

A NOTE TO LIFE GROUP HOSTS

LIFE is our acronym for “Living In Faith & Enlightenment”. At Agape, Life Group is how we call our ‘small groups’. *Ideally, a Life Group is composed of not more than 12 people*, it could go more than that, but we are not recommending it. As much as possible, Life Groups must meet once a week at a place that is most convenient for them. Normally, Life Group weekly gatherings last for about two and a half hours. We spend an hour eating together, and then immediately followed by the 90-minute group study. Occasionally, we begin by playing some ice breaker games to make everyone feel comfortable with each other, and then we pray & sing a couple of worship songs to bring everyone’s complete focus and attention to God.

The *video-based study* is designed to be used with a small group of friends at home, at work, or at a church or even just a coffee shops. *If you’re not already in a Life Group, start one of your own! It’s easy and it’s fun!*

How to Start a Life Group

You don’t have to be a teacher. You don’t need any formal training. You don’t even need any experience in a small group. Just keep these four things in mind, and you’ll succeed as a Life Group HOST!

Have a heart for people.

Open your home to a group of friends who want to study with you.

Serve them a snack

Turn on your TV to watch the short video of Pastor Anthony Miranda, they’re available on uTube.

If you can do those four things, you can host a Life Group of your own. All of the materials and instructions you need are provided in this study guide and more resources are always available at Agape Church Online on Facebook. *There’s no experience necessary so enjoy the journey!*

Please don’t feel pressured to discuss every question in every session. There is no need to hurry your way through the material. If your group only has time to talk about what they are learning together from the video lessons, that’s fine. What is important is that your group members have the time to let God work in their lives. *So feel free to select the questions that seem right for your group.*

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDY GUIDE

Here is a brief explanation of the features of this study guide.

Catching Up: You will open each meeting by briefly discussing a question or two that will help focus everyone’s attention on the subject of the lesson.

Memory Verse: Each week you will find a key Bible verse for your group to memorize together. If someone in the group has a different translation, ask them to read it aloud so the group can get a bigger picture of the meaning of the passage.

Video Lesson: There is a video lesson for the group to watch together each week. Fill in the blanks in the lesson outlines as you watch the video, and be sure to refer back to these outlines during your discussion time.

Discovery Questions: Each video segment is complemented by several questions for group discussion. Please don’t feel pressured to discuss every single question. There is no reason to rush through the answers. Give everyone ample opportunity to share their thoughts. If you don’t get through all of the discovery questions, that’s okay.

Living on Purpose: We don’t want to be just hearers of the Word. We also need to be doers of the Word. This section of the study contains application exercises that will your group apply the things you are learning. Be sure to leave time each week for this material.

Diving Deeper: This section contains your weekly reading assignment. It also refers you to additional resources that will help you grow deeper in your understanding of the lesson you are studying.

Prayer Direction: At the end of each session you will find suggestions for your group prayer time. Praying together is one of the greatest privileges of life in a small group. Please don’t take it for granted.

CATCHING UP

- If this is your first time to meet together as a group, or if you have any new members, be sure to introduce yourselves.
- Before you jump into this study, we recommend that you review the “Note to Life Group HOSTs”
- What are you hoping to get out of this study of **WHAT ON EARTH AM I HER FOR?**

SESSION 1 YOU MATTER TO GOD

MEMORY VERSE

“I am your Creator. You were in my care even before you were born.”

Isaiah 44:2a (CEV)



The Question of Existence: Why Am I Alive?

“Why was I born? Was it only to have trouble and sorrow, to end my life in disgrace?” Jeremiah 20:18 (TEV)

You were made by God and for God’s purposes, and until you understand that, life will never make sense.

“The Lord has made everything for his own purpose.” Proverbs 16:4a (GW)

GOD CREATED ME TO _____

The Question of Significance: Does My Life Matter?

“My work all seems so useless! I have spent my strength for nothing and to no purpose at all.” Isaiah 49:4 (NLT)

“I am your Creator. You were in my care even before you were born.” Isaiah 44:2a (CEV)

You are not an accident. There are accidental parents, but there are no accidental births. There are illegitimate parents, but there are no illegitimate children. There are unplanned pregnancies, but there are no unpurposed people. God wanted you in this world. You are not an accident!

“You, [God], saw me before I was born and scheduled each day of my life before I began to breathe. Every day was recorded in your book!” Psalm 139:16 (TLB)

“His plans endure forever; his purposes last eternally.” Psalm 33:11 (TEV)

Life is preparation for eternity.

I WAS MADE TO _____

“When this tent we live in — our body here on earth — is torn down, God will have a house in heaven for us to live in, a home he himself made, which will last forever.” 2 Corinthians 5:1 (TEV)

The Question of Intention: What is My Purpose?

“Why did you create us? For nothing?” Psalm 89:47b (NCV)

The only way to know your purpose is to ask your Creator.

“Knowing God results in every other kind of understanding.” Proverbs 9:10b (TLB)

I FIND MY PURPOSE _____

“For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible... everything got started in him and finds its purpose in him.” Colossians 1:16 (MSG)

Life is not about you; it's all about God.

“It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for... part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone.” Ephesians 1:11-12 (MSG)

if you live to be seventy years old, you will live 25,550 days. Don't you think its worth just forty of those days to find out what you're supposed to do with the rest of them?

“It makes no difference who your are or where you're from — if you want God and you are ready to do so as he says, the door is open.” Acts 10:35 (MSG)



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- “God created me to love me.” When did you first hear about God’s love?

- “I was made to last forever.” How does that statement strike you? Are you encouraged, puzzled, disappointed, surprised?

- “I find my purpose in God.” As you embark on this journey of discovery, how ready are you to explore the truth about God’s purposes for your life?

- “Life is not about you; it’s all about God.” What difference could it make if I acted like life is all about God and not about myself?

LIVING ON PURPOSE

Reading Partner: *A central component of this study is the daily readings that you will receive in your email. Take a moment to pair with someone in your group to be your reading partner. A little encouragement and friendly accountability can help you stay on your reading schedule. We recommend that the men partner with men and women with women. Check in with your reading partner throughout the week or at your group meetings to share what you are learning, and to encourage each other in your progress throughout the study.*

We don't want to be just hearers of the Word. We also need to be doers of the Word. This section of the study contains application exercises that will help your group apply the things you are learning. Be sure to leave time each week for this material.

PRAYER DIRECTION

- Pray for your group’s prayer requests.
- Record these request on your journal.

DIVING DEEPER

- *Read the daily readings* we sent to you everyday via email.
- *Read the Memory Verse everyday* this week as part of your daily devotions. See if you can memorize it before your next Life Group Meeting.
- Visit agapechurchofsandiego.org to watch weekly Sermons and to access more free resources.

BEFORE YOU GO

- *Create you Life Group Calendar* to agree on meetings dates, time and location. Healthy groups share responsibilities and group ownership. *Designate who will facilitate your meeting.* Who will provide a meal or snack.
- In your Group Calendar, note special events, socials, or days off as well. Your Life Group HOST will be very appreciative and everyone will have a lot more fun together.
- Also, *start collecting basic contact information* like phone numbers and email addresses. Create you Life Group Roster to record these information.