a curriculum, you may substitute discussion of the material (book or curriculum) for reflection, as long as the book is Christian in content and directly promotes the person having a personal encounter with Christ and developing a personal relationship with the Heavenly Father.

All material (book or curriculum) must be approved by the pastors. If the material does not have a Christian background, you should prepare the reflection using the Bible.

SPIRITUAL CARE

Assuming spiritual responsibility for the Life Group includes:

- 1. Facilitating** opportunities for non-believers participating in the Life Group to receive Christ as their Lord and Savior.
- 2. Discipling** those who show the desire and availability of time outside of the Life Group meeting to meet one-on-one or in a small group.
 - Study material for new believers
 - Accountability Group
- 3. Provide** pastoral care: basic counseling, prayer for needs, hospital visits, seek solutions for the financial needs of Life Group members who require it. Refer more complex cases to pastors.
- 4. Motivate** new believers to join the Sunday services of Iglesia Comunidad Transformadora and, especially, to complete the Connect Track.

LIFE GROUP LEADER RESPONSIBILITIES

SERVICES

Attend **Sunday Services** regularly so that Life Group participants can be organically integrated into the congregation. Also be ready to pray and minister to others during the service.

MEETINGS

- Attend **DNA and/or Team Night** meetings. In these meetings we will pray for the personal needs of Life Group leaders, share leadership and Kingdom principles, and provide instructions for fulfilling the Mission of the church.
- Attend Life Group leader **trainings**:
 - Monthly meeting (Zoom) with the Pastor and/or Life Group Pastor.
 - Special trainings and seminars.
- Have completed (or be completing):
 - The Connect Track
 - The Basic Discipleship materials (Your New Life, Your Life in Christ, Your Life in the Body)
 - The Purpose, Potential and Plan Workshops
 - The Freedom Process (Freedom Weekend)
 - The School of Life

SUBMISSION

Submit to Community Transformation Church's General Vision and Core Values.

- 1. Vision:** Community Transformation.
- 2. Mission:** We are dedicated to helping each person understand God's purpose for their life, and to develop their potential.
- 3. Core Values:**
 - 1) INTEGRITY
 - 2) STEWARDSHIP
 - 3) DEPENDABILITY
 - 4) TEAMWORK
 - 5) EXCELLENCE
 - 6) RESPECT
3. Recognize and submit to the pastoral **authorities** of Iglesia Comunidad Transformadora.

INTEGRITY

Challenge: Maintain moral integrity by keeping biblical principles. Below is a list of some principles that we identified but are not limited to these.

1. Be aware of your weaknesses and sinful nature and be intentional in keeping it submitted to the rule of the Spirit.
2. Have an accountability partner to keep a clear conscience in order to lead the Life Group in integrity.
3. Some examples that reflect your commitment to maintaining moral integrity and living governed by the Spirit are:
 - a. Avoiding the use of alcohol or any other drug or addictive behavior.
 - b. Avoiding private ministrys with persons of the opposite sex, or emotionally compromising situations with someone other than your spouse.
 - c. Abstain from practices that affect their sexual integrity according to biblical design, such as homosexual conduct, pornography, premarital or extramarital sexual relations.

Challenge: To be an example of healthy **spiritual leadership**. Below is a list of some principles that we identified but are not limited to these.

1. Be faithful with your financial support to the vision of Iglesia Comunidad Transformadora (tithes and offerings).
2. Avoid turning the Life Group into a "mini-service" or "mini-church" (Sunday format).
3. Be careful with your social media postings and interactions. For example, political or religious comments, as well as inappropriate photos or language.
4. Avoid using the Life Group meeting for the promotion of any type of non-church ministries, products, or personal or corporate services.
5. Avoid collecting offerings during the Life Group meeting. If the Life Group is going to raise funds for any relief or social project, they should communicate it to the Life Group Pastor.

What do I do when a person wants to receive Christ in their heart?

1. If you feel that a person is ready to receive Christ into their heart, you can take a moment during the reflection time, or one on one to tell your testimony, and explain the Father's plan. If it makes it easier, you can use the picture on the next page.

2. After explaining the Father's plan, ask the person if he/she understood it, or if he/she has any questions. Treat the person with love and patience.

3. Next, ask him where they find themselves, and if they want to be "adopted" by the Father, and receive salvation. Pray with the person.

YOUR TESTIMONY

There is nothing more powerful than your testimony. You don't have to have memorized the entire Bible to share your faith with someone, just tell them what your Father has done for you.

Suggested format of your testimony:

1. It should be less than 2 minutes with no unnecessary details.
2. Think of 2-3 words you identified with before Christ (ex. rejection, pain, fear, anger).
3. Now think of 2-3 words you identify with now, after having a relationship with the Father (ex. love, peace, joy...etc).
4. Focus on these key words and write your story including them.

5. Practice with someone several times before sharing it with a non-believer.
6. **DO NOT USE RELIGIOUS WORDS** (ex. sanctification, altar, evangelistic campaign, etc.) They may not understand them and it may cause confusion.

REMEMBER

We do not know the process of each person. They may come to the group ready to receive Christ, or they may take a long time in the process. Sometimes we may not even see the end of the process.

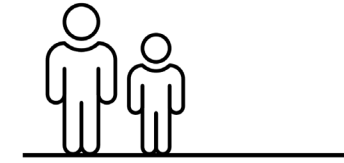
We can think of a scale of -6 to 4, and just try to take the person to the next level.

- 6 Resistant to the subject of Christ
- 5 Receptive to hearing others speak about Christ
- 4 Seeking - Asking questions
- 3 Considering if this might be for them
- 2 Understands the plan of redemption
- 1 Ready to accept adoption
- 0 New life in Christ
- 1 Being part of Christ's family
- 2 Growing in their faith
- 3 Serving others in the church
- 4 Sharing their faith with others

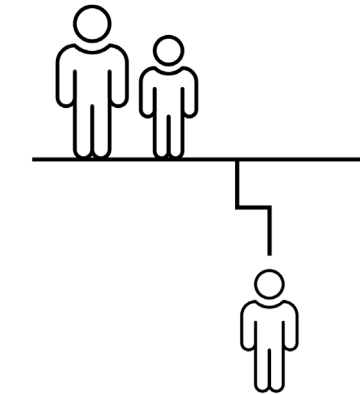
The Holy Spirit does the work in each person's heart. Sometimes they go through all the levels very quickly, or sometimes it takes years. But the important thing is that you are obedient to the voice of the Spirit, and walk with the person, wherever they are, and at their pace.

THE FATHER'S PLAN

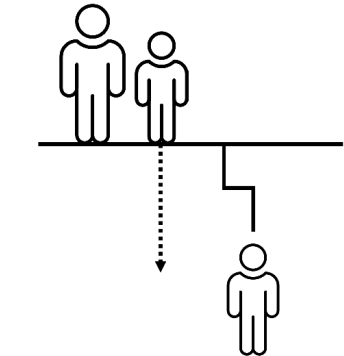
God's eternal plan is to have a family with sons and daughters who are a reflection of His Son.



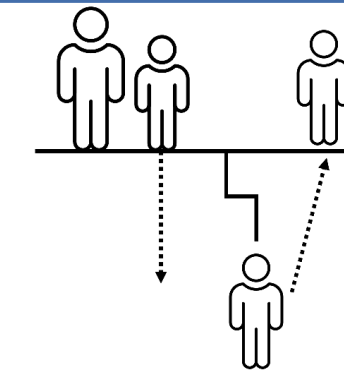
We decided to go our own way, and follow our own desires (sin) instead of following the Son. This caused a great separation between us and the Father. There is nothing we can do to restore that relationship.



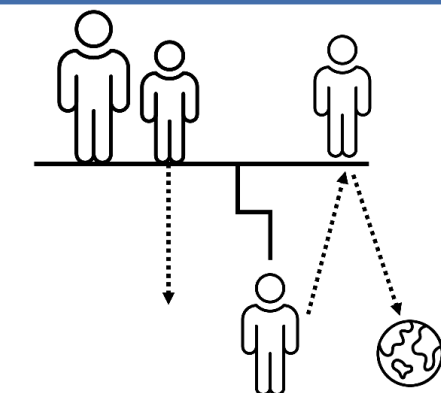
But because the Father loves us so much, He sent Jesus to earth, He lived a perfect life, and He died and rose again, taking our place and canceling the sin that separated us from the Father.



Through Jesus, we are adopted as sons and daughters of the Heavenly Father ... Something we could never achieve on our own or by our own merits.



Now, as part of His family, we have a mission to help others on earth, so that they may know the Father. As a son and daughter I have a specific purpose and the potential to help others.



What do I do after a person receives Christ in their heart?

1. You must be sure to maintain regular contact with the person who has just received Christ outside of the Life Group meeting time.

Remember that the enemy will do everything possible to discourage that person so that they become discouraged and fall away from the faith. (Matthew 13:18)

2. If the person is eager to learn and grow more in their new life:

- You could meet with the person at another time to study some of the materials for new believers together.

- Invite the person to attend Sunday services. If the person continues to attend, invite him or her to complete the Connect Track.

- At the end of the Life Group season, you might invite the person to participate in a Growth Group. You can open and lead that group if you wish.

- If you observe that the person has truly surrendered to Christ as his or her Lord and Savior, explain water baptism and encourage the person to be baptized.

- If appropriate, explain about baptism in the Holy Spirit and pray for them to receive it.

NOTES:

If you have any questions about Life Groups, you can contact us in the following ways:

Send an email to brianna@myct.church

Visit the Life Groups page on the website: myctspanish.org/grupos



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