

Apprenticeship for Potential Life Group Leaders

How to choose an apprentice:

1. Are they a follower of Jesus? Do they walk a repentant life (open about sin and struggles and seek help)? Do they seek after God?
 2. **Are they a R.A.F.T. person?** (Relational, Available, Faithful, teachable)
 - Relational: Do they have a heart for others. Do they pursue relationships with Christians and non-Christians
 - Available: Does their schedule allow for them to attend events, church, life group?
 - Faithful: Do they attend life group regularly? Do they follow through with their actions?
 - Teachable: Do they respond well to God's word? Do they consider suggestions, criticism?
- Note:** You are not looking for a "perfect" person. You are looking for someone who is wanting to grow and who has some proven character.

Invite them:

-Meet personally with the individual and share with them what you see in them and ask them to consider being an apprentice. Invite them to also consider being a part of a deeper team if they aren't already.

What will an apprentice learn to do?

1. **Learn to lead the Life Group meeting**
 - communicate vision for the group, lead discussions
2. **Shepherd People**
 - Pray for those in life group
 - track important spiritual growth and info (baptism, gospel, next steps)
 - know the condition of your flock
 - Basic follow up, and next step follow up
 - Share the gospel using the Bridge or other tool to life group members
3. **Build Community**
 - Learn how to help the group connect with each other
 - lead or help organize community building events
 - empower life group members to create a Christ centered community
 - empower life group members to serve
4. **Lead a Life group within Riv's mission and vision**
 - promote and be a part of a larger mission and team with other leaders
5. **Join a Leadership Community**
 - actively participate with other leaders
6. **Develop a Prayer life**
 - Pray for others in the group
 - pray the word over your life
7. **Learn to read Scripture in Context**

Goals:

- It should feel as if you are transitioning leadership to them by the end of the semester. You should be a supporting role and they should essentially be leading most everything by the last 2-3 weeks of the semester. Give lots of encouragement with constructive criticism.
- See the apprentice grow more others oriented, seeing the needs of others
- See the apprentice grow confident in leading

How to train: (a potential timeline)

Week 1-3 Begin to include them in your life group planning times.

Explain what you do to plan and why you do it. Don't assume they already understand. Ask them questions during your planning meeting like: What do you see God doing in our group? What do you think the needs of the group are? How can we meet those needs?

Weeks 3-5 After several weeks of having them at your planning meetings, give them an opportunity to look through the discussion and make changes on their own. Be sure to look it over before giving it the green light. Before the actual

meeting have them observe you leading the discussion. Ask them during your next planning meeting if they observed anything noteworthy that you did during the leading of the discussion.

Weeks 4-ongoing Have them lead the discussion that they either looked over or created themselves. Perhaps ease them into this role by giving them half the discussion questions one week then giving them the full discussion the next.

Week 4- on going Have them help you create a life group event. Explain the vision behind the event. Ask them questions on how to make the event successful and purposeful. Later on, give them an opportunity to create an event on their own and submit the idea to you for approval.

Week 4- on going Have them join you as you meet with someone from the life group. Explain the importance of being a shepherd. As a life group leader your primary role is to create a community and to shepherd people towards Jesus, not just lead a discussion.

Week 5- on going Have them call up someone from life group to meet up with them. Go with them and be a part of the time.

Week 7- on going Have them go and meet with someone and then ask them about it during the next life group planning time.

Every Week: Ask them where they see God moving in their life. Pray for them. Also, each week come prepared to Provide Handout either from Leadership Community (if they aren't in L.C.) or bring something from your Binder of materials. Discuss together.