



The Four Goals of Life Groups

Some Things To Keep In Mind As You Lead

Chi Alpha is a ministry centered around Life Groups. Following are four goals of Life Groups. They are certainly not exhaustive, but they are some good things to keep in mind as you lead.

1. To develop love-filled fellowship

In John 13:35 Jesus said, "All men will know that you are my disciples if you love one another." There is to be a special love amongst Christians that is visible to others. But let's face it, it is not always easy to have this kind of love. It takes time and effort and can only be accomplished through the Holy Spirit (Rom. 5:5).

This is where Life Groups come in. They provide the opportunity for these kinds of relationships to grow. Our Plug services are too big for us to know everyone intimately. The format does not intend for there to be large amounts of time to interact deeply. Close, caring, confronting friendships need the atmosphere of a smaller group in which to flourish.

What is the goal? Close friendships in which members can trust one another and depend on one another for support throughout their college years.

This won't happen overnight. Be patient. Be a catalyst. Make relationships happen between the members of the group. Build bridges of communication between the people Jesus gives you. Hang out with them as a group, spend time eating, studying, playing and exercising together. Sit with each other at the Plug. Help them learn to pray for each other.

2. To develop proper pastoral care

Jesus had a tremendous burden for people because they did not have proper pastoral care. Read Matthew 9:36-38.

This is the kind of person the Lord is helping you and me to become—People who care about others, who will "shepherd" them in this life. People who will lead them and feed them and protect them from the evil one. Who have real compassion for them and make sacrifices to meet their needs. This is the role of a shepherd.

You can help facilitate this in your Life Group by being this kind of a person. The goal is to get group members to really care for each other and to minister to one another. In essence, we all want to become like Jesus. This is what He told us to pray for—laborers in His harvest who will shepherd the people He rescues and saves.

Take time in your Life Group to build relationships, to get to know about one another. If you keep providing opportunities to find out about each other, after several months they will all actually know each other. Then they will know one another well enough to begin meeting each other's needs.

Encourage them to spend time together outside of the Life Group meeting. Be the example by scheduling time with them weekly. You could also try assigning prayer partners who will meet during the week to share, support, and pray for one another.

Help them know and understand these four goals. Talk about the process you are taking them through to develop these kinds of friendships. Read God's Word together where it describes the way He wants us to relate to each other in the Body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:12-31).

3. To develop mature Christians of leadership quality

It is not enough to simply enter the kingdom of God. A Christian is to grow to maturity. Read Ephesians 4:11-16.



This passage tells us why Christ places pastors and other leaders in the church. They are there to equip the members of the Body to minister to one another.

One pastor or group of leaders cannot meet everyone's needs—that's impossible, and God never intended for them to do this. Instead, His plan is that we all would be ministers, that all of us would do the work of ministering.

One pastor **can** teach many to do the work of the ministry. You can do this. Equip them not only to do this while in Chi Alpha, but for the rest of their lives in whatever church they are a part of when they leave college. Ask the Lord to give you some plans to make this goal become a reality. Write down what he says.

4. To develop an evangelistic lifestyle

This involves both doing the task of proclaiming the gospel to people right now and becoming a missions-minded person who lives a lifestyle of evangelism. We all need to understand the greatness of the salvation God has provided for us in Christ. Then we will know the lostness of our own lives without Jesus and therefore, the desperate condition of humanity.

When we know in our hearts how sinful we really are without Jesus, we will have great thanksgiving for what Christ has done for us. Then we will be compelled out of gratitude and obedience to tell those around us about Him.

Beyond this we must come to realize that there is an entire world out there that needs to be rescued and saved. Jesus wants us to have His perspective and to begin living for His purposes—to save the world.

He has a mission and He has chosen each of us to fulfill it. Read Matthew 28:18-20 and 2 Corinthians 5:14-21. Let Jesus speak to you through these passages. What is He showing you?

The ultimate test of the effectiveness of any Life Group is its impact on those outside of the group. A Life Group is a group of believers who carry the gospel to their dorms, apartments, neighborhoods, places of employment, classmates and profs. Each member grows to consider themselves a missionary on assignment.