

- **LifeGroups at GCR are small communities of believers who joyfully exist to Win, Build, Equip and Multiply disciples of Jesus Christ for the glory of God**
 - Remember that it is JESUS CHRIST who brings about growth in the life of a Believer. All we can do is to be an INSTRUMENT that Jesus uses to bring about growth

- **Discipleship and Growth.**
 - **Three principles:**
 1. People grow most in spiritually challenging FRIENDSHIPS. We are inspired and taught most by people who are MODELS for us. Colossians 3:15; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Hebrews 10:24
 2. People grow by reading the WORD and allowing the HOLY SPIRIT to speak to them personally. II Timothy 3:16
 3. People grow best by active MINISTRY.

 - **Two tools:**
 - **PURPLE BOOK.** This provides an opportunity for one to one discipleship, by placing a more experienced believer with younger believer.
 - Establishes the BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS for a life of discipleship.
 - Helps both members.
 - More mature believer GROWS by helping someone else. Philemon 6
 - The younger believer grows by learning how to FEED on the word of God.
 - Note: this is not an authoritative or directive relationship; it is a spiritually encouraging friendship.
 - You should regularly ask this question: “Have you done the Purple Book?”
 - **Life Transformation Groups.** Smaller sub-groups that meet weekly to TALK about the word of God they read the week before and to go over some ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONS that encourage deeper relationships and practical holiness. (See LTG Handout)

- **Multiplication**
 - Leaders are NEEDED for the Harvest
 - Jesus recognized the need for more Leaders. Matt. 9:35-38
 - Jesus invested in leadership development.
 - COMPASSION for lost people motivates us to plead with the Lord to raise up workers to go into the harvest field.
 - Do the Math
 - If we want every member to be a part of a LifeGroup, and the optimum size of a LifeGroup is **8-12** adults, and GCR has approximately 2,000 adults, then we need approximately **160** LifeGroups to meet the need.
 - Prior to the 40 Days of Purpose push for Host Homes, we only had about 40 active LifeGroups
 - We need more LifeGroups
 - Where do we find Leaders?
 - We have been focusing on RECRUITING new Leaders rather than DEVELOPING new leaders
 - The 12 apostles did not look much like leaders when Jesus called them to follow him. Jesus spent a great deal of time developing them as leaders.
 - Addition vs. Multiplication. Raising leaders by addition is not enough. What we need is leaders who raise new leaders who raise new leaders.
 - One of your jobs as a LifeGroup Leader is to focus on RAISING UP new Leaders from within your LifeGroup, and then train those new leaders to raise new leaders.
 - We must be willing to multiply our LifeGroups
 - A LifeGroup should multiply every 12 to 18 months.
 - Remember, it is a proven fact that once the group exceeds 12 adults, the discussion is drastically affected.
 - A new LifeGroup provides a place for MORE PEOPLE to be built up and equipped to be disciple makers
 - See Handout on Multiplication Process

- **Ongoing Opportunities for Equipping**
 - Retreats. Life change happens on spiritually directed retreats. Walk to Emmaus, Men's and Women's Advance. The idea is to have a series of two or three retreats focusing on things like: establishing spiritual foundations, finding my life ministry, training for evangelism, etc.
 - Short Term Directed Study. Series of training classes that help us grow up. Ideally done within the same discipleship relationship. Bible basics, textual classes, marriage and parenting, money and stewardship, etc.