



NEONLIFECHURCH
life groups

COACH'S GUIDE

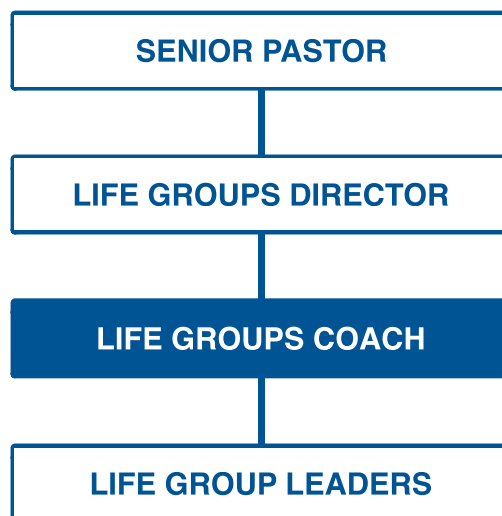
God's process for people to find freedom begins with having the right people in their lives. He designed us for community, and connecting in Life Groups is how we help people find life-changing relationships at Neon Life.

Your role as a Life Groups Coach is a vital part of successful Life Groups at Neon Life. Just as Life Group Leaders care for their groups, as a Coach, **you care for the leaders.** By covering leaders in prayer, developing a relationship with them, and serving as a resource, you are helping strengthen leaders and the powerful ministry of Life Groups.

The model for leadership covering in Life Groups is based on a principle we see in the Bible modeled by Jethro, the father-in-law of Moses.

"Moses' father-in-law replied, 'What you are doing is not good. You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone. Listen now to me and I will give you some advice, and may God be with you...select capable men from all the people—men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain—and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens....If you do this and God so commands, you will be able to stand the strain, and all these people will go home satisfied.'"

EXODUS 18:17–23



THREE AREAS OF FOCUS FOR COACHING

1. Connect

Cultivate a personal relationship with your leaders.

Take time to get to know your Life Group Leaders. Learn about their story, spiritual journey, and what motivates them to lead a Life Group. Knowing them on a personal level will not only help you serve them well, but it is also in line with how God tells us to care for the people He has allowed us to influence.

Be sure you know the condition of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds.

PROVERBS 27:23

2. Protect

Pray for your leaders.

The most impactful thing you can do is pray for your leaders. As you agree in prayer with your leaders, God promises to move.

"Again, I assure you: if two of you on earth agree about any matter that you pray for, it will be done for you by my Father in Heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them"

MATTHEW 18:19-20

Leading Life Groups at Neon Life isn't something any of us are asked to do alone. Your role as a Coach gives Life Group Leaders support as you carry the responsibility to care for people together.

Communicate helpful information.

You are the Life Group Leader's direct line of communication. Throughout the semester, regularly communicate information that will help them lead well. This can look like reminding them to be praying for their group, encouraging them to help people move one step, directing them to the Next Steps Survey, or helping them decide where to host their Life Group or how to invite people to attend.

Don't know the answer to a question? This is why you have support, too. Reach out to the Life Groups Director to help support your leaders as needed.

If you encounter a difficult situation with your Life Group Leaders, we are here to support you. If one of your leaders is going through a crisis, you can provide prayer, encouragement, and support. Use wisdom and be sensitive to the situation. If you are unsure of what to do, don't hesitate to ask the Life Groups Director.

Contact Eric Cole at 817-694-7569 or eric@neonlifechurch.com

3. Grow

We are called to identify and develop leaders.

The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest, ask him to send more workers into his fields.

LUKE 10:2 NLT

Help your leaders move one step.

You have the opportunity to invest in your leaders by helping them grow and move one step in their leadership. By praying for them, asking the Holy Spirit for guidance, and connecting with them personally, you will be able to help them take next steps.

Questions to ask:

- What is one area you hope to grow this semester?
- How can I pray for you?
- What is an area of leadership that is challenging for you?
- What do you feel God is calling you to do through Life Group leadership?

Help your leaders develop new leaders.

By developing your leaders, you are modeling how they can develop leaders in their group. You can also help them identify potential leaders.

Here are a few ways to do this:

- Ask about potential leaders they have identified in their group.
- Help them know what to look for in potential leaders such as participation, a willingness to help, spiritual growth, and a connection to the life-giving culture of Life Groups.
- Remind them to invite potential leaders to initiate the Life Group Leadership process by completing the online application as well as signing up for and attending the Growth Track class.

PRACTICAL COACHING IDEAS

Throughout the semester as you protect, connect, and grow your leaders, here are some practical ways you can care for them:

Make a connection at the beginning of the semester.

- Attend the Life Group launch day.
- Introduce yourself and exchange contact information.
- Share more about your role as a coach and how you will support them throughout the semester by...
 - Praying for them.
 - Answering questions or concerns.
 - Reminding them of important steps like the Next Steps Survey and helping group members move one step.
 - Helping them develop as a leader.
 - Helping them identify potential leaders in their group.
 - Being available to help, support, and equip them.
- Give ideas for inviting people to attend their group such as:
 - Think of people in their sphere of influence like co-workers, friends, and neighbors.
 - Be aware of people new to the church, new believers, or have shown interest in getting involved.
 - Look for people who have leadership potential.
 - Ask God to send the right people to your group.

Visit your leader's group during the semester, especially if they are a first-time leader.

- Communicate when you'll be visiting the group in advance.
- Remind the leader that the purpose of your visit is to support them and invest in the ministry they are personally doing through Life Groups.
- Be on time and participate. You are not there just to look over their shoulder!
- Evaluate if the group has the life-giving culture of Neon Life Church Life Groups.
- Make notes for the purpose of providing feedback or giving ideas that will help the leader continue to strengthen the group and grow their personal leadership.
- Encourage the leader and celebrate the wins!
 - Do you see things like genuine relationships formed, people engaging in conversation, and group members openly sharing prayer needs? These are signs of a healthy group and should be celebrated! If you don't see these things, guide the leader on ways to cultivate these group dynamics throughout the rest of the semester.
- Help the leader identify potential leaders in their group.
- Remind the leader how they can help people in their group move one step.

Maintain a relationship with your leader.

- Connect with leaders through a text, a phone call, over coffee, lunch, or between services on Sunday.
- Send email and text updates to leaders reminding them about upcoming opportunities at Neon Life like water baptism, Growth Track, events, etc.
- Help them accomplish important goals like the completion of the Next Steps Survey with their group and helping members move one step.
- Host an end-of-the-semester gathering with your leaders to discuss the semester, share encouraging stories, and to celebrate the lives changed.

EFFECTIVE LIFE GROUP GATHERINGS

Here are some guidelines on what to look for when you visit a group, and areas to help the leader grow as needed.

Leadership Skills

- The leader is helping members move one step in their faith.
- New leaders are being identified and possibly encouraged to begin the Life Group Leadership process by completing the online application or attending the Growth Track class.
- The objectives of the meeting are accomplished.
 - Casual Fellowship / Activity or Discussion / Prayer / Spiritual Component
- The leader stays involved and listened to everyone.
- The relationship between the leader and the group members feels healthy.
- The leader prays during the group.
- The leader stays on topic.
- The meeting begins and ends (respectfully) on time.

Group Dynamics

- The group maintains a life-giving environment.
- Everyone participates in prayer time.
- Members participate in the discussion and are engaged.
- Everyone is included, and no one overwhelms the conversation or is completely left out.

Care

- The leader allows time for ministry to happen within the group.
- The leader asks for prayer requests.

NEXT STEPS

One of the best resources you can direct your Life Group Leaders to is the Next Steps Resource at neonlifepeople.com/groups. (page 11-12).

The goal for every Life Group is to help each person move one step forward in their faith. As a Coach, you can help leaders keep this a priority and help them implement practical ways to help people move one step.

Next Steps Survey

Coaches play an important role in the Next Steps Survey Initiative. The Next Steps Survey helps us measure the health of Life Groups and how our church is growing spiritually. A link to the Next Steps Survey is sent out to Life Group Leaders near the end of the semester, and you will help ensure leaders, co-leaders, and their groups complete the survey.



NEXT STEPS RESOURCE FOR LIFE GROUP LEADERS

How do I measure if group members are moving one step?

Ask! Make it part of your discussion whether in a group setting or individually. Also, encourage everyone in your group to complete the Next Step Survey at the end of the semester. Here are some great questions to guide your conversation:

- How did you get connected to this Life Group?
- What are you most looking forward to in the group?
- Do you attend Neon Life?
- What brought you to Neon Life?
- Have you ever been part of a Life Group before?
- What do you feel like God has been doing in your life lately?
- Are you familiar with 21 Days Of Prayer?
- What areas of your faith are you hoping to grow in the coming months?
- What are you focused on in your life right now?
- Have you attended the Neon Life Growth Track?
- Have you ever served on the Neon Life Serve Team?
- How can I pray for you?

What are some next steps I can share with my group?

Everyone in your group will be at different places spiritually. The vision of helping them “move one step” is not to get them to do everything at once, it’s to help identify where they currently are spiritually and offer a practical next step to help them grow.

- Invite them to attend a Sunday service with you.
- Share your personal story and what God has been teaching you.
- Invite them to a Men’s Breakfast, Women’s Brunch, Outreach event, or 21 Days of Prayer.
- Share how Growth Track can help them discover their purpose and invite them to sign up at neonlifepeople.com/growthtrack.
- Invite them to consider being water baptized - And invite your group to be there to celebrate it!
- Share how you find time regularly to pray, worship, and read God’s Word and encourage them to make their own plan for time with God.
- If they are ready to receive Christ, offer to pray with them.
- Encourage them to learn more about areas like tithing, the Holy Spirit, prayer, and spiritual warfare by watching past messages at neonlifechurch.com.

BEING PART OF THE LIFE GROUPS TEAM

As a Coach, you are an important part of the Life Groups Team. Not only can you help your leaders grow, but you can also help strengthen the Life Groups ministry as a whole in the following ways:

- In addition to praying for you leaders and their groups daily, also pray for God's favor and direction over the entire Life Groups Ministry as we help people find freedom.
- Help identify, encourage, and recruit new Life Group Leaders.
- Direct those desiring to lead a Life Group to the online application at neonlifepeople.com/groups.
- Ensure your leaders and their groups complete the Next Steps Survey at the end of the semester.

*"Where two or three
are gathered in my
name, there I am
among them."*

- Jesus



[NEONLIFECHURCH.COM](https://neonlifechurch.com)