

# LifeGroup Meetings: Works

- 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
- Every meeting should have 4 parts: Welcome, Worship, Word, and WORKS.

Stephen Ambrose from Citizen Soldiers (p. 266):

"Foxhole buddies developed a closeness unknown to all others. They were closer than friends, closer than brothers . . . Their trust in and knowledge of each other was total. They got to know each other's life stories, what they did before they came into the Army, what their parents, brothers, and sisters were like, their teachers, what they liked to eat and drink, what their capabilities were. . . Without thinking about it they would share their last bite or last drink of water or a blanket – and they would die for one another."

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. - Eph. 6:10

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. - Phil 3:10-11

By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. - John 13:35

- Three areas of Work for a LifeGroup
  - PRAYER- intercession
  - PLANNING - preparing for and carrying out intentional outreach and service
  - PURPOSE - a focused time for tending to LifeGroup business
- Three "Ps" of Outreach and Service Planning
  - Prayer
    - Ask God for DIRECTION for your LifeGroup, and for open hearts
    - Ask God for divine appointments, fruitfulness, and success (Ephesians 2:10)
    - Ask for the presence of the Lord and a sense that the Lord is with us (2 Kings 6:17)
    - Remember we are not going in our own strength (1 Sam 17:45)
    - SUCCESS is what He does through our obedience, not just we do (2 Cor 12:9)
  - Planning
    - Just Do It! Minister in the Spirit's power, and in the name of Jesus
    - Be BOLD and aggressive where appropriate (1 Sam 14:6-14)
    - Be first to extend grace, comfort, and service
    - Be READY to share your faith in Jesus
    - Go in TEAMS of at least two for mutual support (Luke 10:1-2 "two by two")
    - Debrief and reflect when finished, looking for improvements (1 John 1:3)
    - Give glory to Jesus and don't take yourself too seriously. Have fun
  - Outreach Possibilities
    - NEIGHBORHOOD Outreach: prayer walks, kindness projects (John 13:35 - loving and serving one another is our witness to others that we are disciples of Christ), etc.

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- **Joining Isa 58 Outreaches:** meeting the needs of the POOR with food, clothing, shelter, and attention (Isaiah 58:6-9)
- **Welcome Wagon Outreach:** greeting new neighbors, new births (Mark 12:30-31)
- **Other types of outreach:** ball games, work projects, playing at the park/minature golf (kids), creative memories, camp-outs, lake weekends (1 Cor 9:22 "I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some")
  
- **First Steps to Outreach**
  - **Pray for the Lost - Operation Andrew Strategy (John 1:41-42)**
    - Pray for 12 friends in your sphere of influence
    - Pray for the 3 who are closest to coming to the Lord
    - Target 1 to pray for corporately in LifeGroup
  
  - **Pray for Your Neighborhoods - Lighthouse Strategy**
    - 5 houses to the left and right, 11 houses across the street
    - Pray for your apartment complex
    - Pray for those you work or go to school with
    - Pray BLESS
      - B=BODY
      - L=LABOR
      - E=EMOTIONAL health
      - S=SPIRITUAL health
      - S=SOCIAL contact with them
  
- **Overcoming Barriers to Outreach**
  - **ATTITUDE Barrier** – we must see evangelism as important for us, not just for those "gifted" in the area
  - **FEAR Barrier** - join a corporate outreach (Isa 58), or go with your LifeGroup (leadership means going first especially when you're afraid)
  - **VALUE Barrier** – ask your LifeGroup to pray for you to have a heart for the lost
  - **TIME Barrier** – consider a tithe (10%) of your weekends (5 a year)
  - **ROUND-TO-IT Barrier** – make a decision and 'Just do it'
  - **Barrier of TRAINING** – share your experiences with others, training at GCR
  
- **TIPS & TOOLS**
  - Ask for volunteers - someone good at evangelism, someone good at coordinating
  - Pace yourself by planning a year at a time (maybe 4-5 outreach activities "tithe")
  - **Goal:** To know Christ and to make him known
  
- **Tending to Other LifeGroup Business**
  - **REMIND** - members of venue for next weeks meeting and any special assignments (sign up sheets, don't be afraid to delegate)
  - **RETURN** - the weekly LifeGroup report, attendance, etc . . .
  - **REHEARSE** - any important announcements concerning upcoming events or LifeGroup activities
  - **REVIEW** - member progress on equipping or spiritual growth (not pressure filled, but loving care for the growth of yourself and your fellow group members)
  - The review is important for leadership growth, acknowledging that we all want to become more like Christ, there's comfort in numbers and knowing that my brothers are growing with me, we step out together in fear. It is central to spurring one another on to love and good deeds (Heb 10:24)