DESTINY TRAINING LEVEL 1
MODULE 2
CLASS 08

BLESSING THROUGH THE LIFE GROUP

Biblical Reference: So the Word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith" (Acts 6:7).

I. CLASS OBJECTIVES

1. To understand what a Life Group is.
2. To learn the purpose of Life Groups.
3. To understand the ideal principles of a Life Group.
4. To learn the value of being faithful in the responsibilities of a Life Group Leader.

II. INTRODUCTION

Cells are one of the smallest microorganisms in any living organism. When it comes to church cells, it is important to note that although they may start small, they can easily multiply.

At Word of Life, our cell groups are called Life Groups. Life Group Leaders work strategically so that other Life Groups are birthed out of their original Life Groups. We all work to establish and follow standards and parameters in order for our Life Groups to be effective.

III. LESSON: BLESSING THROUGH THE LIFE GROUP

A. The Cell Group Is Our First Experience

1. A Life Group is a leader's first experience and challenge of responsibility. When the Lord sees that the leader is faithful, He can extend his area of leadership responsibility.
2. A Life Group leader must have the desire to help each one who comes to connect with Jesus so that their needs will be met.
3. We must speak to the Life Group members from the Word of God in a simple, clear way so that they can achieve the desires of their hearts. The Word will produce extraordinary miracles in the people that will motivate them to return and invite their closest friends.

B. David - Example Of An Excellent Leader

David's leadership did not start with God anointing him and telling him that He would make him king over Israel. Not at all! Here are some leadership qualities that David demonstrated before he was anointed as king:

1. Faithfulness to a small responsibility of looking after his father's sheep.

2. Diligence in this responsibility the entire time he was with the flock.

3. Caring for and protection of the flock. He did not lose even one sheep, and he was willing to risk his own life to defend the sheep.

4. His faithfulness in this small responsibility allowed God to trust him as king over the nation of Israel. When we are faithful over our small/beginning Life Groups, God will increase the size, numbers and impact of our Life Groups.

C. Definition Of A Life Group

1. Life Groups are small groups of people who meet weekly in an effort to develop all-around growth that's centered on the Word of God. They are small centers for studying the Bible in a simple and practical way; people learn how to apply the Word to their daily lives. It's a time to encourage, care, pray and support one another. It's the place where friendships are formed and lives are celebrated.

2. Life Groups consist of: a host who provides the location, a leader who is trained to lead the Life Group, an aide (or "Timothy") who is the leader's right hand, participants who are active members and guests who are invited to the Life Group.

3. Life Groups meet at various locations. Some meet in a person's home, others at a coffee shop or at the church. It all depends on what's convenient for the group. Generally, Life Groups meet for about an hour and include a time for fellowship, Bible study, and praying for any needs in the group. Some Life Groups also include a time of worship.
4. Those who attend the Life Group are built up in the Word of God, and people are won for Christ week after week. The principle of Life Groups originates from the Early Church, whose congregations grew through cells:

   "So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly… You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus" (Acts 6:7; 20:20-21).

5. Cell groups make personal pastoring possible. Jesus always visited homes and ministered to the people there. He visited the homes of: Zacchaeus who was then saved, Peter whose mother-in-law was healed, Jairus whose daughter was brought back to life, Simon the Pharisee, and a sinful woman who became a follower of Jesus. He also included Lazarus and his sisters, Mary and Martha, in His close circle of friends, and as a result of this friendship, Lazarus was raised back to life.

6. Life Groups are an effective way to train and select our team of twelve who will support us in the ministry. Jesus won twelve men and reproduced His character in them, knowing that they would be His representatives in the world. He passed on the vision so that at the right time, they would pass it on to their own twelve, achieving multiplication.

D. The Importance Of The Life Group

1. During his reign, King David sent for the Ark of the Covenant, representing the Presence of God among the people, to be brought to Jerusalem. On the way, Uzzah the Levite stretched out his hand to stop it from falling, but God struck him and he died because he had not shown the proper respect. David was so sad that he did not want to take the Ark to Jerusalem.

2. Obed-Edom offered his home as a place to house the Ark and David consented. The Ark was only there for three months but God blessed him and he prospered greatly. This shows us that opening a house for a Life Group meeting is the same as taking the Ark of God into that home, and God will bless the host.

E. The Purpose Of Life Groups

1. To open the door for families and friends to be saved (Acts 10).

2. To help people to have contact with leaders. “While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew’s house, many tax collectors and ‘sinners’ came and ate with Him and His disciples” (Matthew 9:10).

3. To provide the opportunity for people to receive a touch from God. “When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus. When Jesus saw their faith, He said, ‘Friend, your sins are forgiven’” (Luke 5:19-20).

7. We believe that people are better together, and it’s by “Doing Life Together” that we can share our strengths and encourage one another to press toward the amazing future God has for us all. Life Groups provide a place for every person in our church to be cared for and discipled.

F. The Ideal Life Group

1. Prepare the message for each homogeneous group so that they receive ministry according to their needs.

2. The host and leader should be committed to the Vision.

3. Win through the Life Group. Life Groups are the primary way the church reaches the community with the Gospel of Jesus, and most decisions will be made through the cells.

4. The Prayer of Three strategy should be an integral part of the Life Group. This strategy requires commitment and emphasizes the power of praying with perseverance for one month for people who are not yet believers. When we are faithful to do this, we trust the Spirit of God to extend His mercy and give them life. Here are the simple steps for the Prayer of Three:

    - A leader who wants to start a Life Group finds two other believers who will join them in prayer.
    - These three believers ask God to show them three other people they know that they want to pray for, so they will be saved.
    - Every member of the group writes down the three names that each of them choose (nine names in total). These people may be friends, co-workers, relatives, etc.
    - The three believers meet once a week for an hour, for one month, to pray specifically for the salvation of their Prayer of Three people.
    - After 30 days of prayer, you contact each person you have been praying for. The goal is to show interest in their well-being and to share God's love for their lives. You will also invite them to your Life Group and expect a positive result!

V. CONCLUSION

Given that there are generally many people in Sunday services who are "unconnected," the ministry in weekly Life Groups will meet their needs. At Life Groups, people are motivated to attend an Encounter and to later join the School of Destiny. These members will be trained to lead their own Life Groups, so they, too, can become channels of blessings to others. Life Groups are the backbone of the Church.