

Life Group Leader Tool Kit Overview

Northview Students believe discipleship happens in circles, not rows. Students feel loved, cared for, and known in a Life Group. When you choose to be a Life Group Leader - you are doing just that. You're caring for students. You are making them feel known. You are making an investment in their life. Life Group Leaders don't need to do big, grand gestures for their students, but small strategic steps that have great impact. There are five different principles in order to lead small and be an effective Life Group Leader: Be Present, Create a Safe Place, Partner with Parents, Make it Personal, and Move them Out. What you have in your hands is your Life Group Leader Tool Kit. Inside the Tool Kit are practical ways to live out these 5 Lead Small principles.

BE PRESENT: Connect their faith to a community by showing up predictably, showing up mentally, and showing up randomly.

- **Birthday Cards:** Everyone loves their birthday. Everyone loves getting recognized on their birthday. Show up for your students by sending them a card on their birthday. And don't you worry, we've taken the guesswork and extra steps out by providing cards for you.
- **Event Reimbursement:** We want to make it as easy as possible for you to go to your student's events: games, concerts, plays, debate competition, musicals - whatever they are involved in, we want you to be able to go! Because we think this is important, we will reimburse up to 3 events that you attend.
- **Fun Night Suggestions:** We never want Fun Nights to get overwhelming so we've created some suggestions for your group. We know that every group is different, but this will get the ball rolling on your fun night plans.

CREATE A SAFE PLACE: Clarify their faith as they grow by leading the group, respecting the process, and guarding the heart.

- **Life Group Agreement:** Your Life Group is like family and as in any family, it is always a good idea to lay some ground rules. Grab your Life Group Agreement and read it to your group on your first meeting of the year.
- **Safety Goggles:** Clearly you need something to remember the Life Group Agreement. So, once your group has read the agreement, grab a sharpie and sign your safety goggles representing you agreeing to making this group a safe place.

PARTNER WITH PARENTS: Nurture an everyday faith by cueing the parent, honoring the parent, and reinforcing the family.

- **Parent Cards:** A handwritten note is a lost art so we are bringing it back. It shows you took time out of your day to think of someone else. Write a note to your students' parents telling them about yourself and how excited you are to lead their student this year.

- **Leader Business Cards:** How are parents supposed to reach out to you if they don't have your contact information? Fill out some business cards and put them in those handwritten cards.
- **Phase Cards:** Students are constantly changing and that can be confusing for everyone involved. Help a parent make sense of some of their thoughts and behaviors by putting one of these phase cards in your handwritten cards.

MAKE IT PERSONAL: Inspire their faith by your example by living in community, setting priorities, and being real.

- **My Journey:** The only way you will effectively be able to discuss authentic faith with your group is if you are experiencing authentic faith in your own life. In order to encourage authentic faith in students' lives, we provide "My Journey" devotionals. We've also given you a copy.

MOVE THEM OUT: Engage their faith in a bigger story by moving them to someone else, moving them to be the church, and moving them to what's next.

- **Serving Opportunities:** We would love for you to serve as a life group, but sometimes leaders are at a loss for what organizations or opportunities would be best. Check out our student-friendly options.
- **Yellow Bag:** Yellow bags are very common around here at Northview. This yellow bag does hold all of your tools, but it also doubles as a serving opportunity. As a Life Group, fill up the bag with the items on the front of the bag and return it to your Northview campus.