**“Kickoff Meeting”**

-leader guide-

**AGENDA:**

Most group meetings follow a 2 hour format. Below is an example agenda.

6:50 - 7:05 Welcome guests as they arrive

7:05 - 7:30 Get to Know You Time (just hang out and serve food)

7:30 – 7:40 OPEN: Ice-Breaker

7:40 – 8:00 Discussion

8:00 - 8:15 Group Schedule

8:15 - 8:30 Prayer and Praise Time

8:30 - 8:35 Final Business

8:35 - 8:50 Hang out / go home

**WELCOME**

**OPEN/ Icebreaker: 15 minutes**

* **Leader Note:** *Thank everyone for coming. Explain that you want to spend some time up front getting to know each other by doing an icebreaker called “pocket personalities”. Make sure everyone says their name out loud.*

**Icebreaker:** Pocket Personalities

Each person must show the group two or three items from his or her pockets, wallet, backpack, or purse (BTW - you can always ask members to bring 3 items as well). Members then share a little about each item. For example; *“This is my house key. I live in Pearland with my two dogs Ratchet and Clank. And this is my work passkey. Currently I work at Texas Children’s Hospital as a nurse and I love my job.”*

**Discussion: 20 minutes**

* **Leader Note:** *The Bible study section lays the foundation for LifeGroups. Feel free to modify the lesson, but keep the first meeting light. Group members may hesitate at first. Read through the following notes with your group.*

At New Hope Church we believe the Bible is the literal word of God and is our guide book for daily living. Our lives begin to change when we read God’s word, believe it, and do what it says. At each group meeting we will be reading a book by Lysa TerKeurst, but we will also be looking at God’s Word.

Today we will look at two passages from the Bible. These verses provide a clear example of how we should function as a church.

**Bible Reading:**

**Read Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 10:24-25**

* **Leader Note:** *Be sensitive to members. People may feel uncomfortable reading and answering questions in the new group setting. Ask for volunteers to read the verses and encourage others to follow along.*

*“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. 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, 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**

*“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”*

**Hebrews 10:24-25**

**Discussion:**

1. What words would you use to describe the atmosphere of the early church?
2. In what two places did the early church meet? What are the benefits to meeting in each location?
3. What activities did early believers practice with one another? Why do you feel the early church was so appealing to non-church goers?
4. Read Hebrews 10:24-25. What do these verses call us to do? What is one thing you hope to gain (be encouraged) from participating in this group?

**Conclusion:**

Meeting together at the weekend services is important as a church. Every week lives are changed by the teaching of God’s Word. However, LifeGroups provide a dynamic that can’t be found in a weekend service. Being in a LifeGroup is the difference between “attending” a church and “being part” of a church family.

Being in a LifeGroup will give you the opportunity to experience the church the way God designed it. Over the next 12 weeks we invite you to “participate” in a church family. If after that time you do not wish to continue, that’s fine. But we would love to see everyone come back and help build a group where people are encouraged, cared for, and grow to become more like Jesus.

**GROUP SCHEDULE: 10 minutes**

* **Leader Note:** *Hand out a “Group Calendar” to each member. Be sure everyone knows what days you will and will not meet as well as what they are to do between meetings.*

**PRAYER AND PRAISE TIME: 10 minutes**

* **Leader Note:** *Each week the group will take time out to pray for one another. Explain that praying is difficult in group settings, but it is also one of the easiest ways to participate as a LifeGroup member.*
* Start a prayer journal or use prayer sheets in order to track requests
* Ask group members to share prayer requests
* Pray for the group including their requests

**FINAL BUSINESS: 10 minutes**

-Create a phone / e-mail list.