Valley Victory Ministries

Life Group Vision-Mission-Program

**Vision-**

Display God’s Love

Live as New Creation Heirs

Operate in Holy Spirit’s Gifts

**Mission-**

Disciple Next Generation Kings & Priests

Evangelize Central Valley & Beyond

Offer ‘White hot’ Hospitality, Service & Worship

**The Program-**

The body of Christ must operate as one. *A ‘body dominant vision’ of ministry involves every member as we bring revival to our neighborhoods*. Responsibilities are delegated to the body, as we are equipped by the five-fold team, so we can carry out ministry inside & outside the church. Life group ministry is the ‘front door’ to Valley Victory Ministries. Sunday gathering is a time for celebration when all life groups gather for worship and receive education/ edification.

* Our community will be divided into regions
* Delegated authority
  + - Pastors/Elders oversee meetings
      * + Home/Location meeting members bring in the world
        + Home/Location meeting members minister to one another
* Every member of VVM encouraged to visit other locations/leaders
  + Potential life group leaders can be assigned to a life group leader for training
* Discipleship training occurs in the life group
  + Fundamentals of the Christian identity & character are taught
* Revival
  + Spirit-led VVM members will reach into our community towards the needy
    - Bringing them into the life group
    - Win them to Christ
    - Love & disciple them well
* Pastors/Elders
  + Train all life group leaders in vision/mission/program in a weekly zoom meeting
  + Guide life group leaders step-by-step through the discipleship curriculum

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Life Group Meeting Organization

Home/Location groups are designed to teach the body how to minister to one another. *Our goal is for everyone to be involved because we are all being trained to make disciples.* The structure is considered “flowing order”, allowing for the Holy Spirit to indicate a direction change. We set a meeting structure as a guideline, however addressing the needs of the body is the priority. Timeline should be 1-1/2 hours, plus 30 min of fellowship at the conclusion.

**Announcements/ Opening prayer**

* Assigned potential leader brings announcements/reminders
* Life group leader begins the meeting with prayer

**Worship**

* Two members from worship team assigned to a life group
* One or two songs directed to the prophetic aspect

**Gifts Ministry**

* Tongues, Interpretation, Prophecy, Word of Knowledge, Word of Wisdom, Visions & Dreams

**Teaching**

* Life group leader using VVM curriculum (see attached)
* Three scriptures, discussion & questions

**(Optional) Testimonies**

* Members volunteer to share their testimony with the group

**Prayer for needs**

* ‘Hot seat’ method ensures quality ministry time devoted to the individual needing prayer
* Provides ample opportunity for all members of group to be discipled in ministry
* Courtesies & Etiquettes followed

**Closing prayer**

* Life group leader summarizes with thanksgiving

**Fellowship & Food**

* Dessert & Drinks on a rotating contribution- among members of the life group

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Life Group Message Content

Life group discipleship will utilize cyclical lessons 4 weeks a month. The Cyclical approach towards teaching the principles of ***Christian Identity and Character*** utilizes repetition (Lesson one will cover the same general topic as lesson 52)*.* Each cyclical message is composed of 3 topics, one section of verses for each topic, examined in detail by looking through various translations. The Cyclical topics of Identity & Character are displayed below:

1. **New Creation** (Spirit)- In Christ truths, Authority, Responsibility
2. **Soul Renewal** (Soul)- Mind, Will, Emotions, Thoughts, Decisions, Feelings
   1. Embedded in the New Creation/Soul Renewal Scriptures are the “**Flesh Nature**” (Body) concepts that Christians are to kill/reckon dead. Deliverance occurs here
3. **Love** (Nature)- God’s character, Our Character

*Cyclical lessons*

Bible passages that cover three essential topics: 1) Union with God 2) Soul delivered & renewed (flesh disciplined) 3) Agape God-level of Love. These topics will allow the life group to take a ‘deep dive’ into the identity and nature of the Christian. Each week will discuss these important concepts and will appear to be very similar. Anyone entering the home group as a new convert will be immediately introduced to the fundamentals of the faith, without having to wait weeks to hear these pivotal truths. Faithful attendees will mature quickly into their identity in Christ, preparing them for evangelism/ministry.

Multiple translations open the understanding of the listener, hearing the Good News from a different viewpoint. Life group leaders encourage others to read aloud to increase active participation. In depth discussions are encouraged.

Cyclical lesson plans (located on VVM website) will include notes that guide discussion. “Sacred cows” will be purposely identified so that members can begin to separate the opinions of man/religion from the truths of scripture.

Life group leaders must be trained how to field questions as they arise…yet keeping the lesson on track. People’s concerns/opinions should always be validated by saying “that is a great question”. The leader should be ready to walk in humility and reply “I don’t know…let’s look into that in the future.”

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Life Group Limiting Factors

* Meetings should begin & end on schedule to honor one another’s time
  + Scheduled meeting duration should be 1 ½ hours in length
    - Announcements/ Opening prayer (5 min)
    - Worship (15 min)
    - Gifts (20 min)
    - Teaching (30 min)
    - Prayer for Needs (20 min)
    - Closing prayer
    - Fellowship/Refreshment (additional 30 min) = 2 hours in total
* Food should be minimal (dessert & drink). No competition between home groups. Refreshments come after service
* A spiritual atmosphere, not a party atmosphere, not a place for business transactions to occur
* Only trained group leaders teach. No doctrine released that isn’t within curriculum. Gently correct bad doctrine privately
* Growing life groups should have a limit of 20 members (less if the home space restricts). Beyond those limits indicate a time for a new group to begin in another home/location
* Office spaces, school classrooms, job site locations considered for ‘working life groups’
* Every meeting should have a pastor/elder & potential leader in attendance
  + Potential leader makes announcements, takes attendance, new additions, absences, new salvations, healings, baptisms
* As church growth expands, multiple life group leaders assigned under a pastor/elder
  + Oversight to foresee “splits” & “pride” before they arise
  + Eliminating conflict & the usurping of authority
  + Encouraging submission to those in authority for those that need correction
* Roadmap of growth
  + Newly saved… to Disciple…to Potential Leader…to Deacon/Life group leader…to Elder

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Life Group Discipleship Courtesies

& Prayer Ministry Etiquette

* Everyone participates
  1. Various members should read scripture references/notes
  2. Everyone should follow the reading
* Questions are encouraged
  1. Keep questions within the scope of the topic
  2. Be a ‘believer and not a doubter’ when seeking clarification
* Group members stay with the leader’s direction
  1. Contrary viewpoints or opinions should not be verbalized in the group setting
  2. Private conversations after the meeting are the place for conflicting views
* During prayer ministry defer to one another
  1. Do not interrupt a flow
  2. Do not cut anyone off
* During prayer ministry hold what you have for appropriate timing
  1. If different than the current flow… wait for the flow to shift
  2. Somethings may not be for now, but another day
* With prophecy and exhortation slow down and say less
  1. Speak slowly with pregnant pauses so listener can grasp it
  2. Don’t add more than you saw or heard from your spirit
  3. Long monologues can be hard to remember

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Ministry School Unity & Order

1. Remember the biblical rule of 2 or 3 (@ 30 seconds each)
   1. When ministering deliver life from the throne room of heaven (spirit). You must listen to God in your inner man. Be careful to not pray/preach out of the recent books or teachings you have learned (carnal). *Get “you” out of the ministry opportunity*
   2. When doing “body ministry” at the end of the meeting-be mindful of the person’s capacity to receive/comprehend
      1. General rule: *Say less-keep it brief*
      2. This is important especially with new people & young people
   3. Ask permission to minister of the person, or their parent if young person
      1. Ask the person**:** “What would you like the Lord to do for you?”
      2. The authority in the room can/should assign who should pray for the need
         1. -Or- the members of the group can ask to minister (if they feel led)
         2. Everyone else should be stirred within to share, hold on to what you have for the end and speak with the leader about your insight
   4. The “authority” in the room should usually be the last to speak (accurate spiritual summation)
      1. It is out of order to “add on” after the spiritual authority has contributed
   5. Prayers are not a sermon or discussion. Prayer should be a brief command (over darkness) or a brief request (to heaven)
   6. Teachable moments during ministry: The person ministering may move back and forth slowly between delivering a blessing and explaining to the hearer what is happening. This describes how we may develop one another’s ability to recognize the Spirit.
   7. 2 of the 3 Revelation Gifts are “Uttered”= “the smallest unit of speech”: Word of Knowledge (past or present events) and Word of Wisdom (future events) are NOT called “Paragraphs of knowledge” or “Chapters of Wisdom” *they are brief revelations/brief phrases/ a few words.* 
      1. Heaven usually speaks in short phrases through the human vessel. God does NOT want you to explain. It must stand on its own merit. The message is being delivered to another person, it is NOT for you to determine its meaning/purpose
      2. The three Revelation gifts are Word of Knowledge, Word of Wisdom & Discerning of Spirits.