

New Lifegroup Leader Training



Session 3: Anchor

Before starting this session, watch the “Anchor” video under the “New Lifegroup Leader Training” tab at leadershipgreenhouse.org.

What’s something new that you’ve learned from God’s Word recently that has excited or enriched you?

Our LifeGroup Resource Guide says that every LifeGroup Leader must be an anchor: “An Anchor is a person who is embedded in the truths of Scripture. Anchors are grounded in sound doctrine, receive the Word eagerly, and examine beliefs and practices to make sure they line up with the Scriptures.” What are 10 ways that LifeGroup leaders can grow to be better Anchors?

[Read through the following excerpt from CVC’s LifeGroup Resource Guide.] (pp. 9)

****You can find the LifeGroup Resource Guide under the “Resource” tab at leadershipgreenhouse.org.***

Anchor

The world and its values will constantly be changing but we are encouraged to stand firm on the promises in God’s Word. The Word of God, then, becomes our anchor. “We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul” (Hebrews 6:19a). God always fulfills the promises in His Word. Being anchored by Biblical truth is indispensable to every believer’s growth in Christ. God’s Word gives us the stability we need to flourish in an ever-changing culture.

It is our desire that every LifeGroup member be thoroughly biblical in the totality of his or her life. So, all of our ministries, including LifeGroups, must flow from sound, biblical teaching. We urge you, as a LifeGroup Leader, to teach and apply God’s Word in the power of the Spirit (2 Timothy 3:16-4:2). As Paul charged Titus, so we charge you: “Teach what is in accord with sound doctrine” (Titus 2:1). As a LifeGroup Leader, your calling is the same as Jude’s calling. You must “contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 1:3). We dare not tamper with God’s communication to the world. Our joy comes from delivering God’s timeless message, not from changing it.

The LifeGroup leader must strive to interpret the Bible accurately. Leaders must avoid the temptation of misusing Scripture to support a message that is either man-centered or shaped by the current culture. The Bible should be taught in its historical and grammatical context, giving application for today's world. An effective LifeGroup leader will be like the Berean believers who "received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so" (Acts 17:11b).

It's obvious that our culture is changing rapidly. Christianity is becoming less and less prominent. One of CVC leader's Dean Siley, said, "We must know God's Word in a shifting culture."

Why is it vitally important that you, as a Leader of Others, train your LifeGroup members to be anchored to the truths of God's Word?

[Read through the following excerpt from CVC's Essential Beliefs on Doctrine.]

CVC's Essential Belief Doctrine

GOD—There is only one God, Creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 6:4; Genesis 1-2; Psalm 145:3, John 1:1, Psalm 90:2).

JESUS—The Lord Jesus Christ is fully divine and fully man. He was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, performed authentic miracles, died in the place of sinners to pay for their sins, rose bodily from the grave, ascended into heaven, and works as mediator in heaven (Matthew 28:18-20; John 1:1, John 1:14; Isaiah 9:6; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:21; Matthew 28:6, 1 John 2:1).

HOLY SPIRIT—Spiritual life given by the Holy Spirit is absolutely necessary for the salvation of man. His ministry includes indwelling and regenerating the believer, enabling him to live a godly life (John 3:5-7, Romans 8:9-11, 1 Corinthians 6:19).

THE BIBLE—The Bible is the inspired, infallible, and authoritative Word of God without error in its original writings. It is:

Inspired. The Bible was given to us by God through human writers (2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:21).

Infallible. It is not misleading and is a sure, safe, and reliable rule and guide in all matters (Proverbs 30:5).

Inerrant. It is free from all falsehood or mistakes and is entirely true and trustworthy (Matt. 4:4, Deut. 8:3, Matt. 5:17,18).

MAN—Although man was created in the image of God, he sinned, causing physical death and separation from God. All human beings are born with a sinful nature, and exercise their sinful nature in thought, word, and deed (Genesis 1:27, 2:17, Romans 6:23, 5:12-14, 3:23, 3:10).

SALVATION—The sinless life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ provide the only basis for the salvation of all who believe. Only those who receive Jesus Christ as Lord, exercising repentance and faith in Him, are children of God (1 Cor. 15:3-6, John 14:6, Acts 4:12, John 1:12).

THE FUTURE—Jesus will return bodily to the earth to complete our salvation and establish His kingdom. All the dead will experience a bodily resurrection, the believer to eternal life with the Lord and the unbeliever to judgment and eternal punishment (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 1 John 3:2, Daniel 12:2, Revelation 7:14).

Think back to a time in your life when you may have been in a discussion about faith in a classroom or at work and you didn't really stand up for what you believe. If you had to choose only one, which of the above beliefs are some believers most hesitant to defend? Why is that particular belief most difficult to articulate in our current culture?

Imagine a LifeGroup member has come to you for advice. She/he says, "A few of the members of my LifeGroup don't really believe that the Bible is trustworthy. What should I say or do?" Brainstorm possible solutions. Which of these solutions/answers would best help a LifeGroup member?

Suppose you find out that a LifeGroup leader doesn't truly believe that Jesus is the only Way to the Father, the only Way to be saved. Instead, he/she believes that Jesus is a way (perhaps even the main way) but that a conscious belief in Jesus is not necessary - that a Jew or Buddhist or Hindu who was a good person would ultimately be saved. How would you respond? Build a Biblical step-by-step response to that scenario. [Hint: Wayne Grudem's "Christian Beliefs" is a great resource. This book is offered as a gift to all lifegroup leaders.]

Pick an essential belief. Then fill in the blanks. "If this belief were not true, then _____." "Because this belief is true, then _____." How might you help your LifeGroup members adhere more firmly to these truths?

NOTE: CVC ALSO HAS ESSENTIAL BELIEFS ON CULTURAL ISSUES. WE TRUST OUR LIFEGROUP LEADERS TO KNOW AND ADHERE TO THESE, TOO. YOU CAN FIND THEM HERE: <http://www.cvconline.org/about-cvc/statement-of-faith/>

If you had to pick just one, which of CVC's essential beliefs on doctrine are especially meaningful to you? Why?

Which essential doctrine is the one where you need to grow as an anchor most? How will you do that? What actions will you take?

Here is a short list of apologetics that could help you be a better Anchor.

- The Case for a Creator by Lee Strobel
- Mere Christianity by C. S. Lewis
- I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist by Frank Turek
- On Guard by William Craig Lane
- Tactics by Gregory Koukl
- The Reason for God by Tim Keller
- More than a Carpenter by Josh McDowell
- The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus by Mike Licona