



ATLANTIC**SHORES**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

# **Life Group Leader Training**



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## Life Group Leader Training

Welcome to Life Group Leader Training! Gifted, passionate, servant-hearted leaders always help the church soar. We are excited that you are willing to travel on this journey that will transform you and others more into the image of Christ.

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# Why Community Life?

1. We were \_\_\_\_\_ for community.

*Then God said, “Let us make man in our own image, after our likeness.” . . . So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. Genesis 1:26-27 ESV*

*Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” Genesis 2:18 ESV*

Pastor and author Eugene Peterson says, “Christians are a community of people who are visibly together at worship but who remain in relationship through the week in witness and service.”

2. We \_\_\_\_\_ each other.

More than 50 “one another” references in the New Testament point to how we need each other. Here are a few:

- ✓ Love one another (John 13:34, 15:12, 17; Romans 13:8)
- ✓ Be devoted to one another (Romans 12:10)
- ✓ Give preference to one another (Romans 12:10)
- ✓ Accept one another (Romans 15:7)
- ✓ Speak truth to one another (Ephesians 4:25)
- ✓ Greet one another (Romans 16:16; 1 Corinthians 16:20)
- ✓ Serve one another (Galatians 5:13)
- ✓ Bear one another’s burdens (Galatians 6:2)
- ✓ Be kind to one another and forgive one another (Eph 4:32)
- ✓ Regard one another (Philippians 2:3)
- ✓ Pray for one another (James 5:16)
- ✓ Be hospitable to one another (1 Peter 4:9)

3. \_\_\_\_\_ happens best in the context of community.

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. Acts 2:42-47 ESV*

The goal is \_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_.

4. To address the \_\_\_\_\_ of living in a fallen world

Author Lyle Schaller says, "The biggest challenge for the church at the opening of the twenty-first century is to develop a solution to address the discontinuity and fragmentation of the American lifestyle."

5. To help people \_\_\_\_\_ at Shores. As the church grows \_\_\_\_\_ it must also grow \_\_\_\_\_.

Author Eric Wright says "Let's dream of a community where the weak are welcome, where the lonely find friends, where the poor feel rich and where the rich are poor in spirit, where practical help and prayer go hand in hand, where concern for others breaks down barriers and pours out into local communities and to the end of the earth."

6. To fulfill the \_\_\_\_\_ of the church by making disciples of Jesus Christ who go and make disciples

The two environments where we make disciples of Jesus Christ at Shores are (1) \_\_\_\_\_ and (2) \_\_\_\_\_.

## **What is a Life Group?**

Life groups are \_\_\_\_\_ of the church that organically \_\_\_\_\_ together.

- *Size:* Up to \_\_\_\_\_ consistently attending before the group multiplies
- *Frequency:* Life groups gather \_\_\_\_\_ per month
- *Location:* Life groups gather \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.
- *Time:* Life groups meet at \_\_\_\_\_ throughout the week. Life group commitments last for \_\_\_\_\_ and can be \_\_\_\_\_ annually.
- *Purpose:* To glorify God by making disciples of Jesus Christ who go and make disciples

# Types of Life Groups

We feature the following types of life groups at Shores. We group people according to:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

Tell us where you live and we can get you connected with people at Shores that live in your neighborhood or community. This is our primary way of connecting people in life groups. We do this by high school zones (see Appendix 1: Geographic Life Groups)

Grouping people by geography provides the best way to:

- 
- 
- 
- 

2. \_\_\_\_\_

- Single mothers
- Grief Share
- Mom to Mom
- Military Mom to Mom
- College and Young Adults
- Recovery from substance abuse

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Gender specific life groups are available through our men's ministry and women's ministry.

## **Life Groups that S.E.R.V.E.**

At Atlantic Shores, a life group is more than just a Bible study. Life Groups S.E.R.V.E. throughout the year. This is part of what makes community life at Shores a unique, exciting, diverse, and spiritually fulfilling experience.

**S** = \_\_\_\_\_

Life groups gather for Bible study and prayer. We call this reaching in.

A \_\_\_\_\_ life group goes deeper into the message preached that week by our pastor through small group discussion.

**E** = \_\_\_\_\_

Life groups reach in through Bible study and prayer, but they also reach out through evangelism. They find ways to connect with unchurched and dechurched people in their neighborhood and community, build relationships of integrity, and share the gospel. No holy-huddles!

*See Appendix 2: 25 Simple Ways to Be Missional in Your Neighborhood*

**R** = \_\_\_\_\_

The life group that plays together stays together. They find ways to have fun together and enjoy life through recreation. This is not hard to do in the Virginia Beach area that is one of the best recreational destinations in the Mid-Atlantic region of the United States.

**V** = \_\_\_\_\_

Life groups find ways to volunteer on the church campus to make the weekends happen at Shores; they also find ways to volunteer in their community and become the hands and feet of Jesus to others.

*See Appendix 4: Volunteering at Shores*

**E** = \_\_\_\_\_

Life groups care for one another when a family crisis arises. They pray for one another, visit one another in the hospital, provide meals, etc. They also find ways to share the love of Jesus by connecting with a compassion ministry in their community and by going on short-term missions trips together.

*See Appendix 3: Deacon Care*



# Life Group Leadership Structure

Everything rises and falls on \_\_\_\_\_. We \_\_\_\_\_  
a new life group only when the \_\_\_\_\_ is in place.

## *Community Life Pastor*

- Shores ministry staff who is a servant leader of leaders
- Oversees all aspects of community life
- Recruits, trains, launches, and multiplies new life groups, and shepherds life group leaders

## *Community Life Coach*

- A ministry volunteer who is a servant leader of leaders
- Assists in the recruiting, training, launching, and multiplication of new life groups, and the shepherding of life group leaders
- Supports the Community Life Pastor and reports to him on all activities happening in the communities served

## *Life Group Leader(s)*

- Ministry volunteer(s) who love and lead others to follow Christ and S.E.R.V.E. in their community
- Spiritual formation leader(s) and facilitator(s) of life group discussions and Bible study
- Casts vision and recruits people to S.E.R.V.E. as leaders within the life group
- Grows the life group numerically with the goal of multiplying
- Identifies and mentors a life group leader trainee with the Community Life Coach and Community Life Pastor

### *Hospitality Coordinator*

- Coordinates all shared meals for the life group gatherings
- Willing to host life group gatherings in your home and coordinate the location of gatherings in the homes of other willing group members
- Makes sure everyone feels welcome
- Possesses the spiritual gift of hospitality

### *Prayer and Care Coordinator*

- Keeps the life group informed of all prayer requests and praises
- Coordinates hospital visits, meals, childcare, and other needs of families in crisis in the life group
- Possesses the spiritual gift of mercy

### *Compassion Coordinator*

- Builds relationships with compassion ministries in the community
- Coordinates opportunities for the life group to share the love of Jesus by serving in the community

### *Outreach Coordinator*

- Looks for opportunities for the life group to reach out and build relationships with unchurched neighbors and friends in the community
- Possesses the spiritual gift of evangelism and/or a passion for outreach

### *Recreation and Volunteer Coordinator*

- Plans ways for the life group to recreate together
- Plans ways for the life group to volunteer and serve in the community
- Keeps the life group informed of volunteer opportunities at Shores

*Administrator*

- Maintains the life group roster
- Reports attendance to the church office after each life group gathering

*In addition to the above ministry position descriptions, ALL community life leaders, staff and volunteers, must meet the following requirements:*

- Member of Atlantic Shores Baptist Church
- Participates in the overall life of the church and in a life group
- A team player that maintains the unity of the body of Christ
- Enthusiastically supports and lives out the mission, vision, and strategy of the church
- In agreement with the ASBC Statement of Faith
- Abides by the Ministry Team Covenant

## **3-2-1 Launching Your Life Group!**

1. Pray!
2. Complete Life Group Leader Training
3. Connect with your Community Life Coach and identify your target
4. Work with the church office to establish your online presence for the life group and create your roster.
5. Recruit at least 4 other couples/families as part of your core group and assign leadership responsibilities
6. Schedule your life group's "open house" to invite interested people. Work with your Community Life Coach and the Community Life Pastor to promote the launch of your life group through the Shores communication channels.
7. Launch!

# Life Group Leader Application

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Have you completed the Life Group Leader Training  Yes  No

Are you a member of Atlantic Shores Baptist Church?  Yes  No

Are you in agreement with the ASBC Statement of Faith?  Yes  No

Have you read and will you abide by the Ministry Team Covenant?  
 Yes  No

Who have you recruited to start the life group with you?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

What type of Life Group would you like to start?  Geographic

Affinity  Gender

Are you willing to commit to the leadership of this Life Group for at least one year?  Yes  No

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

# **Appendix 1: Geographic Life Groups**

We will use the public school zone maps to identify life groups geographically by high schools. Potential areas to launch life groups include the following.

## **Virginia Beach Life Groups by High School**

- Bayside
- Cox
- Colonial
- Green Run
- Kellam
- Kempsville
- Landstown
- Ocean Lakes
- Princess Ann
- Salem
- Tallwood

## **Chesapeake Life Groups by High School**

- Deep Creek
- Grassfield
- Great Bridge
- Hickory
- Indian River
- Oscar Smith
- Western Branch

## **Norfolk Life Groups**

## **Portsmouth and Suffolk Life Groups**

# **Appendix 2: 25 Simple Ways to Be Missional in Your Neighborhood**

By Josh Reeves

I have found that it is often helpful to have practical ideas to start engaging the people around me. Most of the things on this list are normal, everyday things that many people are already doing. The hope is that we would do these things with Gospel intentionality. This means we do them:

- In the normal rhythms of life pursuing to meet and engage new people
- Prayerfully watching and listening to the Holy Spirit to discern where God is working.
- Looking to boldly, humbly, and contextually proclaim the Gospel in word and deed.

Below is a list of my top 25. Not all of these are for everyone, but hopefully there will be several ideas on the list that God uses to help you engage your neighbors. Would love to hear stories of how you have lived some of these out or other ways you have engaged your neighbors.

1. Stay outside in the front yard longer while watering the yard
2. Walk your dog regularly around the same time in your neighborhood
3. Sit on the front porch and letting kids play in the front yard
4. Pass out baked goods (fresh bread, cookies, brownies, etc.)
5. Invite neighbors over for dinner
6. Attend and participate in HOA functions
7. Attend the parties invited to by neighbors



8. Do a food drive or coat drive in winter and get neighbors involved
9. Have a game night (yard games outside, or board games inside)
10. Art swap night – bring out what you're tired of and trade with neighbors
11. Grow a garden and give out extra produce to neighbors
12. Have an Easter egg hunt on your block and invite neighbors use their front yards
13. Start a weekly open meal night in your home
14. Do a summer BBQ every Friday night and invite others to contribute
15. Create a block/ street email and phone contact list for safety
16. Host a sports game watching party
17. Host a coffee and dessert night
18. Organize and host a ladies artistic creation night
19. Organize a tasting tour on your street (everyone sets up food and table on front porch)
20. Host a movie night and discussion afterwards
21. Start a walking/running group in the neighborhood
22. Start hosting a play date weekly for other stay at home parents
23. Organize a carpool for your neighborhood to help save gas
24. Volunteer to coach a local little league sports team
25. Have a front yard ice cream party in the summer

Do you have some other ideas or ways that you or your Missional Community have engaged your neighborhood?

Missional Tip: Pick one of these ideas and act on it this week.

*Josh Reeves is the Lead Planting Pastor with Redeemer Church in Round Rock, Texas.*

## **Appendix 3: Deacon Care**

*From AtlanticShores.org . . .*

Along with our life group leaders, our deacons serve the body of Christ at Shores in many ways, including caring for families in need or in crisis (Acts 6:1-7).

For example, deacons visit people in the hospital, pray, and arrange meals when needed. They also mobilize the many “helping hands” in our church family to support single parents, widows, the elderly, or anyone who truly needs assistance with a household repair, yard work, debris removal, or something else.

If you have a need, please fill out the form below. A deacon will contact you within 48 hours.

## **Appendix 4: Volunteering at Shores**

Volunteering to serve on a ministry team is a privilege of membership. Are you interested in serving the Lord by volunteering in some aspect of the ministry at Atlantic Shores? Please fill out the form below and someone will be in touch with you shortly.

I want to volunteer in the following ministry (check all that apply)

- Administrative
- Children's Ministry\*
- Helping Hands (Deacon Care)
- Guest Services (parking, hospitality, ushers, and greeters)
- Life Group Leader
- Special Events
- Student Ministry\*
- Media and Tech Team
- Music and Worship
- Pastor's Prayer Partners (Men)
- Something Good Radio
- Women's Ministry
- Men's Ministry

\*Please be aware that some volunteer positions require a background check.