

Sample Order For A Typical Life Group Meeting

Time parameters are approximate. Use them as guides to keep the meeting flowing.

7:00-7:10 – Welcome and Settling In

While we strongly encourage group members to honor “time covenants” (i.e. be on time!), it’s always good at the beginning to ease people into the meeting.

7:10-7:15 – Icebreaker Question

An icebreaker is an essential element of a small group meeting. (Icebreaker questions can be easily found online.) It creates a safe and fun opportunity for everyone to feel comfortable sharing. And it’s a great way to start learning more about each other.

7:15-7:20 – Conversational Prayer

Go around the group, and for those who are willing, simply ask people to thank or praise God in a sentence for one thing that has been a blessing or encouragement to them this week.

7:20-7:55 – Study/Lesson

A Life Group is *not* a Bible study. Learning is just one facet of the meeting. You do not have to get through each of the questions to have a successful study. Be sensitive to how the discussion is unfolding, and trust God to bring out the themes and ideas that he wants shared.

7:55-8:20 – Sharing and Prayer

Take 5-10 minutes to share short requests with each other, then pray for one another. Here are some tips to make this time rich:

- If your name is Tommy Talkative, show self-awareness of times when you might be doing a disproportionate amount of sharing. If your name is Silent Sally, take baby steps forward in speaking up in the group.
- Pray over themes brought up in the study.
- Try to stay away from asking prayer for someone or something that is not really connected to the group (e.g. a third cousin’s neighbor’s mother-in-law with strep throat.) Share things that are truly touching the lives of group members.
- Keep prayers short and conversational. Otherwise that person who has never prayed aloud won’t dare do so, because they’ll be too intimidated by the “professionals”.
- Sometimes group members will bring in a need that is truly earth-shattering for them. It would be appropriate to give special attention to them in prayer. Ways to do this without necessarily adding to the length of the meeting might include: 1. Making the need known to the group early in the meeting, then substituting the ‘conversational prayer’ time with dedicated prayer for them. 2. Letting that be the first request shared at the ending prayer time, then pausing to pray for them right then and there before continuing the sharing time. 3. Shortening the study.

8:20-8:30 – Open discussion and group business

This is the time to wind down, enjoy coffee and refreshments, set up the schedule for next time, plan a fun event, or the next service project (we encourage our Life Groups to share in quarterly service/mission opportunities). Kick back and enjoy each other’s company!