

Alliance Bible Fellowship **Life Group Apprentice Training Manual**



ALLIANCE BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

We are called by the Grace of God, for the Glory of God, to become and multiply fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

Your Name: _____

Leader/Apprentice Name: _____

Beginning Date: _____

Ending Date: _____

Training Sessions

These **seven** training sessions will introduce you to the values and vision of our life group ministry here at Alliance. You'll see the big picture leadership goals through videos, books, and articles, but you will also spend time evaluating your own leadership style with your life group leader. **Our goal is to adequately prepare you to lead a life group of your own.**

Your life group leader will walk you through these seven sessions. The entire process should take 3-6 months to complete. Each training session will have a video/book component, a personal reflection, and a conversation with your leader.

- Session 1 - Life Group Foundations
- Session 2 - A Growing Love For The Lord
- Session 3 - A Growing Love For The Church
- Session 4 - A Growing Love For The Lost
- Session 5 - Gospel Growth: Multiplication
- Session 6 - Leading Life Groups
- Session 7 - Reflections on Community by Brad House

SESSION 1 – Life Group Foundations

This session will explore the foundations of the life group ministry. The video will give you **an overview of the convictions which drive our life groups**. The discussion questions will explore your motivation for wanting to become a leader.

WATCH VIDEO 1

Video 1 can be found at: abfboone.org/leadertraining

What are your takeaways from the video?

What are the four convictions of our life group ministry?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

In the video, Michael mentioned a story about the two churches in Washington DC. It is possible to cultivate an exciting community without God. Have you ever been part of a “Christian community” that was not necessarily built by God? Is it possible for your life group to develop into a godless community? What kind of leadership will you need to exhibit to develop a gospel-shaped community?

Have you thought about *why* you want to be a life group leader or *why* you'd be asked to be a leader? What reasons come to mind?

When you dream about a thriving life group, what do you tend to focus on? What excites you?

"If people knew _____ about me, they wouldn't follow me." What goes in the blank? Why do you think that's true?

If someone spent a day with you, would they find anything surprising?

Share your testimony of how Jesus saved you.

How would you describe your walk with God? What kind of spiritual disciplines helped you grow in your love for God?

DISCUSS SESSION 1 WITH LIFE GROUP LEADER

- Discuss the video
- Discuss the questions
- Pray together

I met with my life group leader on _____ to talk about Session 1 of the Life Group training.

SESSION 2 – **A Growing Love For The Lord**

This session will introduce you to the first goal of our life group ministry - **to see the members grow in their relationship with God**. The video will provide an overview of this goal. The discussion questions will explore your personal relationship with the Lord.

WATCH VIDEO 2

Video 2 can be found at: abfboone.org/leadertraining

What are your takeaways from the video?

What passages from the Bible talk about our relationship with the Lord?

What are some practical or tangible ways that you can cultivate a growing love for God in your group?

In the video, Michael & Nate talked about the journey that the Bible takes in our transformation (hear, understand, love, obey, & proclaim). Where are you strong? How did you get strong in these areas? Where do you need growth?

Describe your journey with the Bible. For instance, when did you first encounter the Bible? When did you first understand it to be the inspired word of God? When did you learn to love the word?

Have you read the entire Bible? What is your Bible reading plan like? Do you regularly work on Scripture memory? If so, describe your process? If not, what is holding you back?

Describe your prayer life. How have you grown in this area? Where would you like to grow in this area?

Describe a recent struggle in your life and how you applied gospel truths.

Do you sing at home? Do you lead your family in worship regularly? If not, what is holding you back?

As a life group leader, will it be important for the members of your group to be practicing the spiritual disciplines (Bible reading, praying, fasting, etc.)? How can you help them grow in this area?

DISCUSS SESSION 2 WITH LIFE GROUP LEADER

- Discuss the video
- Discuss the questions
- Pray together

I met with my life group leader on _____ to talk about Session 2 of the Life Group training.

SESSION 3 – **A Growing Love For The Church**

This session will introduce you to the second goal of our life group ministry - **to see the members of your group grow in their relationships with one another**. The video will give an overview of this goal. The questions will examine the way that you are currently modeling this in your life.

WATCH VIDEO 3

Video 3 can be found at: abfboone.org/leadertraining

What are your takeaways from the video?

Read Ephesians 2:11-22. List all of the terms that describe our social condition (strangers, aliens, citizens, members, etc...). How does the gospel transform our relationships?

What are some practical ways that you can cultivate gospel-shaped relationships in your life group?

Are you generous with your finances? Do you tithe regularly? Describe the last time you were excited to sacrificially give your resources?

Describe your relationships at the church? Would you say that any of these relationships are supernatural - relationships that are built not simply on common interests, but on the power of the Spirit?

In the video, Michael & Nate discussed the “one-anothers” in the New Testament. Here is a brief list:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Welcome one another | Romans 15:7 |
| 2. Be subject to one another | Ephesians 5:21 |
| 3. Forbear one another | Ephesians 4:2 |
| 4. Forgive one another | Colossians 3:12-13 |
| 5. Confess sin to and pray for one another | James 5:13-16 |
| 6. Serve one another | Galatians 5:13-14 |
| 7. Encourage one another | 1 Thessalonians 5:11 |
| 8. Comfort one another | 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 |
| 9. Bear one another's burdens | Galatians 6:2 |
| 10. Stir up one another | Hebrews 10:24-25 |
| 11. Admonish one another | Colossians 3:16 |

From this list, which commands do you practice on a regular basis?

Are there any commands that you struggle with? What kind of a relationship would need to exist to practice some of the more difficult one-another commands? How can you develop that type of relationship in a life group context?

What would happen to your life group if you neglected half of these one-another commands?

When was the last time you confessed a sin to someone? What was the result of that conversation?

Describe a week in your life. Would you consider yourself busy? Do you leave margin for people? Do you put a premium on people? Do you regularly talk with your family about leaving margin in your family's calendar?

DISCUSS SESSION 3 WITH LIFE GROUP LEADER

- Discuss the video
- Discuss the questions
- Pray together
- Give the book "Community" to apprentice

I met with my life group leader on _____ to talk about Session 3 of the Life Group training.

SESSION 4 – **A Growing Love For The Lost**

This session will introduce you to the third goal of our life group ministry - to see the members grow in their outreach to the lost. The video will give an overview of this goal. The questions will explore your efforts in evangelism and outreach.

WATCH VIDEO 4

Video 4 can be found at: abfboone.org/leadertraining

What are your takeaways from the video?

Why is evangelism an essential part of a healthy church? What would happen to a church if we did not take this command seriously?

As a life group leader, how will you help the members of your life group to actively engage in evangelism with non-believers?

Who are your neighbors? What are some ways that you have tried to build relationships with them?

Do you have personal friendships with people that are not Christians? Are you actively engaging in spiritual conversations with them? How often do you pray for them?

How has God uniquely gifted you to walk in wisdom with the lost? (Spiritual gifts, personality, job, living arrangement, etc.). What are some obstacles that you need to overcome?

In the book of Acts, the Early Church used the home in a variety of ways. Describe how they used their home in these passages:

Acts 5:42 –

Acts 10:22 –

Acts 12:12 –

Acts 16:32 –

Acts 18:26 –

Acts 20:7 –

Acts 21:7 –

How do you use your home/personal space for ministry? Where are you strong in this area? How can you grow?

If someone asked you to explain the gospel, what passages in the Bible would you turn to?

DISCUSS SESSION 4 WITH LIFE GROUP LEADER

- Discuss the video
- Discuss the questions
- Pray together

I met with my life group leader on _____ to talk about Session 4 of the Life Group training.

SESSION 5 – Gospel Growth Multiplication

This session will introduce you to the final goal of our life group ministry - to intentionally develop leaders within your group. The video will give you an overview of the questions will explore ways that you are currently delegating and sharing.

WATCH VIDEO 5

Video 5 can be found at: abfboone.org/leadertraining

What are your takeaways from the video?

In the video, Michael mentioned two scenarios of a committed life group leader. In the **first** scenario, the leader is committed to one group for 20 years. What are the advantages of this type of leadership and group? What are the disadvantages? In the **second** scenario, the life group plants a new group every four years (that also plants groups every four years). After 20 years, the leader is responsible for 32 groups. What are the advantages of this type of leadership and group? Are there any disadvantages?

Read Genesis 1:26-31 and Matthew 28:16-20. What similarities did you notice between God's original creation mandate and the Great Commission? What can you learn about God's desire to send and multiply?

Read Exodus 18 and 2 Timothy 2:1-2. How did Moses and Timothy learn to "share the load" of their leadership? Why is this important?

Describe a group that you have led in the past. How did it go? Did the people under your leadership thrive?

When you lead, do you find yourself looking for opportunities to delegate or do you like for everything to run through you?

What are some of your leadership weaknesses? How can you include other people in your life to compensate for those weaknesses?

Who are some men & women in your life that you most often look to for learning and guidance?

DISCUSS SESSION 5 WITH LIFE GROUP LEADER

- Discuss the video
- Discuss the questions
- Pray together

I met with my life group leader on _____ to talk about Session 5 of the Life Group training.

SESSION 6 – **Leading Life Groups**

This session will help you think about ways that you can shepherd your life group. The video will provide a few thoughts on how you can effectively lead your group. The questions will explore your leadership strengths.

WATCH VIDEO 6

Video 6 can be found at: abfboone.org/leadertraining

What are your takeaways from the video?

Read Philippians 1:9-11. What is Paul's primary prayer for the church?

Take a few minutes to map out a sample month, filled with *opportunities* for your group to engage in spiritual, communal, and missional activities. (For instance, weekly meetings, dinners, men's or women's prayer times, and dinners with non-believing friends).

Throughout your time as a life group member, have you grown in your love for the members of your life group? What was influential in your growth?

Have you ever developed a Christ-like affection for a difficult person? If so, how did you develop that?

Are you a good listener? Would your spouse and children say that you are a good listener?

Do you like to read? What kind of books do you enjoy?

Imagine that a member of your life group began to talk about a questionable doctrine or interpretation of Scripture. How would you lead your group through that challenge?

If you could establish a handful of “ground rules” to guide your life group conversations, what would they be? (Respect others opinions, allow time to talk, etc.).

How would you handle a person that dominates the conversation?

DISCUSS SESSION 6 WITH LIFE GROUP LEADER

- Discuss the video
- Discuss the questions
- Pray together

I met with my life group leader on _____ to talk about Session 6 of the Life Group training.

SESSION 7 – **Reflections on *Community***

This session will explore the book *Community* by Brad House.

READ *Community* by Brad House

What was your favorite chapter in this book? Why did it stick out to you?

What was the most difficult chapter? Why did you struggle with it?

What were some of your favorite quotes from the book? Why did they stand out to you?

If you were to take the author to dinner tonight, what questions would you ask?

What did you learn from this book?

How will this book help you in your leadership of a life group?

DISCUSS SESSION 7 WITH LIFE GROUP LEADER

- Discuss the book & discussion questions
- Pray together

I met with my life group leader on _____ to talk about Session 7 of the Life Group training.

Congratulations!

You have completed the apprenticeship training with your Life Group leader. At this point, you are ready to begin working with the Life Group leadership team and Discipleship Pastor to form a group of your own. Continue to pray that you would become a Christ-like leader, and that God would bring the right people into your group.