



Lighthouse Christian Church

# Fellowship Group Leadership Training Manual

*“Whom we proclaim, admonishing every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present very man perfect in Christ; Whereunto I labor also, striving according to his working, which works in me mightily”. (Col 1:28-29)*

Dear Lighthouse Fellowship Group Leader,

Welcome to our Fellowship Group Leader Training! You are here to learn how we, as a leadership team, will minister to people at Lighthouse. As a fellowship group leader, you will join the ranks of those who have been entrusted with the precious gift of caring for the body of Christ.

Fellowship groups provide a structure for building relationships where God can release spiritual covering, a friendly accountability, and a strong support system for our people. The concept of fellowship groups is Biblical and deeply spiritual. Our model for fellowship groups is the early Church, when the Disciples of Christ devoted themselves to fellowship and teaching. (Acts 2:42-47) Life transformation happens in the context of relationship. As we turn our hearts to develop these very important ministry relationships, we know that many lives will be changed for God's glory.

Your role will be to provide leadership, care and encouragement for the body of Christ at Lighthouse. You will minister to the people God sends you in your fellowship group during three sessions a year. Never underestimate the importance of those who attend your fellowship group or your role as their leader. We have also carefully and deliberately created a system where you, as a leader, are cared for also. You will be paired with a coach who will support you throughout each session to provide help, wisdom and encouragement as you serve in your fellowship group.

We are so excited to join our hearts to this ministry and see what God will do!

We love being your Pastors,

Pastors Steve & Deena

 Lighthouse Christian Church

## Section 1: Core Values of the LCC Fellowship Group Ministry

**We will launch LCC Fellowship Groups to accomplish our mission:**

*We are united by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ to go into all the world and demonstrate the gospel of His Kingdom to anyone and everyone through the power of the Holy Spirit.*

**The Fellowship Group ministry at LCC will fulfill our mandate to:**

- **Recover:** go where the lost are and retrieve them (2Tim2:24-26, Jude 1:20-25)
- **Restore:** rebuild lives through Christian ministry (Jer 30:17, Joel 2:25, Mt 17:11)
- **Release:** encourage models of Biblical ministry that are reproduced in others (Mk 3:14-15, Luke 5:10, Mt 28:19-20)

**Purpose, Mission & Goals of Fellowship Groups:**

Fellowship Groups are consistent with our identity as a *fellowship of committed Christian friends*.

### **Purpose**

To reach people with the life-giving message of Jesus that they might become fully committed followers of Jesus Christ.

### **Mission**

To promote healthy relationships through fellowship groups which empower people for ministry.

### **Goals: Acts 2:42-47**

1. Connect: build healthy relationships in the church body
2. Care: provide pastoral care for the needs of the church body
3. Grow: help individuals grow spiritually in discipleship
4. Serve: provide leaders an opportunity to serve the church body

Fellowship Groups are focused on ministry to people. Each Fellowship Group will emphasize either Christian discipleship or evangelism to reach the lost. The activities of the group can be as varied or specific as necessary to facilitate relationship in the body. Fellowship Groups are a place people can expect to connect with other people and find satisfying relationship in Christ.

### **Why Fellowship Groups?**

Fellowship Group Leaders are co-laborers with God and the Lighthouse Leadership Team to facilitate the ministry of transformation and growth of each person at Lighthouse.

*And he gave some to be apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, unto the work of ministering, unto the building up of the body of Christ: till we all attain unto the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a full grown man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: (Eph 4:11-13)*

1. Life change happens in the context of relationships.

We are designed for relationships. Relationships define us, grow us, challenge us, strengthen us, and bless us.

*But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:7)*

*Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow; but woe to him that is alone when he falls, and hath not another to lift him up. Again, if two lie together, then they have warmth; but how can one be warm alone? And if a man prevail against him that is alone, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)*

2. Our culture devalues personal relationships, but the scripture requires relationships.

*Not forsaking our own assembling together, as the custom of some is, but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as you see the day drawing nigh. (Hebrews 10:25)*

*These things I command you, that you may love one another. (John 15:17)*

## **Fellowship Groups Provide Four Things**

1. A place to **CONNECT**.

(1Cor 1:9, Matt 18:20, 1 Cor 9:22, 2Cor 8:3-5)

 It is easy to feel alone in a crowd. Fellowship Groups are an open door into the life of our church family. When you are in a Fellowship Group, you experience the love and strength of our biblical community.

2. A place to **CARE**.

(Jn 13:34, Rom 12:10, 1Cor 12:25-27, 2Cor 8:16, Gal 5:13, Phil 2:20, 1 Thess 3:12-13, 1Jn 3:16)

 Imagine someone you can call when you're discouraged, someone to pray with when you are doubting, and someone who can teach you more about what God is like. Imagine a loving community of people who notice when you are away, gently sharpen you when you need it, and help you share your faith with others. Fellowship Groups are a place where you can find the loving care and support of God's family. .

3. A place to **GROW**.

(Eph 4:15, 1PE 2:22, 2PE 3:18, Prov 27:17)

 Fellowship groups are a place you can be equipped to become more like Jesus and live a faith-filled life. We believe that every person is created with God-given potential to make difference in the world. Fellowship Groups are a place where there are like-minded people who are committed to grow in the grace of our Lord Jesus. We want to see people grow, flourish and become all that God has called them to be.

4. A Place to **SERVE**.

(Jn 13:14-16, Jn 21:15, Acts 6:2-5, Phil 2:1-7, Col 1:7, 1PE 5:5)

 Fellowship Groups are a place where we can express the love of Jesus through serving others. We believe that all are called to serve. Fellowship Groups are the structure where we can minister to the needs of others and demonstrate the love of Jesus in practical ways. Every Fellowship Group Leader is a servant and a steward over the relationships that God has put in their lives to provide loving, pastoral care at Lighthouse.

## **SECTION 2: FELLOWSHIP GROUP LEADERSHIP ROLES**

Every Fellowship Group Leader must always focus all their activity, effort and discussion toward the achievement of the primary goals of Fellowship Groups: to **Connect**, to **Grow**, to **Care** and to **Serve**. Everything you do must serve these goals. The challenge each leader faces is to move each person in the group one step further in their walk with Christ. Through Fellowship Groups we will provide clear steps for each member to express greater levels of love and commitment to God as they follow him in discipleship.

With the privilege of leadership comes responsibility. As a leader, you are responsible to model normal Christianity before those whom you serve. The ways of God, the power of God and the love of God should be evidenced in your life. As the Apostle Paul said to the Corinthians “You are our epistle, known and read of all men”. (2Cor 3:2).

When people look at our lives, they should see Jesus. In his letter to Titus, the Apostle Paul lists some very important standards for leadership in the Church.

*For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou should set in order the things that were wanting, and appoint elders in every city, as I gave thee charge; if any man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having children that believe, who are not accused of riot or unruly. For the overseer must be blameless, as God's steward; not self-willed, not soon angry, no brawler, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but given to hospitality, a lover of good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled; holding to the faithful word which is according to the teaching, that he may be able to exhort in the sound doctrine, and to convict the gainsayers. (Titus 1:5-9)*

God is very clear in the Bible; those who minister in His house should live lives that uphold the standards of His word. You are qualified to lead a Fellowship Group if you can:

1. Pray
2. Share scripture
3. Lead, encourage motivate, and teach other people
4. Create positive group dynamics, and deal with conflict resolution within the group.
5. Agree to comply with the Fellowship Group Leader Commitment & Honor Code

### **Leadership Commitment**

A Fellowship Group Leader is:

- 1) Passionate about God and has a desire to serve His people
- 2) A person of godly character and integrity
- 3) Committed to personal spiritual growth
- 4) Supportive of the vision and mission of the Pastor and Leadership Team of Lighthouse

This includes:

- Attending Sunday and Wednesday services
- Membership at Lighthouse
- Supporting the Church financially through tithes and offerings

## Fellowship Group Leader Honor Code

As an essential part of the Lighthouse Christian Church Leadership Team, you have a responsibility to develop and exhibit mature Christian behavior. This should be the basic premise of your desire to work in a Servant/Leader position here at Lighthouse. While serving the Body of Christ as a Fellowship Group Leader at Lighthouse, you pledge to demonstrate Biblical standards in all situations. As Christians, the way we present ourselves to others is of vital importance to the way others perceive Christ. Our conduct should never be an embarrassment to Christ, but should exemplify the best qualities of a mature believer and Servant/Leader.

***“I pledge to exemplify the highest moral commitment and maintain a disciplined life of Bible reading, prayer and fasting. I will refrain from such things as profanity, smoking or chewing tobacco, gambling, alcoholic beverages, dishonest gain, illegal drugs, pornography, sexual immorality, and all behaviors which might cause the Holy Spirit to grieve and others to stumble. My behavior will exemplify the principles of Christ in speech and action. I will encourage others to grow in Christ and become Servant Leaders. I commit to this as a way of life measured by the heart and commitment of each leader in the Lighthouse family. I will give myself to the vision and direction as outlined by the Pastor for Lighthouse Christian Church. I will regard this Honor Code as an essential part of development and not as an imposition or restriction.”***

## Four Leadership Roles of Fellowship Group Leaders

### 1) *Intercessor Role*

(Mk 9:29, Mt 18:20, Phil 4:6)

#### **Prayer is the foundation of the fellowship group**

Your prayer and intercession for those in your group is vital to the success of your ministry. Your greatest responsibility is to pray daily for the people who are in your Fellowship Group. Prayer is a key to your effectiveness. Spiritual growth and intimate fellowship will only happen as you pray. It is important that you, as a fellowship group leader, develop your personal prayer life and to encourage others in their prayer life.

*James 5:16* gives us three key principles for prayer, ***“the fervent, effectual prayer of a righteous man avails much.”***

- **Fervent** - This word means intently, violently or white hot - gives you the idea of being welded together. God wants us to pray with the kind of intensity that welds us together with His presence.
- **Effectual** - It is not enough to pray; we must learn to pray effectively.
- **Avails much** - You might translate this "gets results." God is looking for fruit in your ministry.

Prayer **COVERS, PROTECTS,** and **ENLIGHTENS.**

You must spiritually prepare through prayer the environment before group members arrive.

1. Humble yourself and submit to God. (James 4:7-11)
2. Pray over the house or room (1Tim 2:8)
3. Invite the presence of the Holy Spirit. (John 16:13-15)
4. Ask God to work in the hearts of those He is calling to be there. (Titus 3:4-7)
5. Ask God to prepare their hearts to receive what He wants to impart. (Eph 3:14-21)
6. Pray that the Scriptures read will come alive in their hearts. (Luke 24:32)

**\*\*\*\*Be sure to open and close each meeting with prayer.**

Prayer is a connecting point for ministry.

In order to make room for the ministry of the Holy Spirit in people's lives during the session, pray daily over each person.

1. Pray for the Lord to reveal himself. (Jn 14:21)
2. Pray for the opportunity to speak truth into their lives (Jn 8:32)
3. Ask the Lord for wisdom and discernment to expose lies of the enemy. (Eph 1:18)
4. Ask for supernatural interventions of His compassion. (Jude 1:20-25)
5. Pray that He will transform them by the renewing of the mind (Rom 12:1-2).
6. Follow the leading of the Holy Spirit always. (Jn 16:7-8)
7. Involve everyone when possible.
8. Don't settle for just another activity...Expect God to move!

## 2) *Shepherding Role*

*So he was their shepherd according to the integrity of his heart, And guided them by the skilfulness of his hands. (Ps 78:72)*

David led his people as a faithful Shepherd. As a Fellowship Group Leader, you will provide pastoral (shepherding) care for each member in your group. Psalm 23 beautifully illustrates the kind of care the Lord has for us as our Shepherd. Jesus revealed himself in John 10 as our Good Shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep. He is gentle, loving and understanding. He feeds, cares and protects His sheep. As you shepherd, you will show the love of Jesus in practical ways in the relational context of the group. You will provide care for the needs of those in your group. You will guide them in the discipleship process to be closer to Jesus as well as encourage each one in their walk with Christ.

### Three Aspects of the Shepherd's Role

#### 1) Provide Care and Feed the "flock"

- Invite by the leading of the Holy Spirit who he would have attend your group
- Look for divine appointments and teachable moments in the context of the relationships you build
- Don't just invite friends; Watch for his hand to lead you to new people so they can get connected
- Your capacity to develop healthy relationships will enhance your ability to minister (Prov 27:23)
- Rally the group around a member going through crisis or difficulties with wisdom and sensitivity
- Find ways to be a blessing to one another
- Provide meals, support, and resources to those in need
- Celebrate personal victories
- Lead the way in prayer

#### 2) Ensure the group runs timely and efficiently

- Be responsible, organized, and on time; set clear expectations and parameters for the activity
- Commit and strictly stick to a definite beginning and end time
- Whatever the emphasis or activity, do everything with excellence, competence and diligence
- Keep your word; communicate and accomplish the goals you set for the group
- Stick to the goals for the LCC Fellowship Groups

#### 3) Guide them through the Fellowship Group activity.

Throughout each session regardless of your activity show care by:

- **ACCOUNTABILITY** - Ask tough questions; help them keep commitments.
- **AFFIRMATION** - Offer words of encouragement and support; affirm their strengths.
- **ASSESSMENT** - Evaluate their condition objectively; help them gain perspective.
- **ACCEPTANCE** - Provide unconditional love and grace to them even when they fail.
- **ADVICE** - Speak words of wise counsel and give them options for their decisions.
- **ADMONITION** - Offer words of caution and warning so they can avoid pitfalls.
- **ASSETS** - Give them tangible gifts and resources – a book, a CD, or a personal contact
- **APPLICATION** - Direct them to discover how they can practice what they've learned.

### 3) *Hospitality Role*

(Jn 13:35, Rom 12:13, 1Tim 3:2, Titus 1:8, 1Pe 4:9)

- Welcome each member and make them feel comfortable in the group. You are a host and they are your guests. Be polite, warm, gracious and inviting. Smile!
- Be sure to learn the names of each person in your group to communicate a personal connection
- Learn about their lives to communicate you care
- Build relationship between your guests. Introduce them to each other. Be sensitive to ways to help them connect.
- Create an environment that hosts the love and presence of God
  -  Create a **POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE** that is full of faith, hope, and love that inspires people to grow, facilitates healthy relationship building, and allows the Holy Spirit to work. Fellowship groups are an expression of church in your home. There should be a culture of encouragement, blessing, and unity. Your meeting reflects the heart and vision of Lighthouse!
  -  As a leader, your role to set the **TONE** and **CULTURE** of your group. Atmosphere does not just happen! The location of your group, your preparation for the meeting, and the example you can set as a leader are major factors in creating an effective atmosphere that builds others up.
  -  Cultivate a **LIFE GIVING** atmosphere. Be a source of encouragement. You do not need to know all the answers or be the source of all wisdom. The Holy Spirit will be with you to help and guide you.
- Be sure the meeting location is clean, uncluttered, with easy access to restrooms and free of distractions such as ringing clocks or humming machines. Remove pets from room to be sensitive to those with allergies.
- Food helps foster relationships and fellowship. Consider having snacks and drinks available to guests if appropriate. Have members in the group share in the responsibility of bringing snacks.
- Email or call your members the day before your group meeting as a friendly reminder to attend.

### 4) *Encouragement*

(1Thess 5:14, Eph 4:29, Col 3:12-15)

Regardless of the activity be sure to prepare a brief (as appropriate) word of encouragement. Be sure each person leaves knowing God's love and care for them. Read a scripture, speak words of faith and comfort, point each member to focus on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.(Heb 12:2) Speak hope to those who are hopeless, give comfort to those who are down or depressed, weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice. (Rom 12:15) Encourage each member of your group to follow Jesus Christ in all things. (Col 3:1-4)

## **SECTION 3 – Mechanics of the Fellowship Group Meeting**

God knows we need a loving group of people around us. God never intended his children to serve Him in isolation. Through the Fellowship Group Ministry, we believe God will cause us to function as a family, each member expressing genuine love, acceptance and practical care one for another. (1Cor 12:12, Ps 68:6, Eph 2:19)

### **Three Features of Fellowship Groups**

1. Fellowship groups are based on a “Free-Market system” where people are free to choose what group they will attend.

- Each Fellowship Group Leader is responsible to recruit their own members
- Each Leader will “show case” their Fellowship Group in a Sunday morning service so that people can “shop” for a Fellowship Group
- Fellowship Groups meet weekly during Spring, Summer & Fall sessions
- Leaders will welcome new people into the group anytime during the sessions
- Fellowship Groups are built on felt needs and common interests.
- Fellowship Group directory will be available on line & at LCC to advertise meeting locations, times and leaders contact information

2. Fellowship Group Leaders design their own Fellowship Group activity

- Leaders appoint an assistant (must be approved by coach)
- Fellowship Groups are held in homes, restaurants, gyms, library conference rooms wherever
- Leaders commit to a specific time (clearly defined beginning and end)
- Burden of child care is on the group leader
- Minimum of 3 people; Leader decides when its too big

3. Fellowship group leaders maintain a healthy relationship with their Coach and Pastor

- Leaders must complete an application for their Fellowship Group.
- Leaders will be assigned to a coach
- Leaders will attend monthly leader’s meeting during the sessions for continued training.

## **Fellowship Groups center around five types of activities:**

- 1) Bible Study  
Topical, Books of the Bible, Program based w/written curriculum
- 2) Prayer  
General, Age grouping or gender specific
- 3) Activities – based on Common Interests  
Exercise, Crafts, Cooking, Book Clubs, Father/Son breakfasts
- 4) Support Groups – Based on shared, felt needs  
Addiction recovery groups, Parenting, Marriage, Single Moms
- 5) Service Groups  
Feeding homeless, Community clean up, Home maintenance for the Elderly, Convalescent Home ministry

Our groups are as varied as we are. Group leaders use their gifts and passions to create a group that allows others to join with them in serving God. Leaders will add a ministry component to what you already love to do or what you have a calling to do. We have groups for all ages, interests, life experiences, days, times, locations. We foster an environment where our groups “do life” together with others.

As a leader be innovative and creative! God has designed each person uniquely, and He can use you as a catalyst for relationship building. Fellowship groups are not about doing more; but include others in your life expressions and make it a ministry.

## **Fellowship Group Calendar for 2013**

Fellowship Groups are launched in the Sunday morning service

1<sup>st</sup> Session (8 weeks) Week of Feb 12 through Week of April 1 (Spring)

2<sup>nd</sup> Session (6 weeks) Week of Jun 3 through Week of July 8 (Summer)

3<sup>rd</sup> Session (8 weeks) Week of Sept 8 through Week of Oct 27 (Fall)

## **How to Conduct a Fellowship Group Meeting**

### **Flow of Meeting**

- 1) Welcome your guests, greet them by name
- 2) Start your meeting on time by opening with prayer
- 3) Share your Biblical Encouragement
- 4) Engage in your pre-determined activity
- 5) End on time and close in prayer

## Group Dynamics

- Give time for DISCUSSION. Avoid doing all the talking. A good guideline is the “70-30” rule. Approximately 70% of the speaking should be from members and 30% from the leader.
- Make time at some point in the meeting to allow for informal personal interaction and relationship building among your members.
- Answer their questions. Make time for them to process and ask questions. If you don’t know the answer, admit it and find it. Talk to your coach how to approach sensitive questions.
- Keep the discussion POSITIVE. Carefully lead the conversation back to the topic when tangents occur. Where sensitive issues or complex questions arise in your group, follow up one-on-one after the meeting. Never unnecessarily embarrass or humiliate someone even if their own behavior merits it. (2Tim 2:24-26) Avoid personal confrontations and debate. (1Tim 6:3-5) Avoid unapproved speakers or material.
- In the context of personal ministry, men should minister to men and women to women. Couples may minister to a single. Use appropriate manners when relating to the opposite sex.
- Be sensitive to the spiritual condition of your members. They may be a lost person or a new believer who don’t understand phrases that are common to Christians. (i.e. spiritual warfare, washed in the blood, etc.) Use language that all can relate to and understand based on scripture. It may be necessary to slow down the pacing of your activity so all can benefit.
- Steer the discussion in a direction where EVERYONE can participate. Don’t let one person’s needs dominate the discussion.
- Be prepared to CHANGE THE DIRECTION of the meeting if needed. The primary goal is to create an environment where people feel loved and accepted not fulfill the requirements of a program.
- Foster communication within the group. Encourage them to fellowship outside the group through phone conversations, email or sharing a meal or coffee. Instruct them to pray for each other as well.

Remember, Fellowship Groups are not:

- Built on content or program; they are to build relationship
- Mini-church services
- Personal soap box for personal causes or controversial topics
- Time to make business connections or business deals
- Time to take an offering

## Location

We encourage all small groups to meet outside of the church building. If you cannot meet in your own home, look for a host home (possibly the home of someone attending your group). Other possibilities for meeting locations include:

- Library conference room
- Recreation center or Gym
- Subdivision clubhouse
- Outdoors in a park
- Restaurant or Coffee Shop

## Recruiting

- Start with people who are already in your sphere of influence (co-workers, friends, neighbors).
- Find people around you who are new to the church, new believers, or have shown interest in getting involved.
- Look for people who you think you can help draw out their potential.
- Pray for God to send people to you who you haven't already discovered.

## Childcare

Childcare for adult Fellowship Groups will be the responsibility of each individual group. Here are some options to consider when providing child care for your Fellowship Group:

1. Hire a child care provider to supervise the children each week. Have each member pay a small fee \$2 or \$3 per child per session for their own children and give that money to your child care provider. Be sure to provide a safe location for the children to meet.
2. Have each of the members take turns being a child care provider on a schedule throughout the session. Of course in this case, each person will miss one session.
3. Require each member provide their own child care weekly.

Should you, the leader, decide to provide childcare remember safety and supervision are paramount. Have your coach approve your child care provider. Children should never be left unsupervised during any time of the Fellowship Group Meeting.

## Your Coach

Fellowship group leaders will be paired with a coach for feedback, covering and safety. Coaches will schedule times to meet with the Fellowship Group Leaders for prayer covering, support, and a direct line of communication with the leadership. Utilize your coach if you have a need, prayer request, or concern.

Coaches serve leaders by:

- Praying for fellowship group leaders daily
- Equipping and encouraging fellowship group leaders in their personal walk with the Lord
- Providing care for fellowship group leaders and their groups through prayer, social interaction, and attention to special needs
- Visiting the fellowship group at least once during the session

## **SECTION 4 - RESOURCES**

### **Icebreakers**

Here are some suggestions to use questions to open discussion and help people relate to one another. Remember, the best icebreaker is transparency.

- Where were you born? What type of family were you raised in?
- What is the one thing about you that is unique?
- Who is someone who has influenced your growth as a Christian disciple? What did they do?
- How did you end up at this Fellowship Group Meeting?
- What is your favorite childhood memory?
- What was Christmas like when you were a child?
- Where did you live when you were growing up?
- What was your greatest struggle as a teenager?
- What is your earliest recollection of God?
- What did you want to be when you grew up?
- What is the farthest place you have ever traveled to?
- Who was your favorite teacher, and why?
- How do you feel the church (in general) has helped you as a person?
- What is a time during the week that you can relax?
- What do you most like about your career/life's calling?
- What do you least like about your career/life's calling?
- What is one thing that gives you satisfaction?
- Which household chore would you like never to have to do again?
- How do you work on your relationship with Christ during the day?
- What is your greatest joy in your faith?
- What is your greatest struggle in your faith?
- If you could change one thing about your life, what would it be, and why?
- Where would you live if you could move anywhere in the world, and why?
- How would you like to see your closest relationship develop in the next year(s)?
- What area of your faith would you like to work on in the next few years?
- If you could have three wishes come true, what would they be?
- If you could write one news headline for the whole world to see, what would it be?
- What is your greatest anticipation of the future?

## Some Fun Ideas

It is important to involve your group in other activities outside the settings of a fellowship group meeting. One of the purposes of fellowship groups is to develop relationships and a sense of community. Therefore, in order to get beyond certain perceived or actual barriers between relationships, you need to periodically do fun, social activities. Below is a list of ideas to use when planning an activity:

- Summer barbecue
- Pool party
- Games: Outburst, Encore, Pictionary, Charades, etc.
- Horseback riding
- Hay rides (include hot apple cider and s'mores)
- Bowling
- Christmas party
- Christmas caroling
- Progressive dinners
- All kinds of sports including Volleyball, badminton, roller skating, skiing, croquet
- Miniature golf
- Scavenger hunts
- Share a meal together; holiday parties
- Concerts, symphony, ballet, opera
- Picnics in the park
- Valentine's Day or other holiday banquets at a restaurant
- Camping
- White water rafting

## Ministry Through Use Of The Scripture

In life giving ministry it is helpful to know the scriptures that pertain to the area of ministry. Many times simply reading the Word of God to the person, praying with them, and allowing the Holy Spirit to bring conviction and truth to their lives, is the only ministry they need to grow. The following scriptures, arranged alphabetically by subject, will help you in life giving ministry:

### Life Giving Scripture References

#### Abortion

Exodus 20:13 Ten Commandments, you shall not murder  
Psalm 127:3 Children are a reward from God.  
Psalm 139:13-16 God created us and knew us in our mother's womb

#### Addictions (alcohol, drugs etc.)

Roman 6:12 Do not let sin control your body  
1 Corinthians 6:19 Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit  
Galatians 5:1 Through Christ we can be set free  
Galatians 5:16 Live by the Spirit and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh

#### Adultery

1 Corinthians 6:9 Adulterers will not enter heaven  
Exodus 20: 14 Ten Commandments, you shall not commit adultery  
Hebrews 13:4 God will judge the adulterer

#### Anger

James 1:19 Anger does not achieve God's righteousness  
Ephesians 4:26, 31 Don't let the sun go down on your anger, or give devil opportunity  
Matthew 5:28-40 Turn the other cheek.  
Colossians 3:8 We must rid ourselves of anger

#### Anxiety

Philippians 4:6-13 Don't worry, pray  
1 Peter 5:7 Cast all of your anxiety on Jesus  
Hebrews 13:5-6 God will never leave you or forsake you

#### Backsliding

1 John 1:8-9 If we confess our sins He will forgive us  
Jude 24-25 Jesus can keep us from falling  
Matthew 7:18-21 Only those who bear good fruit will enter heaven

#### Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Acts 2:38 Repent and you will receive the baptism of the Spirit  
Luke 11:13 Anyone who asks can receive the Holy Spirit

#### Child Discipline

Ephesians 6:4 Fathers don't provoke your children to anger  
Samuel 15:23 Rebellion is the sin of witchcraft  
Colossians 3:21 Fathers don't frustrate you children  
Proverbs 13:24 He who spares the rod hates the son  
Proverbs 22:6 Train a child well and as they grow old they will not depart from their training.  
Proverbs 22:15 The rod will drive folly from the heart of a child

## Children's Responsibilities

Ephesians 6:1 Children obey your parents

Exodus 20:12 Honor your father and mother that you may live long

## Condemnation

Romans 8:1 There is no condemnation for those in Christ

John 5:24 He who hears the word and believes will not be condemned.

John 3:17-18 Jesus did not come to condemn the world but to save it.

## Confession/Repentance

1 John 1:9 If we confess He will forgive our sins

Psalms 32:3 When you keep silent about sin your body wastes away

James 5:16 Confess your sins to one another

## Cults

1 John 4:1 Test the spirits

Mark 13:21-23 False prophets deceive even the elect

## Deliverance

James 4:7 Resist the devil and he will flee

Matthew 18:18 We have the power to bind demons

Luke 10:19 We can tread on the enemy and he cannot injure us

## Deny Self

Matthew 20:26-27 The greatest shall be a servant

Matthew 8:34 Those who come after Jesus must deny themselves

John 12:24 A grain of wheat must die to bear fruit

## Depression

Psalms 51:10-12 Restore the joy of our salvation

Roman 8:28, 31 All things work together for good to those who love God

1 Thessalonians 5:18 Give thanks in all circumstances

Matthew 11:28-39 Come to the Lord when weary and burdened and find rest

Psalms 147:3 God heals the brokenhearted

## Discouragement

Galatians 6:9 Do not become weary in doing good, you will be rewarded

Psalms 138:7-8 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, God saves me

2 Corinthians 4:8-9 We are hard pressed but do not despair

## Divorce

Malachi 2:15-16 God hates divorce

1 Corinthians 7:10-15 A wife must not separate from her husband, a husband should not divorce his wife

## Faith

Hebrews 11:1 Faith is assurance of things hoped for

Hebrews 11:6 Without faith cannot please God

Hebrews 12:2 Jesus is author of our faith

James 2:17 Faith without works is dead

## Fasting

Matthew 6:16 When you fast (we are to fast)  
Isaiah 58:3 On the day of your fast you have your request  
Isaiah 58:5 The fast the Lord desires is for a man to be humble

## Fear

Romans 8:13-17 When you die to the flesh you are free from fear  
2 Thessalonians 3:3 The Lord will protect you from evil  
Isaiah 41:10 Do not fear for God is with you  
Psalm 27:1-3 The Lord is my light whom shall I fear  
Psalm 23 The Lord is my shepherd  
Psalm 91 If you make the Lord your refuge, no harm will befall you

## Fear of Man

Colossians 3:23 Do your work for the Lord not to impress men  
Matthew 6:1 If you do good works to please men, lose your reward in Heaven  
Psalm 56:11 Trust in God, do not fear, what can man do to you?

## Fear of the Lord

Proverbs 19:23 The fear of the Lord leads to life and being untouched by evil  
Ecclesiastes 12:13 When all is said and done, fear the Lord the most important thing.  
Psalm 25:14 The secret of the Lord is with those who fear Him

## Forgiveness

2 Corinthians 2:10-11 Forgive others and Satan does not have an advantage over you  
Matthew 6:14-15 If you forgive others, God will forgive you  
Romans 12: 14 Bless those who persecute you

## Fornication

1 Corinthians 6:9 Fornicators will not enter heaven  
1 Corinthians 6:18 Run from fornication and all sins of body

## God's Expectations of Us

Micah 6:8 To do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly before Him  
Isaiah 66:2 Humility, contrite spirit, and tremble at His word  
Matthew 5:3, 8 Pure in heart and spirit see God  
John 5:10 Keep His commandments, love Him and others

## Grief

John 14:1-3 Jesus goes to prepare a place for us after we die  
John 11:25 If we believe in Jesus, yet we die, we shall live  
1 Corinthians 13:12 Now we see in a mirror dimly, but then, face to face

## Guilt

Romans 3:23 All have sinned  
Romans 6:23 God freely gives eternal life  
Romans 8:1-3 There is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus

## Healing

Isaiah 53:4-5 Jesus took our infirmities, by His stripes we are healed  
1 John 5:14-15 Ask anything of God according to His will, and He hears us  
Matthew 10:1 We have authority to heal every disease and sickness  
Jeremiah 30:17 God will restore your health  
Psalm 103:3 The Lord forgives our sins and heals all of our diseases

## Holiness

1 Peter 1:14-16 Be holy in our behavior  
Ecclesiastes 20:22 Be holy as the Lord Himself is holy  
Romans 12:2 Don't be conformed to the world  
Hebrews 12:14 Pursue sanctification without which you will not see the Lord

## Holy Spirit

John 16:7 Better when Jesus leaves and Holy Spirit comes  
John 16:8-13 Brings conviction of truth  
Acts 9:31 Brings comfort  
1 Corinthians 2:8-13 Brings wonderful things to the life of the believer  
1 Corinthians 12:7 Brings spiritual gifts

## Hope

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you, to give you future and hope  
Psalm 33:20 We wait in hope for the Lord, He is our shield, in Him we rejoice  
Proverbs 13:12 Hope deferred makes the heart sick  
Proverbs 23:18 There is future hope for you and your hope will not be cut off  
Isaiah 40:31 Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength and soar on wings as eagles

## Humility

Matthew 18:4 The greatest in God's kingdom are the humble  
James 4:10 Humble yourself and God will exalt you  
Proverbs 22:4 Humility brings wealth, honor, and life  
Psalm 37:11 Humility brings abundant prosperity  
James 4:6 God gives His grace to the humble

## Husband Responsibilities

1 Peter 3:7 Take care of your wife or your prayers will go unanswered  
Ephesians 5:25 Love your wife as Christ loved the Church  
1 Timothy 3:1-13 Characteristics of a man of God  
Hebrews 13:4 Honor the marriage bed  
1 Corinthians 7:3-4 Husbands must fulfill their marriage duties to their wives

## Incest/Molestation

Leviticus 18:6 Don't have sexual relations with a family member  
Leviticus 20:11, 12, 14, 17 Those who participate in incest will be put to death  
1 Corinthians 5:1.5 Paul hands over to Satan those caught in incest  
1 Corinthians 10:13 God is faithful and will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you can endure

## Intercession

1 Timothy 2:1 Intercession be made for everyone  
Ephesians 6:19 Paul requests intercession on his behalf  
Colossians 1:3 Paul intercedes for others

## Jealousy

James 3:16 Jealousy and envy results in disorder and evil  
1 Corinthians 3:3 Jealousy is worldliness  
Exodus 20:17 We shall not covet the property of others

## Judgment Seat

2 Corinthians 5:10 Judged according to our deeds  
Matthew 7:20-21 Must know Jesus to get into heaven, miraculous works won't be enough  
1 Corinthians 6:2 Saints will judge the world

## Judging Others

Matthew 7:2 We will be judged in the manner we judge others  
James 2:13 Judgment will be merciless for those who show no mercy  
John 5:30 Jesus judged from hearing God, not from His own opinions

## Loneliness

Isaiah 54:10 God's love for us is unfailing  
Hebrews 13:5-6 God will never leave us or forsake us  
Revelation 3:20 Jesus wants to have fellowship with us  
Psalm 34:18 The Lord is close to the brokenhearted

## Love One Another

1 Peter 1:22 Fervently love one another from the heart  
1 John 2:10 If you love one another you abide in the light  
1 John 4:7-8 If you love one another you are born of God because God is love

## Lust

Romans 13:14 Don't make provision for lust  
1 Thessalonians 4:4 Self-discipline over lust  
Galatians 5:16-18 Live by the spirit and won't carry out desires of the flesh  
Romans 6:12-13 Do not let sin reign in your body, do not give your body to sin  
2Tim 2:22 Flee youthful lusts that destroy the body

## Marriage

1 Corinthians 11:3 Christ the head of man, man the head of the woman  
1 Corinthians 7:27-28 It's ok to marry but it brings hardship ;It's ok to be single to avoid hardship  
1 Corinthians 7:9 It is better to marry than burn with passion

## Marital Problems

Psalm 101:2 I will walk in my house with a blameless heart  
Joshua 24:15 As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord  
Ephesians 4:31-32 Get rid of anger, be kind and compassionate to one another  
Ephesians 5:33 Husbands love your wives as yourself, wives respect your husbands

## Materialism

1 Timothy 6:8 Be content with food and shelter  
1 Timothy 6:10 The love of money is the root of evil  
1 John 2:15 If you love the world the love of God is not in you  
1 John 3:17 If have the world's goods and see a brother in need, the love of God not in you

## Money

Mathew 6:24 Don't be a slave to money  
Proverbs 3:9-10 Give God the first fruits  
Proverbs 3:5 Trust the Lord in your finances  
Proverbs 13:11 Be honest in the use of your money  
Philippians 4:19 God will meet all of your needs  
Luke 6:38 Give and it will be given unto you

## Obedience

1 John 2:3 Through obedience we come to know Him  
1 John 3:21 If obedient, ask whatever you wish and it will be done for you  
Deuteronomy 11:26-28 You have a choice between blessing and curse, a blessing if you choose to obey the Lord's commandments  
1 Samuel 15:22-23 Rebellion is like the sin of witchcraft  
John 14:15-21 Through obedience we receive the Holy Spirit  
James 1:22 Don't just hear the Word of God, do what it says

## Peace of Mind

Romans 5:1 Because of our faith we have peace with God  
Col 3:15 Let the peace of God rule in your hearts  
Psalm 4:8 Sleep in peace for the Lord is our safety

## Persistence

Revelation 3:5 To him who overcomes it will be granted their names written in the book of life

## Prayer

1 John 3:21 If your heart doesn't condemn you, ask what you wish  
1 John 5:14-15 Confidence comes from praying

## Prayer Shield

Ephesians 6:18 We are to pray and intercede for each other  
Ephesians 6:19 Paul requests prayer on his behalf

## Pride

Proverbs 16:5 Pride is an abomination to God  
James 4:6 God is opposed to the proud  
Isaiah 25:11 God will bring down the proud

## Priorities

Matthew 22:36-39 Greatest commandment is to love God then love neighbor second commandment  
Matthew 18:3-4 Greatest in kingdom of God are the humble  
Matthew 20:26-28 Whoever wishes to be great must first be a servant

## Reap What You Sow

Galatians 6:7 God is not mocked, you will reap what you sow  
Jeremiah 17:9 The Lord gives to each according to his deeds

## Reconciliation

2 Corinthians 5:18-19 God reconciled the world through Christ  
Matthew 5:23-26 Before giving your offering be reconciled with your brother  
Matthew 18:15-17 Principle of godly reconciliation

## Sabbath

Isaiah 58:13 If you turn from pleasure on Sabbath, God will bless you  
Exodus 20:8-11 Keep Sabbath holy. Do no work on the Sabbath

## Salvation

Romans 6:23 Wages of sin is death  
Romans 8:1 No condemnation for those in Christ Jesus  
Ephesians 2:8-9 We are saved by grace  
Philippians 2:12-13 Work out your salvation with fear and trembling

## Soul-Ties

1 Corinthians 5:9 Do not associate with immoral brother  
1 Corinthians 15:33 Bad company corrupts good morals  
2 Thessalonians 3:6 Do not associate with unruly brother  
2 Corinthians 6:14 Do not be bound together with unbelievers

## Spiritual Gifts

1 Timothy 4:14 Don't neglect the spiritual gifts that have been given to you  
1 Corinthians 12:7-11 List of the spiritual gifts  
Ephesians 4:11-13 God's gifts are people functioning in his spiritual offices  
1 Peter 4:10-11 Use the gifts God has given you

## Spiritual Warfare

1 Timothy 4:1 Pay attention to deceitful spirits  
1 Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith  
Ephesians 6:10-18 Put on the armor of God. Our struggle is against spiritual enemy  
2 Timothy 2:4 No soldier entangles himself in everyday life  
James 4:7 Humble yourself, resist the devil and he will flee  
1 Peter 5:8 Be on the alert, the devil like a roaring lion out to destroy you

## Submission to Authority

1 Peter 2:13 Submit to authority  
Hebrews 13:17 Obey leaders and submit to their authority

## Suicide

Psalms 91:1,11,12,15,16 Take refuge in the Lord and he will defend you  
John 10:10 Jesus came to give us abundant life

## Temptation

1 Corinthians 10:13 God will not allow you to be tempted above what you can handle  
Genesis 4:7 We must master sin  
Romans 6:6 Crucify self and no longer be a slave to sin  
Romans 13:14 Make no provision for the flesh  
2 Corinthians 10:5 Take every thought captive  
Galatians 5:16 Walk by spirit and won't carry out the desires of the flesh  
James 1:14 Tempted when carried away with our own lust  
Philippians 4:8 Let your mind dwell on good things  
Matthew 26:41 Watch and pray that you will not fall into temptation

## Thanksgiving

Psalm 100:1 Enter His gates with thanksgiving

Psalm 139:13 I will give thanks for I am fearfully and wonderfully made

## Tithing and Giving

Malachi 3:8-10 Test God to see if He will not bless you when you tithe

Philippians 4:17 Giving profits our account

Proverbs 3:9 Honor the Lord from the first of our fruits

Luke 6:38 Give and it will be given unto you

## Trials

James 1:12 Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial

2 Corinthians 4:17 Afflictions produce eternal glory

1 Peter 4:12 Do not be surprised with trials, they are for your testing

1 Peter 5:10 After suffered for a while, God will strengthen you

Revelation 3:19 Those who are loved will be disciplined

## Trust in the Lord

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all of your heart and He will make your paths straight

Ephesians 6:16 Put on the shield of faith

Psalm 56:4 Trust in the Lord and do not be afraid

John 14:1 Don't be troubled, trust in God, He will prepare a place for you

## Who We Are In Christ

1 Peter 2:9 We are a chosen race, a royal priesthood

Revelation 2:26 He who overcomes will be given authority to rule the nations

Ephesians 2:6 We are seated with Christ in the heavenly realm

John 1:12 We are children of God

## Wife Responsibilities

1 Peter 3:1-6 Submit to husband

Ephesians 5:33 Respect your husband

1 Timothy 2:9 Adorn yourself modestly

1 Timothy 2:12 Women should not exercise authority over men

Titus 2:5 Be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind and submissive

1 Corinthians 7:3-4 The wife's body belongs to her husband

Hebrews 13:4 Keep the marriage bed pure

1 Corinthians 7:39 The wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives

## Words and Their Power

Ephesians 4:29-30 Let no unwholesome word come out of your mouth

Proverbs 18:21 Life and death are in the power of our words

Matthew 12:36 We will be held accountable for every careless word

Colossians 4:6 Let speech always be with grace