

Real Life Group Leaders

Creekside's Church-of-Groups Vision

Notes: These notes are taken from “*Leading Life-Changing Small Groups*” by Bill Donahue and the Willow Creek Small Groups Team. All Scripture used here is from the New International Version unless noted otherwise.

Mission:

Building a Community to Reach a Community

To connect people into groups of four to ten who come together on a regular basis for a common purpose and are led by an identified leader who is assisting them in their progress toward full devotion to Christ by intentionally providing an environment for connection, community, and

5 Core Values

Mandate: Spiritual Transformation

John 13:15 – I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

What does John 13:15 tell us about our mandate in the church?

Method: Small Group Community

Mark 3:14 – He appointed twelve — designating them apostles — that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach

What does Mark 3:14 tell us about the method the church should use to make disciples?

Mobilize: Strategic Leaders

Ephesians 4:11-12 – It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

What does Ephesians 4:11-12 tell us about God's plan to mobilize the church?

Multiply: Span of Care

2 Timothy 2:2 – And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.

What does 2 Timothy 2:2 tell us about how God wants the church to plan for growth?

Means: Seek and Celebrate

Acts 13:52 – the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit

What does Acts 13:52 tell us what God wants His church to experience?

Developing Disciples

Matthew 10:24-25 – A student is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for the student to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master.

What is a disciple?

How does a disciple function in the local church?

Ephesians 2:8-9 – For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.

What role does grace have in making disciples?

2 Peter 3:18 – Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

How should growth characterize disciples?

Acts 2:46 – Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.

What role do group gatherings serve in making disciples?

Romans 2:6-8 – We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

What role do spiritual gifts serve in making disciples?

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 – Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

What role does good stewardship play in making disciples?

Vision for Real Life Groups

Here is our vision for the Real Life Group effort at Creekside:

To become a church where nobody stands alone

The following is a good definition of biblical community:

Christian Community is the body of Christ expressing the life and message of Christ to build up one another and redeem the world for God's glory.

What kind of groups should be considered Real Life Groups at Creekside?

What roles are needed within Real Life Groups at Creekside?

What should be the primary emphasis Real Life Groups, discipling or providing care?

	Age/Stage Based	Need Based	Task Based	Interest Based
Examples of Groups in this Category	Couples, Families, Men's, Singles, Women's	Recovery Groups, Grief Support, Post Abortion, etc.	Food Pantry, Greeters, Vocal Teams, Mission Teams, etc.	Sports, Computers, Seekers, Bikers, etc.
Curriculum	Chosen by leader/group	Specified by staff	Chosen by leader/group	Chosen by leader/group
Typical Lifespan of Group	2-3 years; many continue longer	Usually 9 weeks; can be repeated	As long as task is needed	1-2 years; many continue longer
Meeting Frequency	2-3 times per month	Usually weekly	Usually weekly	2 times per month
Open Chair	Yes – for entire lifespan of group	Groups close after 3rd week	Yes – but depends on nature of task	Yes – for entire lifespan of group
Seekers Welcome	Yes	Yes	Yes (except Staff Teams, Elders, etc.)	Yes
Typical Focus	Community, Study, Prayer	Healing, Comfort, Connection	Service, Community, Prayer	Connection, Community, Study
Role of Leader	Connect people to community and the 5 G's	Provide a safe place in a crisis	Complete the task and care for members	Connect people to community and the 5 G's
Birthing Frequency	Usually every 24 months; if apprentice is ready	Not usually – group only lasts 9 weeks	As often as task may demand and apprentice is ready	Usually every 24 months; if apprentice is ready
Apprentice	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

