

## Leading Leaders Coaching Session #8



### Leadership Competency: **Trainer (part 3)**

*Key verse:* 2 Timothy 2:2

*Key question:* Am I helping other leaders become better at what they do?

*Description:* A Trainer understands, applies, and communicates the “LifeGroup Resource Guide.” A Trainer knows how to inspire LifeGroup leaders to greater productivity, commitment, and loyalty. A Trainer provides instruction, guidance, and coaching to LifeGroup leaders in the Core Competencies of Leading Others.

#### **Connect:**

1) Think back. You’ve just gone through a difficult season in life. Maybe you lost a job. Maybe your child made some unwise choices. Maybe someone you loved became ill or died. Maybe you experienced a ministry setback. Who showed up to care for you? What did they say or do? How did they make you feel?

#### **Celebrate:**

2) What’s something fun that you’ve done recently that has energized or refreshed you?

#### **Coach:**

3) In this session, we are focused on how we can help train the LifeGroup leader to be a Shepherd – to be able to answer “yes” to the question: Am I a 2 AM friend for my flock? Think back to a great past LifeGroup you were in. What were some things that made your leader a good shepherd to others? Write them on the left side of a giant Post-it.

4) Without naming names, what were some reasons that a past LifeGroup leader was not a good shepherd? Write these down on the right side of the Post-it. How did these negatives limit the effectiveness of the LifeGroup Leader?

5) In the podcast for this session, Rick Duncan talked about how important it is for a LifeGroup leader to shepherd the LifeGroup members by protecting, inspecting, and (when necessary) correcting the members of the group. How might you help your LifeGroup leaders grow in their ability to protect their LifeGroup members from the world, the flesh, and devil?

6) In the podcast, Rick also shared that a shepherd knows where he is taking his flock. At CVC, our destination is equipping every member of every LifeGroup to the place where they bear all the Fruit of New Life – 1) Beloved Child, 2) Self-feeder, 3) Servant, 4) Investor, 5) Discipler, and 6) Missionary. What are practical tools we might use to help our LifeGroup leaders become “fruit inspectors” – enabling them to check up on how each member of the LifeGroup is doing in each of the 6 areas?

7) Rick mentioned in the podcast that a shepherd must sometimes step into a situation where one sheep is hurting or hindering another. Let’s brainstorm: What are some scenarios when a LifeGroup member might need correction? Why do some LifeGroup leaders shy away from correcting? What happens when the behavior goes unchallenged? How would you equip and train a LifeGroup leader to correct a LifeGroup member?

## Communicate:

[Together, read through the following excerpt from CVC's LifeGroup Resource Guide.]

### SHEPHERD

Key verse: Psalm 78:72 "With upright heart he shepherded them, and guided them with his skillful hand."

Key question: Am I a "2 AM" friend for my flock?

Description: A Shepherd cares for and protects growing believers in a LifeGroup that is a safe, hospitable, caring community. Shepherds oversee the direction and progress of a LifeGroup. They teach the Bible and facilitate discussions so that LifeGroup members increasingly bear the Fruit of New Life – the Core Competencies for Leading Self. Shepherds lead LifeGroup members to serve on-mission.

What a joy and responsibility it is to be an overseer who watches over the people entrusted to our care. As Shepherds, we look out for the needs of each person and provide a welcomed, safe place where they can share struggles and victories. We lovingly guide, shield, and protect each one from false doctrine and from those who would bring discouragement and harm. We are available to serve and meet their needs whenever a need arises.

As Shepherds, we look to Jesus as our ultimate example and model. John 10:11-15 says, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father, and I lay down my life for the sheep."

A Shepherd is diligent and intentional to direct the movement of the LifeGroup during and between each gathering. In part, this means being a good steward of your time together. There should be clear direction and preparedness so there can be a time for relationships and community building, studying God's Word, facilitating discussion about how the study applies to their everyday life and walking with Christ, as well as time devoted to seeking the Lord together in prayer.

Although developing caring community within our LifeGroup is a high priority, Shepherds also know that growth comes for our flock when we serve on-mission. Shepherds should guide their LifeGroup members individually to be on-mission in their spheres of influence as a way of life, missionaries cleverly disguised. Shepherds also encourage those in their care to consider regional and global opportunities where they can serve. Finally, they coordinate and provide opportunities where the LifeGroup can serve on-mission as a team together, serving someone or a community in need.

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8) A LifeGroup Leader needs to create a safe, hospitable, caring community. What are the characteristics of that kind of community? (Place these on a large Post-it for everyone to see.) Together, let's design a strategy/process that your LifeGroup leaders can implement to make sure that their LifeGroup is a safe, hospitable, caring community.

9) We read that a LifeGroup leader provides a welcomed, safe place where LifeGroup members can share both struggles and victories. What happens in a LifeGroup when only struggles are shared? What happens in a LifeGroup when only victories are shared? What are three ways you can help your LifeGroup leaders help their members feel that they can share both?

10) Shepherds look to Jesus as the ultimate example and model. How did He lead? "Jesus did it; the disciples watched. He did it; the disciples helped. The disciples did it; Jesus helped. The disciples did it; He watched." What are some things that a LifeGroup leader does that he/she could invite a follower to do with him/her? How can you help make sure that happens with your LifeGroup leaders?

11) Let's allocate time for a typical LifeGroup meeting. How much time would you schedule for:  
1) relationships and community building, 2) studying God's Word, 3) facilitating discussion, 4) applying truth to everyday life, and 5) seeking the Lord together in prayer? Is there anything else would you add? How will you help your LifeGroup leaders allocate their group time appropriately?

12) What is one thing you will commit to do in the next 2 weeks to encourage a LifeGroup leader to be a better shepherd for others?

### Care:

13) Since we are dealing today with this whole topic of shepherding, how do you personally most need to be shepherded today?

14) How can I pray for you?