

# CONNECT LIFE TRAINING MANUAL



**WORLD OVERCOMERS**  
OUTREACH MINISTRIES CHURCH

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Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture is taken from the King James Version.

**CONNECT LIFE TRAINING MANUAL**

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# CONNECT LIFE TRAINING MANUAL

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# Chapter 1:

## WHAT ARE CONNECT LIFE GROUPS?

A Connect Life group is a group of 2-12 people who gather together for discipleship, edification, and comfort with a common purpose of sharing the word of God with one another. Connect Life groups are intended to grow. They can even start out with as little as two people with the expectancy of growth to approximately 12-15 people.

When the group growth exceeds this amount, multiplication should start. The group is now too large to house the new members who are attending, so they split into two groups. Members may participate in this group, but usually a mass congregation service is still held.

### *Four Reasons for Connect Life Groups*

The four primary reasons for connect life group ministry are:

1. To preserve the end-time harvest (*Joel 3:14; Matthew 9:37; Mark 4:29; John 4:35*).
2. It is scriptural. To have New Testament results, we must apply New Testament principles.
3. The Connect Life group is a place for people to get their needs met. There are at least seven critical times in people's lives when they are receptive to ministry and to the gospel:
  - a. Death in a family
  - b. Sickness of a family member
  - c. Weddings
  - d. Birth
  - e. Job gain/loss
  - f. Divorce
  - g. Ministry
4. Connect Life group ministry provides an opportunity for believers to grow in their faith and to be involved in the work of the ministry – *Ephesians 4:11-12*.
  - a. Pastor's job to teach (or equip) the saints for the work of the ministry.
  - b. Saint's job to do the work of the ministry.

At the direction of the Holy Spirit, we are moving in a new era meeting the needs of our corporate church body and our community through the Connect Life Group Ministry. All the saints are to be prepared to win others to Christ, disciple them, train them, and send them out to do the work of the ministry (*Mark 16:15-18; Luke 4:18; Ephesians 4:11-12*).

**The emphasis is fivefold: evangelism, multiplication, discipleship, leadership development, and pastoral care.**

## Chapter 2:

# SCRIPTURAL FOUNDATION FOR CONNECT LIFE GROUPS

### 1. Old Testament examples. Religious leaders knew how to delegate authority:

- A. Exodus 18:13-27 – The Jethro Principle. Jethro advises Moses.
- B. Numbers 11:16-17, 25 – Transfer of anointing from Moses to the seventy elders

It is the Pastor's responsibility to ensure care for the flock and to do the following:

- A. Be an intercessor for the people.
- B. Teach them God's laws and ordinances.
- C. Show them the work they are to do.
- D. Appoint able men and women to oversee the work.

### 2. New Testament examples. The earliest Connect Life Groups were home churches:

- A. Acts 1:12-14; 2:1-4 – Pouring out of the Holy Spirit in the upper room, The Day of Pentecost.
- B. Acts 2:46 – Apostles and believers met from house to house.
- C. Acts 5:41-42 – Peter and other Apostles taught in homes.
- D. Acts 8:3 – Saul entered believers' houses to destroy the church.
- E. Acts 10:22-24 – Peter shared Christ with Cornelius & his close friends and relatives in Cornelius' home.
- F. Acts 12:12 – Believers gathered in a home to pray for Peter when he was imprisoned.
- G. Acts 18:7-8 – Ministry took place in Justus' house.
- H. Acts 20:20 – Paul taught from house to house while in Ephesus.
- I. Acts 28:30-31 – Paul preached while confined under house arrest in Rome.
- J. Romans 16:3-5; I Corinthians 16:19 – There was a house church in the home of Aquila and Priscilla.
- K. Colossians 4:15 – There was also a church in Nymphas' home.
- L. Philemon 2 – There was a church in Philemon's home.
- M. Luke 10:1-7 – Taking the harvest with home fellowship.
- N. Acts 6:1-6 – Choosing others to do the work of the ministry.
- O. Ephesians 4:11-12 – Equipping the saints to do the work of the ministry.

## **Chapter 3: REASONS AND BENEFITS FOR CONNECT LIFE LEADERS**

### ***Reasons to Be a Connect Life Leader***

Connect Life group ministry involves much work and personal commitment. However, believers will benefit from doing the work of the Connect Life Ministry in four primary ways.

1. Believers will grow spiritually. We grow when a demand is placed upon our gifts and talents.
2. Believers will develop lasting friendships and deepen past ones.
3. Believers will find fulfillment from using their God-given gifts to help others.
4. Believers will receive heavenly rewards for their works (1 Corinthians 3:11-15). They will also hear Jesus say, *“Well done, good and faithful servant”* (Matthew 25:21).

### ***Benefits for a Connect Life Leader***

The following are ways Connect Life leaders will benefit from Connect Life ministry:

1. Connect Life leaders will find fulfillment from using their spiritual gifts to help others.
2. Connect Life leaders will find and release their fullest potential for God.
3. Connect Life leaders will find their specific assignment, calling, and destiny in God.
4. Connect Life leaders will be trained for ministry and leadership and equipped to do the work of the ministry with confidence.

## **Chapter 4: BENEFITS FOR A CONNECT LIFE MEMBER**

### ***Sense of Belonging***

The family structure is often so fragmented that people don't have a feeling of belonging. Also, the mobility of our society plays a part in the lack of a feeling of belonging. The reason gangs are on the rise is that they make the teens feel that they belong to something and someone. If individuals have a group of people they feel a part of, they will not search for acceptance in the world's clubs or in the world's ways (*Ephesians 1:6, NKJV*).

### ***Stability***

We live in unstable times in the natural but in the Body of Christ we can and should have stability. Those who are new believers or have come back to the Lord need a Connect Life group that will help them become stable in their walk with the Lord. These people need strong believers who will speak the Word of God into their lives and help them to grow up spiritually (*1 Corinthians 15:58, NKJV*).

### ***Safety/Security***

A Connect Life group can be a safe and secure environment for people who have suffered abuse, rejection, failure and low self-esteem. Many of these groups will study a particular subject to help them overcome in certain areas in their lives (*Acts 4:23, NKJV*).

### ***Support/Strength***

When the storms of life come, there is a need for a group of believers who will pray for us, encourage us, and be there when we need them. These groups often help with practical needs as well (*Acts 2:44-45, NKJV; Hebrews 6:10, NKJV*).

### ***Other Benefits of a Connect Life Group***

- We find a sense of connection that we could not feel in a large Sunday church service.
- This is a simple way to reach people right around us every day with the gospel.
- We are not restricted to church. We can touch people in our workplaces, businesses, apartment complexes, neighborhoods, hospitals, and nursing homes. We can have church in a restaurant or a factory.
- This is a simpler way to win the lost. Sinners will visit a home many times before they will come to church.
- This provides a great support system for men, women, singles, seniors, teens, young adults, children, prayer warriors, married couples, etc.
- We can find relationship with people who have like interests. For example, *Single Moms, Women Who Want to Be Married, Businessmen*
- Connect Life helps people learn how to apply the Word of God.
- Creativity flows out of us to others – hidden talents that God wants to bring out!

## **Chapter 5:**

# **CONNECT LIFE LEADER RESPONSIBILITIES**

Connect Life leaders provide leadership for connecting believers to a connect life gathering of six or more people in a group, forming multiple groups to help mature believers to become spiritual life coaches to disciple others.

**NOTE:** Once believers have been coached (discipled) and completed a connect life term, then they are ready to be sent out to establish their own connect life group.

### ***Leadership Responsibilities***

1. Attend a monthly meeting with all foundational leaders and executive staff leaders.
2. Monitor the growth of all the connect group leaders in your department.
3. Pray and prepare for connect life meetings. Groups will decide whether to meet on Zoom or in person.
4. Conduct a connect life meeting at least twice a month. The group should decide when they will meet. If the group wants to meet more, then they make that decision.
5. Receive and graciously welcome new believers assigned to the department by the church office. Contact new believers and pursue them to connect online. Introduce new group members to other group members.
6. Pray for the spiritual growth, protection, and spiritual maturity and future leadership potential of members.
7. Facilitate the flow of the Connect Life group to ensure that all points or elements of the session are discussed and covered, and that God is kept as the central focus of the group. Leaders should not teach, but instead facilitate so that everyone can share and therefore grow.
8. Notify your church leadership of crisis or any emergencies concerning any of your group members. Also, refer ministering cases that exceed your experience level.
9. When connect life terms are completed, those who have been faithful who possess leadership potential could start their own groups if they desire and are ready.
10. Try to maintain an atmosphere in which all those attending your connect life will discover and develop their God-given destiny and spiritual gifts.
11. Refrain from divisiveness or teaching that is contrary to WOOMC's doctrines of ministry.
12. Encourage group members to invite family, friends, and coworkers. Groups can grow from online Facebook groups, new church members who join, and from other means.
13. Love, pray for, and live a praiseworthy life, and set a good example for all group members.
14. Know the vision of the church and pass it on to those who you disciple. Pass it on to stay consistent with the doctrines of the church.
15. Delegate duties and responsibilities to group members such as following up with connect members. This is an excellent opportunity to train others in starting them on the road to becoming a leader.



16. Select a co-leader (assistant) who will pattern themselves after your leadership. Trust and allow them to lead when you are not present. Be careful to stay within ministry guidelines, leadership training, years of being part of the ministry, etc.
17. We ask for at least two group cycles within a year to help bring maturity. They can continue to do more. When that is over, if God tells you to step down, we ask that you replace yourself. Remember, success without a successor is not a success.
18. When group members are comfortable with each other, encourage physical meetings at a home, at the church, or at a restaurant. Everyone should be comfortable. Feel free to wear masks.

Remember, success as a leader is not about how big your group becomes or how long you and your group remain together, but how many times you duplicate yourself.

## Chapter 6: CONNECT LIFE CO-LEADER REQUIREMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A connect life co-leader is one who assists the connect life leader in every area of the connect group ministry. This is also called on-the-job training. They function in the same way as a connect life leader in most aspects but their role is to help the leader with the flow of the connect life meetings. An apprentice/co-leader is one who is learning by practical experience.

An apprenticeship is started by initiating a desire for co-leading in a connect life group or showing the desire to be a Connect Life leader.

### *Connect Life Co-Leader Requirements*

There are some requirements for becoming a connect life leader.

1. Be a faithful member of WOOMC with a commitment in each of the following areas:
  - A. Attend WOOMC regularly.
  - B. Give tithes and offerings (Malachi 3:10).
  - C. Have a daily devotional and prayer life.
2. Read the Connect Life Training Manual in its entirety.
3. Be faithful to the connect life group ministry.

**Question:** Do I have to be a co-leader before I become a leader?

**Answer:** Yes. In many cases, faithfulness must be shown as a co-leader before leadership follows. Jesus had 12 disciples who followed Him first before He gave them the commission, "Go, ye..."

**Question:** How long?

**Answer:** Demonstrate at least three to six months of faithfulness as a co-leader before connect life leadership. *\*This is subject to change.*

### *Connect Life Co-Leader Responsibilities*

1. Seek to understand Pastor's vision for ministry and be personally dedicated to help carry out that vision.
2. Submit to the connect life group leader as long as he/she follows the Lord and WOOMC's established guidelines.
3. Be willing to handle different parts of the connect life group meeting at the connect life leader's request.
4. As part of your faithfulness and loyalty to your connect life group leader, pray for their success.
5. Be willing to help promote growth. Remember that as you sow seeds as a co-leader, you will reap the fruit of those seeds when you become a leader.
6. Once a co-leader becomes a leader, they can take Pastor's online leadership training (*optional*).

## Chapter 7: FUNCTIONING IN THE CONNECT LIFE

The following are guidelines that apply for all types of Connect Life groups. **NOTE:** *This may change as the groups grow.*

1. Leaders may have their meetings on any day of the week, provided that they do not conflict with the Sunday/Wednesday services and the monthly cell group leader training session.
2. The goal of the Connect Life group ministry is *pastoral care, leadership development, and discipleship.*
3. Follow the structural plan given in this manual. Each of the five basic areas of ministry should be included as a part of the meeting: praise and worship, prayer (intercession), sharing the Word, fellowship, and outreach through the group members. The leader should facilitate the involve everyone and not just teach.
4. The only person allowed to facilitate the lesson is the Connect Life group leader or his/her co-leader. The information used should be related to the Connect Life foundational group involved and approved by the church leadership.
5. The time frame for each Connect Life group meeting is 1.5 hours.
6. Start the group meeting on time regardless of how many people are present.
7. At the end of the designated time for the cell group meeting, those wanting to leave should be given the opportunity to do so. If others want to stay for ministry or fellowship, the discretion is left to the Connect Life group leader. However, we suggest giving people a chance to connect and talk to each other.
8. Light refreshments may be served at the beginning of your meeting, although this is not required. As an option, birthdays may be celebrated at the end of each month. Remember, what you do for one on their birthday it has to be across the board for all members. Favoritism cannot be shown even though that is not your intent, remember to **protect your sheep!**
9. Do not let people whom you do not know minister in your Connect Life group, no matter what they claim about their previous ministry experience. **Protect your sheep!** Some may try to take over the sessions. This could run people away.
10. Keep accurate and neat reports of your cell group attendance and special ministry activities and praise report that occur within your cell group. Drop these reports in the Connect Life group box in the lobby.
11. The vision of the Connect Life group ministry should be shared each week to encourage people in your group to become more involved in the cell group ministry.
12. If you are a leader or co-leader – you should attend the monthly cell meeting.
13. Remember to pray for your Connect Life group members. Encourage them to pray for those they want to reach. Remember to esteem one another better than you esteem yourself.

## **Chapter 8: FACILITATING THE GROUP**

Accordingly, a typical format of a Connect Life group meeting should go like this:

- 1. PRAYER AND/OR PRAISE AND WORSHIP** – Spend approximately 10 to 15 minutes praying or giving praise to the Lord.
- 2. WORD OF GOD** - Approximately 10 minutes should be spent sharing an opening word by the leader, approved by WOOMC.
- 3. SHARING-** There should be 15 to 20 minutes allocated to sharing with each other in the Connect Life group, where each person will have an equal opportunity to share what is on their heart. Use discussion questions as a guide.
- 4. MINISTRY-** Take approximately 15 to 20 minutes to minister to the needs of the Connect Life group members. Also pray for those who the group member wants to reach or disciple. The Connect Life group leader and the co-leader minister to the people, edifying and encouraging them. This is also a time to encourage group members to prepare to disciple others.
- 5. FELLOWSHIP** – This is a time for the group to eat, talk, share and have fun.

## Chapter 9: DELEGATION – THE KEY TO SUCCESS

1. The meaning of “delegation” is to release authority, responsibility, and accountability from one person or group to another.
2. Read about a Biblical example of delegation in Exodus 18:13-26:
  - A. The Moses Complex (*verses 13-18*)
    1. Moses sat to judge the people from morning to evening (*v. 13*).
    2. His father-in-law Jethro said, “*The thing that you do is not good*” (*v. 17*).
    3. Jethro told Moses, “*Both you and these people who are with you will surely wear yourselves out. For this thing is too much for you. You are not able to perform it by yourself*” (*v.18*).
  - B. The Jethro Principle (*verses 19-21*)
    1. Be God’s representative for the people (*v. 19*).
    2. Teach them in groups (corporately).
    3. Select able men to be rulers over thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens (*v. 21*).
  - C. Benefits of Delegating (*verses 22-23*)
    1. The people will bear the burden with you (*v. 22*).
    2. You will be able to rest (*v.23*).
    3. All the people will go to their place in peace (*v.23*).
  - D. Biblical Pattern for Ministry (*verses 24-26*)
    1. Choose able men to handle the day-by-day ministry (*v. 25*).
    2. Only the difficult cases are brought to the pastor or leader (*v. 26*).
3. Six reasons to delegate in your group:
  - A. Makes the leader’s job easier.
  - B. Increases the ministry in the Connect Life.
  - C. Provides a way to train others for the believer’s ministry.
  - D. Shows trust and confidence in those to whom you are delegating.
  - E. Makes people in the group more committed if they have a job to do.
  - F. Gives a feeling of being “our” group and not “the leader’s” group.
4. Suggested areas to delegate in a Connect Life group:
  - A. Praise and Worship Leader
  - B. Intercessor
  - C. Greeter
  - D. Scribe – Journal prayer and praise reports
  - E. Record keeper – attendance, salvations, healings, etc.
  - F. Children’s leader
  - G. Follow-up calls
  - H. Refreshments
  - I. Prayer walks and outreach
  - J. Discussion leaders

## **Chapter 10:**

# **HOW TO WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO YOUR CONNECT LIFE**

When a new member is assigned to a Connect Life foundational group department, the following things should be done:

1. Connect Life leaders should receive the data sheet from church leadership about the new member.
2. The Connect Life leader should call or text the new member to welcome them to the group.
3. The Connect Life leader should tell the new member about the group, its purpose, and what they can expect.
4. Share about the meeting times and the ways they can connect, live and in person or online.
5. The Connect Life leader should send a text or email or a welcoming card with information about the group.
6. Assign someone to the Connect Life group to offer group sessions online for those who cannot participate in person.
7. Invite present mature group members to contact new prospective members to share their testimony about what the group has meant to them.
8. Feel free to act on other creative ideas to welcome new people.

### ***Caring for Group Members***

Leaders should teach their group members how to care for other group members. The following is a list of some of the ways that group members can care for each other.

1. **Love the group members.** The Golden Rule applies here: *Treat others the way you want to be treated.* Think of how you would like to be loved or treated if you were going through something.
2. **When group members are absent, call and encourage them.**
3. **Visit group members when they are sick or experience a death in the family.**
4. **If there is a funeral, all group members should be present**
5. **If group members face crisis, then they should find creative ways to help: babysit, run errands, bring food, etc.**
6. **If a member exhibits a recurring pattern of tardiness, absence, or lack of participation in group activities without a valid excuse, other group members should call and/or make visits.**

Group members should do whatever it takes to better each other's lives and overcome crisis.

The above information was adapted from the book *Answers to Your Cell Group Questions*, Randall Neighbour, Touch Publications, Houston, Texas, pages 17-24.

## **Chapter 11:**

# **HOW TO HANDLE DIFFICULT MEMBERS**

We will encounter many different types of people on our venture as Connect Life group leaders. Some of them are listed below:

- The dominant member
- The arrogant member
- The lazy member
- The shy member
- The constantly late member
- The frequently ill member
- The joke-a-minute member
- The angry member
- The talkative member
- The quiet member
- The disruptive member
- The difficult member
- The bored member

We will discuss a few of these.

### ***The Angry Member***

Anger feeds anger. Negativity feeds negativity. Rarely can any good come out of reacting against someone who is in a negative state. If a person is already in a negative state and you the leader go into a negative state, then it only triggers more of a defending person; leading to only an additional reactive response from that person.

What usually happens in this scenario when the leader has invested energy into this argument? The leader will feel as though they have to defend why they are right and this stimulates even more negative conversation. However, if the leader maintains a positive attitude even though the member is in a negative state, then neutrality evolves.

What you as a leader do is ask yourself, “What did I learn from dealing with an angry member?” Life always has life lessons and what we learn from this can inspire us to fight for those things that need to be fought for and seek peace in battles that are not meant for us to confront.

In a Connect Life group environment, one of the few topics that will come up in Connect Life groups is theology. There are things that have been debated for years and they are still being debated right now. Remember, the Bible says avoid foolish and unlearned questions. *(II Timothy 2:23, KJV)*

### ***The Quiet Member***

*“Wise men talk because they have something to say; fools talk because they have something.” Benjamin Franklin*

The shy and timid person usually has a lot to say but because of their nature by not being very talkative they just close up even though they have excellent points and wisdom. They don't want to be seen as inappropriate or resenting what they just said.

Some ways to draw them into the discussion is to call them by name or call them prior to group meetings and delegating a task for them to do without them feeling as though they are going to cause any shame to themselves.

### ***The Talkative Member***

If a leader senses that a member is talking too much and is getting the group off topic, this section should help him/her resolve it.

Some personality types are naturally bubbly, always eager to talk with others, and tend to make friends easily. After a Connect Life group meeting, leaders can privately and gently remind them to think before they speak and give others a chance to share. If it occurs again, then the leader can remind them during the meeting. Usually, this solves the problem. In this case, the person is being momentarily inconsiderate, but does not want to continue being that way.

However, a person who constantly talks in a Connect Life group meeting prevents others from sharing. They are dealing with a control issue, having something to hide, or both. In the case, the best action a leader can take is to confront these people in love. Intercede for them before hand and ask God to show you His love for them.

When a leader approaches this group member (let's call him Max), he/she should always keep their best interest at heart. The leader should ask to meet with Max to discuss an important matter. Ask him if he notices anything different in his behavior during meetings compared with the rest of the group. Max may immediately admit to being outspoken, or he may say that he does not see anything different. If Max comments on how much he talks during the meeting, then the leader should explain that this is the reason why they need to talk.

The leader should ask him if he can explain why he talks so much. The goals should be to get Max to find the root issue. Is he hiding something? Is he afraid of "dead air" time in a group setting? The leader should continue to ask questions until he reveals the real issue. Even if the leader can identify it, Max must say it himself in order to overcome it. When he does, the leader should pray with him and ask God to deliver him from the root issues. Then, ask Max to pray and ask forgiveness as well. Finally, the leader should help him form new habits of listening before he speaks. Have Max keep an eye on you so you can signal him when he has said enough. Instead of avoiding the issue, leaders should confront the person(s) in love and work to resolve this conflict so growth can occur.

### ***The Disruptive Member***

To handle a Connect Life group member (let's call her Susan) who repeatedly disrupts a Connect Life meeting, a leader should follow these steps:

1. Redirect Susan in the meeting where she made the offense. Do this gently, but directly. Leaders should listen for a few minutes to ensure that Susan is indeed disrupting the group or the flow of the meeting.
2. When certain that Susan is disrupting the group, then the leader should quickly point in Susan's direction and say, "*Pardon the interruption, but I wanted to stop you so we could discuss the issue at hand. Do you have anything to share from your heart on the subject? We'd love to hear that!*"
3. This action will probably shock and offend Susan. If she looks offended, ask if she is open to feedback from other group members. If they agree, then the leader should ask the Connect Life members to give Susan productive feedback without condemning her.



Connect Life group should be able to say something like this, “*Susan, we really enjoy you in this Connect Life group. However, based on what we hear from you each week, we think that you may have your own agenda*” or “*We know you love us, but when you take us off topic consistently, week after week, we don’t feel as if you really want to lay down your life for others.*”

4. Once a few people have shared their concerns, give Susan time to process and share. She may need a prolonged pause of silence. This is very good, as it allows the Holy Spirit to speak to people when they can hear and focus on Him. If Susan shares a deep need, place a chair in the middle of the room and wait on God to give you and the members something to say. *Do not pray the first thing that comes to mind.* Wait for the spirit’s guidance.
5. If Susan starts in again with her personal agenda, stop her and ask if she realizes that she is doing it again. Susan has to see that her actions are habitual and have a root.
6. Susan may want ministry and may desire to find the root of the problem and work through it. If so, the leader should ask another senior member of the group to help them minister to her one-on-one in her home. The Connect Life meeting will not be long enough to accomplish this.
7. If Susan does not agree with anything that was said, affirm her and tell her you love her unconditionally. The leader must stop Susan from speaking or work out a plan where she receives permission to speak until she can work through her issue and change her habits.
8. The Connect Life group should begin to fast and pray for Susan. She really needs you! God will intervene in her life and the Connect Life group will be blessed to have a part in it.

### ***The Difficult Connect Life Group Member***

If a Connect Life leader finds that a certain group member (let’s call him Joe) is not participating in group life (ex: disinterest constant tardiness, silence during meetings and worship, refusal to pray or read scripture when asked, etc.), then he/she should do the following:

1. Assuming that Joe’s parents are not dragging him to Connect Life meetings, then he has to feel compelled to come for some reason. Outside a Connect Life meeting, the leader should ask him why he attends, point blank.
2. Visit him privately and ask him if he is open to personal feedback. When this meeting occurs, the other group members should be fasting and praying for a breakthrough.
  - A. If Joe says that he does not want feedback, the leader must remind him that being in the Connect Life group requires being open to input and a willingness to participate. Ask Joe if you can pray with him at that moment. Pray that God will reveal anything and everything that keeps him from living in fellowship with other Christians. When the leader finishes praying, challenge Joe to pray the same prayer. This will cause a new work to begin in his life.
  - B. If Joe says that he wants feedback, then the leader should explain to him the same that was listed in point A above. However, in this case, the leader will know that he wants verbal feedback. Also, explain to Joe the *Edification Factors* below:
    - **Positive Edification Factor** – a person who adds to the meetings, shows up on time, opens their home for meetings and for others to visit, spends time with unbelievers, etc.

- **Neutral Edification Factor** – someone who attends Connect Life meetings frequently, but adds nothing and sits there like a bump on a log. They take part in events, but don't work at Connect Life. They just let things happen.
- **Negative Edification Factor** – Someone who shows up late, does not talk, or trashes the Connect Life members and activities. This person makes others feel that they cannot share openly and drags the Connect Life group down by their actions.

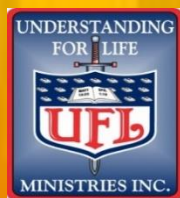
Ask Joe what factors fit the current actions in his Connect Life group. Wait for an answer as long as it takes. If Joe needs to process this in his mind, let him have all the time he needs.

3. This may not be the only time you meet with Joe. The leader may want to ask him if the group can pray over him at the meeting next week and regularly outside of the meeting at his home.
4. The leader should inform the supervisor or senior pastor about Joe's situation. Leaders should always tell Connect Life members that they cannot be bound by confidentiality, but they should promise not to reveal deep issues with church leadership outside of their presence. This allows the leader to get Connect Life members the help they need without them feeling as if they have broken a promise or trust. Connect Life members should also know that leaders may be forced to share deep issues with a church leader over them, even if they did not give permission when the issue warrants it.

Joe needs the Connect Life group to love him to a new place in life. Some people decide to run away. Others make significant changes in their lives because a Connect Life group shows them God's unconditional love. In Joe's situation, the key is to not become focused on his problems as a leader or a Connect Life group.

# CONNECT LIFE TRAINING MANUAL

We gain momentum when we are connected to others. We need godly community to fulfill our destiny. The *Connect Life Training Manual* empowers believers to come together to encourage, edify, and coach each other to growth in their walk with Christ.



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