

# Calvary Baptist Church: Life Groups Workshop

March 26, 2010

Agenda:

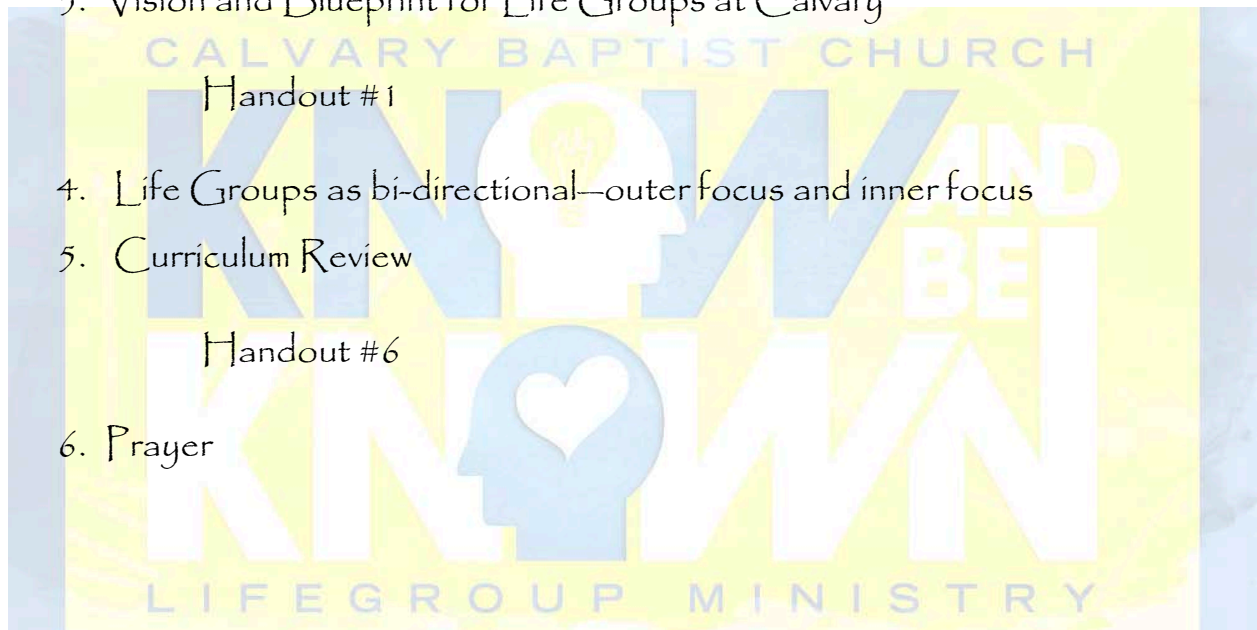
1. Welcome
2. Life Group update: what's happening, what are you studying, what is God doing in and through your LG?
3. Vision and Blueprint for Life Groups at Calvary

Handout #1

4. Life Groups as bi-directional—outer focus and inner focus
5. Curriculum Review

Handout #6

6. Prayer



## Calvary Life Groups: Handout #1; Blueprint

1. Bolster, train and support current leadership
  - a. Covenant between Calvary & LG leaders to identify expectations and responsibilities for both parties
    - i. 3 year limit on consecutive leadership
    - ii. Size limitations
    - iii. Deacon involvement—prayer, support
    - iv. Staff involvement—prayer, support, intervention; check on LG leaders monthly
    - v. blessing service in Fall for LG leaders and LGs
    - vi. 3 annual meetings with church and LG leadership, including a Spring training event
    - vii. Curriculum options in Media Library
2. Develop new leadership
  - a. Identify folks with LG leader skills in the Fall via LG leaders
  - b. Criteria for becoming LG leader
  - c. January training event for potential leaders
  - d. Period of learning and serving as asst in LG before doing their own LG
3. Covenant within each LG [Handouts #2 – 5]
  - a. Details expectations and responsibilities for each LG
    - i. Meeting schedule
    - ii. Open and safe and confidential conversation
    - iii. Accountability, belonging and caring
    - iv. Designate outward mission focus
  - b. Each group craft and sign their own
4. Covenant between each LG and Calvary
  - a. Calvary will
    - i. Support LG leaders through training and other care
    - ii. provide space if needed
    - iii. promote LGs among the membership
    - iv. continually articulate the role of LGs within the overall fabric of Calvary
    - v. serve LGs by forwarding names of new members/visitors to LGs
  - b. LGs will
    - i. allow their communities to influence the Calvary community through mission activities
    - ii. encourage new LG attendees to connect to Calvary
    - iii. provide testimonies for worship periodically
    - iv. keep pastoral care staff apprised of needs

## COMMUNITY GROUP COVENANT: Handout #2

### Purpose

To provide a predictable environment where participants experience authentic community and spiritual growth.

### Values & Goals

#### *Relationships*

While prayer and discussion of curriculum are key elements of a community group, the driving force behind the group is the building of relationships.

#### *Authenticity*

The atmosphere of a community group should encourage openness and transparency among members. This is an environment where people should feel free to be themselves.

#### *Confidentiality*

For authenticity to occur, members must be able to trust that issues discussed within a community group will not be shared outside the group.

#### *Respect*

Group members should never say anything that will embarrass their spouse or members of the group.

#### *Availability*

A primary responsibility of community is to prioritize for specific relationships. This requires a willingness to be available to meet each other's needs.

#### *Multiplication*

Group members recognize that one of the goals of their group is to start a new group within eighteen to twenty-four months. This allows others to experience the community group relationship.

### Group Guidelines

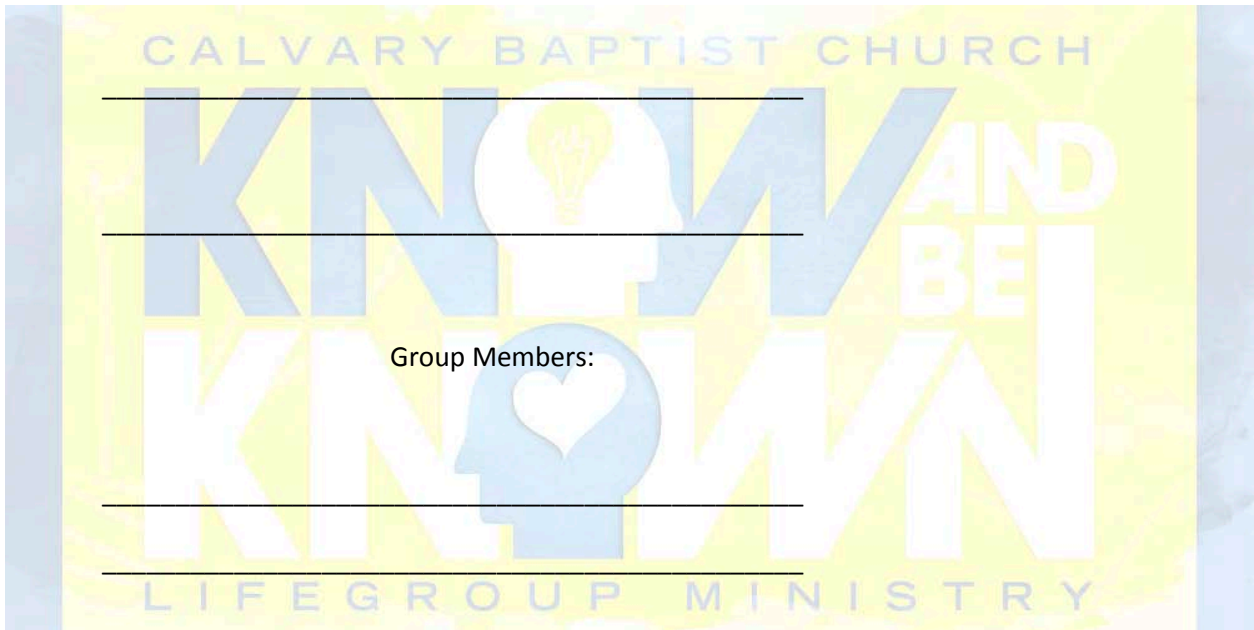
1. The group will meet from \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The group will meet on \_\_\_\_\_ night.
3. The group sessions will begin at \_\_\_\_\_ and end at \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The group time will typically consist of \_\_\_\_\_ minutes of sharing, \_\_\_\_\_ of study/discussion, and \_\_\_\_\_ of prayer.

5. The group will be a closed group until all members agree to additional members.
6. Group members will attend and participate on a regular basis. Members agree to pray for other group members on a weekly basis.

I covenant together with the other members of this group to honor this agreement.

Group Leader(s)

Sign:



Group Members:

Small-Group Kickoff Retreat : Experiential Training for Group Leaders, 2005 Serendipity House Publishers, pp. 42-43.

## Ground Rules

**We all agree to follow the ground rules:**

**Priority:** We will give the group meetings priority as long as we are in this group.

**Participation:** Everyone is encouraged to participate and no one dominates.

**Respect:** Everyone is given the right to his or her own opinions, and all questions are encouraged and respected.

**Confidentiality:** Anything that is said in our meetings is never repeated outside the meeting without permission.

**Life change:** We will regularly assess our progress toward becoming an authentic community.

**Care and Support:** Permission is given to call upon each other at any time – especially in times crisis. The group will provide care for every member.

**Accountability:** We agree to let the members of our group lovingly hold us accountable to commitments we make. Unsolicited advice giving, however, is not permitted.

**Empty chair:** Our group will work together to fill the empty chair with an unchurched person or couple.

**Mission:** We agree as a group to reach out and invite others to join us and work toward multiplication of our group.

**Ministry:** We will encourage one another to volunteer and serve in a ministry. We will support missions work by giving financially and/or personally serving.

I agree to all of the above:



## Sample Covenant

1. The purpose of our group will be:
2. Our goals will be:
3. We will meet on \_\_\_\_\_ (day of week).
4. We will meet for \_\_\_\_\_ weeks, after which we will decide if we wish to continue as a group.
5. We will meet from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ and we will strive to begin and end on time.
6. We will meet at \_\_\_\_\_ (place) or rotate from house to house.
7. We will agree to the following ground rules for our group:
  - **Priority:** We will give the group meetings priority as long as we are in this group.
  - **Participation:** Everyone is encouraged to participate and no one dominates.
  - **Respect:** Everyone is given the right to his or her own opinions, and all questions are welcome.
  - **Confidentiality:** Anything that is said in our meetings is never repeated outside the meeting without permission.
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  -

I agree to all of the above

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

“Koinonia Covenant”<sup>1</sup>: Handout #4

1. Affirmation: “I will love you and affirm you no matter what you have said or done. I love you as you are for what Christ wants to make of you.”
2. Availability: “Anything I have – time, energy, and resources – are all at your disposal. I give these to the group in a unique way.”
3. Regularity: “I will give a regular part of my time to this group when it decides to meet. I will give that time priority on my schedule.”
4. Prayer: “I promise to pray for you, to uphold you, and to attempt to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit concerning your needs.”
5. Openness: “I will let you know who I am and where I am as a person in my hopes and hurts. I will need you!”
6. Honesty: “I will be honest in my feedback to you in what I sense and feel coming from you.”
7. Confidentiality: “What goes on in this group stays here. I will say nothing that may be traced back to my covenant partners.”
8. Accountability: “You have the right to expect growth from me so that you may benefit from my gifts as I do yours. You have a right to ask me questions in that regard.”



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<sup>1</sup> Taken from Brothers! Calling Men Into Vital Relationships By Geoff Gorsuch with Dan Schaffer Pages 50-51

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Life Group Material in Library

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Couch, James F. *Foundational Truths: Foundations of the Faith*. Nashville, TN: Serendipity House, 2003. Print.

Couch, James F. *Knowing Jesus: Foundations of the Faith*. Nashville: Serendipity House, 2003. Print.



Cram, Barry, and Brian Daniel. *Story. Narrator. Intrigue. A Guide to Spiritual Conversations*. Nashville: Serendipity House, 2008. Print.

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Howerton, Rick. *Great Beginnings: Your First Small-group Study*. Nashville, TN: Serendipity House, 2005. Print.

Keck, Ron, and Ben Colter. *Colossians: Embrace the Mystery*. Nashville, TN: Serendipity House, 2008. Print.

Keck, Ron, and Ben Colter. *Song of Songs: the Epic Romance*. Nashville, TN: Serendipity House, 2007. Print.

Keck, Ron. *Mark: beyond the Red Letters*. Nashville, TN: Serendipity House, 2008. Print.

Madsen, Keith, James Couch, Cathy Tardif, Scott Lee, and Ashley Benedict. *God and the Journey to Truth: Seeking Answers*. Nashville, TN: Serendipity House, 2003. Print.

Madsen, Keith, James Couch, Katherine Harris, Scott Lee, and Gregory Benoit. *The Christian in a Postmodern World*. Nashville, TN: Serendipity House, 2003. Print.

Nelson, Tommy. *Can You Hear Me Now?: Improving Communication*. Nashville, TN: Serendipity House, 2006. Print.

Nelson, Tommy. *Coauthoring Your Child's Story: Parenting on Purpose*. Nashville, TN: Serendipity House [LifeWay Christian Resources, 2006. Print.

Nelson, Tommy. *Creating Mutual Funds: Financial Teamwork in Marriage*. Nashville, TN: Serendipity House, 2006. Print.

Nelson, Tommy. *Dream Team: the Power of Two*. Nashville, TN: Serendipity House [LifeWay Christian Resources, 2005. Print.

Nelson, Tommy. *Some Assembly Required: Instructions for an Amazing Marriage*. Nashville, TN: Serendipity House, 2005. Print.

Nelson, Tommy. *Turning up the Heat: Rekindle Romance and Passion*. Nashville, TN: Serendipity House [LifeWay Christian Resources, 2005. Print.

Soltes, Fiona. *Ruth: Gleaning Hope*. Nashville, TN: Serendipity House, 2009. Print.