

HOLY SPIRIT 21

Leader Prep Guide



Presented 2017-2018
Leduc Alliance Church, Alberta
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Group Members

NAME	Phone #	Email / Text address
Leader		

THE PURPOSE OF HOME GROUPS

THE PURPOSE OF HOME GROUPS:

We exist to reach the world for Jesus, one person at a time. We feel that is best done in small, relational environments, where biblical disciples can be made. Home groups are the primary vehicle by which we carry out the vision and mission of Leduc Alliance Church.

VISION:

Reaching the world for Jesus, one person at a time.

MISSION:

Creating biblical disciples in relational environments.

“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.” - John 15:4

And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” - Matthew 22:37-39

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” - Matthew 28:18-20

And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. - Acts 2:42-47

YOUR ROLE AS THE LEADER

The Roles of the Home Group Leader: Inside the group:

Abide:

- Spend time in God's Word, prayer and fellowship during home group.
- Encourage other to spend time in God's word, prayer and fellowship.
- Be aware of where the group members are in their daily walk.

Reach the Lost

- Invite the lost to group.
- Encourage the group to invite their lost family, friends, co workers etc.

Connect the Unconnected

- Connect new people to your group through personal invitation and phone calls.
- Encourage other to spend time in God's word, prayer and fellowship.

Chase the Strays

- Recognize who is missing from group.
- Encourage others in group to recognize who is missing from group.

Shepherd

- Create a safe environment for the group to thrive.
- Ask good questions for the purpose of understanding where each group member is.
- Be transparent.

Identify, Equip, Release

- Identify where each group member is at in their spiritual maturity. (*Spiritually Dead, Infant, Child, Young Adult, Parent*)
- Identify an apprentice.
- Equip your apprentice by sharing different components of group.
- Release your apprentice when the group is ready to branch.
- Equip additional group members with leading different components of group.

Team

- Talk with your coach weekly.
- Talk with your apprentice weekly.

The Roles of the Home Group Leader: Outside the group:

Abide:

- Pursue your relationship with God throughout the week.
- Encourage other to spend time in God's word, prayer and fellowship.

Reach the Lost

- Look for opportunities to invite the lost to group.
- Encourage the group throughout the week to be aware of people they could invite

Connect the Unconnected

- Call new people throughout the week to connect to group.
- Encourage the group to connect people throughout the week to group and church.

Chase the Strays

- Call the missing from group each week to check on them.
- Look for opportunities to connect with those missing throughout the week.
- Encourage group members to connect with those missing throughout the week.

Shepherd

- Intentionally create opportunities to spend time with group members at coffee, home, etc.

Identify, Equip, Release

- Meet with Coach to discuss group and training.
- Meet with Apprentice regularly to raise up and release.
- Create or Equip someone in group to create service opportunities.

Team

- Create opportunities to serve outside the group for the group to grow as a team/family.

RELATIONAL ENVIRONMENT GROUP GUIDELINES

Setting some basic group guidelines for how we will honor one another in our group discussions is important.

- Ground rules give boundaries for people to operate within.
- They help with the flow and pace of the discussions.
- They help us value one another.
- They help people to be more comfortable sharing deep and meaningful things.

SAFE GROUP: We will strive to create an environment where everyone can be real, open, and honest with their struggles and vic-

CONFIDENTIALITY: What is said in the group stays in the group.

LISTEN: Let's value one another during the discussions by really listening to what is being shared. Try to avoid thinking about how you are going to respond, or what you are going to say next.

PAUSE: Allow a pause in conversation after someone shares. Give the person sharing the chance to finish and the group the opportunity to consider what was just shared before responding.

SILENCE: It is important to allow silence in the group as it provides an opportunity for someone to share and for members in the group to process the topic or question being considered.

NO "CROSS TALK": Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations.

NO FIXING: We are not here to fix each other. Jesus does that part. Give encouragement; speak truth, and point to Jesus. Don't try to solve or fix each other.

NO RESCUING: When people are sharing something deeply personal, there can be a tendency to try to make them feel better

about themselves or the situation by providing immediate condolences. This will often cause them to stop sharing. Resist the temptation to rescue people.

SHARING: Be sensitive about the amount of time you share.

CONFLICT: We will commit to resolve conflict biblically. When conflict or sin issues between group members arise, we want to make sure that we are honoring God and each other in the way we deal with these issues. The following are a few key Scriptures in this regard (*there are many others*).

- If someone sins against you
Matthew 18:15-20
- Restoring someone in sin
Galatians 6:1-5
- Forgive a sinner
Colossians 3:12-13
- Reconciling differences
Matthew 5:23-24, Matthew 7:1-5

BE SELF-AWARE: Be self-aware of how you are personally affecting the environment through your words, actions, and non-verbal communication.

USE "I" STATEMENTS: It's easy to talk about the issues of others, but for our purposes, we want you to put yourself on the table. Try to use "I" statements rather than "them", "the church", "us", "we", etc.

[LEADER PREP GUIDE]

LEADER TIPS & NOTES

*As a disciple maker, do you know what your part is with the spiritually dead, infant, child, young adult and parent?
If you are unsure, contact your community pastor.*

BEFORE GROUP: Your role as a leader before group starts

- Read through the curriculum: This will help if you need to re-word any questions to better suit your group. Choose the questions you want the group to discuss.
- Read the necessary passages each week
- Recognize what God is showing you. Think through how this impacts your own four relational spheres.
- Do you know where each person in the group is spiritually? (*spiritually dead, infant, child, young adult, parent.*)
- What is your part as you walk with them?

- **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Go to www.leducalliancechurch.org/events and choose the top 2-3 announcements that would benefit your group members. Also, use this time to give any announcements that are specific to your home group.

1. _____ 2. _____

- **SERMON:** *Awareness & Preparation*

- What did I hear in this week's sermon?
- How might this week's sermon hit each person in my group?

AFTER GROUP: Your role as a leader after group

- **INTENTIONAL LEADER ACTIONS:** *Shepherding, Connecting, Chasing, Reaching:*

- Who am I intentionally praying for this week? Who needs me to pray with them?
- This week, who do I need to have a follow up conversation with from group?
- Who was absent from group or from service? Determine the next step you need to take to help them stay connected.
- Who do I need to call this week?
- Who am I inviting to group? How am I regularly encouraging group members to invite unconnected people? Is my group growing a heart for lost people?

DISCUSS: Discuss the story with your group

LEADER TIPS & NOTES

[**HEAD** - These questions help us examine what the Word shows.]

- *Even though Adam and Eve had perfect fellowship with Creator God, He gave them freedom to reject Him. What does this say about God and His idea of relationship?*
- *Why is it significant that God created everything and that people are significantly special to Him? How does this impact your view of the world?*
- *How are YOU affected by what was lost in the Garden?*

You probably won't get through all the questions you choose – that is fine. It is better to have a great discussion sharing lives around God's word than to cover all the questions.

There are head/heart/hand questions. Choose a variety of the three.

[**HEART** - These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.]

- *Concerning the story we just heard, what does the Holy Spirit have you wrestling with? (Please share at the HEART level...not the HEAD level.)*

LIVE IT: Reflecting on what the Holy Spirit is revealing to you , how it impacts everyday life and what He is asking you to about it.

[**HANDS** - These questions help us bring truth and beliefs to our everyday.]

- *What is God asking you to do about it? Who will you allow to hold you accountable to this?*
- *For you personally, what do you need to adjust in your day to put God more center?*

Take the lead and be one of the first to answer this question.

CLOSING PRAYER:

- Spend some time in prayer focusing on how these passages are impacting you personally.
- Write down group prayer request and praises/celebrations on the following page.

NEXT WEEK'S READING

- *The Story: Ch. 2. / Bible passages Genesis 12-13; 15-17; 21-22; 32-33; 35; Romans 4; Hebrews 11*

BIG IDEA

Suggested reading list for this year:

Holy Fire, R.T. Kendall
The Forgotten God, Francis Chan

40 Days with the Holy Spirit, R.T. Kendall
Bible Reading Plan- **Life Journal**

- They passed themselves off as being better than they were, to the Apostles, lying to them and to the Holy Spirit about it. Basically, they lied about loving well and being friends of Jesus. This ended in both of their deaths.
- They portrayed a white lie, do I always love well? No, we could all answer that truthfully, but do we pass ourselves off to others and especially to God as being otherwise.
- Ananias and Sapphira lied about their character and conduct to man, but more importantly, they lied to God, and thought they could get away with it.
- And here we learn that the Holy Spirit is God, not just a servant of God, or an emissary of God. Holy Spirit is God, and a lot of times, the forgotten one of the God-head; the Trinity.

BIG IDEA

We need to understand that The Holy Spirit is God. Why what implications does this have for our daily life?

Is The Holy Spirit the Forgotten God?

On A daily basis, how much do you interact with him?

Who do you pray to? Why?

- **Open In Prayer**

- **Group Guidelines:** Review Guideline on Page 5 this Week

- **Cast Vision** - Review Purpose of the home Group Page 3

- **Announcements:** See relevant events at www.leducalliance/events.org and pass them on to your group.

This week confirm day a/ time and meeting place and pass them on to Pastor Larry. Plus fill out the attendees section and pass on to Pastor Larry

The Story: Anannias & Sapphira

Read out loud : Acts 5: 1-16

Theme: What did the sin of Ananias and Sapphira really consist of? What was the offense? Are we in danger of sinning similarly against God and against His Holy Spirit?

What was their offense? Acts 4:32-37

- Do you and I have great love? *-John 15:12-17*
- How is my love for Jesus? My brothers and sisters? My Church? When is the last time you gave of yourself for another with no strings or bitterness attached? No "have to" or "supposed to" resentment? Have you given yourself to "the Body" for the benefit of "the Body"?

What was the sin of Ananias and Sapphira?

Holy Spirit is God – Three words Theos (Elohim), Kurios and Yehowah (YHWH – JEHOVAH)

-John 1:1-5, Acts 5:3-4, Genesis 1:2, 3 records the Spirit of God at creation also; -John 1:2-4

- The word Theos or Elohim (Hebrew equivalent) is further used of Holy Spirit as God in the following Scriptures:

[1 Cor. 3:16](#) [Cor. 6:19](#) [2 Cor. 6:16](#) [2 Peter 1:21](#)

Therefore, what does the Bible teach? the Holy Spirit is God, who dwells within you and me, who made us.

-2 Cor. 3:14-18

So What? I have Jesus, why do I need the Holy Spirit?

Question: Can we say that we have experienced the Holy Spirit's presence or action in our lives over this past year? .

Do you agree with Francis Chan, in his book, *Forgotten God*, written in 2009, wrote this at the height of "mega church" explosion:

God the Holy Spirit

"The benchmark of success in church services has become more about attendance than the movement of the Holy Spirit." –Forgotten God, p.15

Pastor Chan goes on further to say, *"The entertainment model of church was largely adopted in the 1980's and 90's, ...it filled our churches with self-focused consumers rather than self-sacrificing servants attuned to the Holy Spirit."* –Forgotten God, p.16

If you were Satan and you wanted to thwart God's kingdom and purposes, where or what would you attack? What would be your strategy? Why?

Finish with this:

BIG IDEA

It is my desire, and I believe God's desire, that our lives, our church, would know and experience the power and presence of Him every day in the Holy Spirit. I hope this would be your desire as well. I also hope that people would recognize that we/me/you have been with God the Holy Spirit, walking in His ways and that our fragrance would be sweet and pleasing to Him and to each person that walks in our doors. This will only take place if we are desperate for Him...and only Him.

Pastor Shannon

Do you want to walk with God more closely? Do you want to have a real relationship with Jesus? Then one needs to get to know and live and walk with the Holy Spirit.

Chan says, *"I also believe that the Spirit is more obviously active in places where people are desperate for Him, humbled before Him, and not distracted by their pursuit of wealth or comforts (like we are)."* **Discuss this**

"We are not all we were made to be when everything in our lives and churches can be explained apart from the work and presence of the Spirit of God." –Chan, *Forgotten God*, p.18. **Discuss this**

Discuss this

To end, A.W. Tozer said this prophetically about the Church in his day(1950's) , quoted by Chan, to the church today:

We may as well face it: the whole level of spirituality among us is low. We have measured ourselves by ourselves until the incentive to seek higher plateaus in the things of the Spirit is all but gone.... [We] have imitated the world, sought popular favor, manufactured delights to substitute for the joy of the Lord and produced a cheap and synthetic power to substitute for the power of the Holy Ghost. -A.W. Tozer

Close In Prayer

Prayer Requests

Date: / /

NAME	Request	Celebrate/Praise
Leader		