





# LEADER'S GUIDE

**SHEPHERDING LIVES OUT OF ADDICTION  
AND INTO *new life* IN CHRIST**

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# New Life Community Leader's Guide

## *Shepherding Lives Toward New Life in Christ*

### Introduction

Welcome to the *New Life Community Leader's Guide*. This guide is designed to equip you, the leader, to walk alongside individuals on their journey toward healing, restoration, and a lifelong relationship with Jesus Christ. Rooted in 2 Corinthians 5:17, which declares, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come," this curriculum is a Spirit-led invitation into transformation.

The Leader's Guide provides a clear structure, a Spirit-filled tone, and practical tools for leading a New Life Community group effectively. Whether you are leading in a church, recovery group, or community outreach setting, this resource will help you shepherd others with compassion, boldness, and grace.

As a leader in New Life Community, you are stepping into the role of a shepherd—one who reflects the heart of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Just as He left the ninety-nine to go after the one lost sheep, you are called to notice, pursue, and walk with those who are wandering, hurting, or on the verge of giving up. This is not just about running a group or leading a discussion—it's about shepherding lives toward new life in Christ. It's about being present in people's mess, praying through their breakthroughs, and never giving up on the one who hasn't yet seen their worth in God's eyes. You're not just holding a meeting—you're leading souls home.

Our prayer is that this guide equips you to be more than a facilitator. You are a shepherd—a leader entrusted with guiding broken, hurting, and searching people toward freedom in Christ. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, lives can change today, and every day, along this journey.

Above all, remember this truth: **The Gospel is the only way that someone's life is truly going to change.** Real transformation begins in the heart and **true freedom is only found in Jesus Christ.** Everything we do in this group—every discussion, prayer, and moment of worship—is meant to point people back to Him.

# Vision & Purpose of the Leader's Guide

New Life Community is a transformative nine-chapter journey designed to equip local churches, recovery groups, and like-minded ministries with Christ-centered teachings and video content rooted in the DNA of Teen Challenge. This powerful initiative empowers leaders to walk alongside individuals on their path to freedom and restoration, guiding them toward lasting transformation through the Gospel.

At the core of this curriculum is the Gospel's ability to heal broken lives and renew hope. Each chapter serves as a stepping stone on the journey to wholeness, exploring life-transforming truths such as:

- **Finding New Life When You've Lost Yourself**
- **It's Never too Late to Come Home**
- **The Power of the Blood: Silencing Accusations and Breaking Free from the Past**
- **Praying With Purpose: Unleashing the Supernatural Power of God in Our Lives**
- **Designed for Devotion: Cultivating a Lifestyle of Worship**
- **From Brokenness to Restoration: Trusting God to Heal Your Deepest Hurts**
- **When the Storm Rages: Waiting for the Whisper of God**
- **Walking in the Spirit: The Path to Lasting Freedom**
- **Made for More: Stepping into the New Life God has for You**

Every chapter is infused with God's Word, real-life stories from Teen Challenge alumni, and personal reflection questions. These elements inspire participants to believe for a miracle in their own lives. Group discussions and weekly scripture meditations provide key moments of reflection along this transformative journey, fostering a deep connection to God and community. Leading people into a lifelong relationship with Christ is the bedrock of this curriculum, ensuring that transformation is not just temporary but eternal.

Within every chapter, you'll see " **II Break in the Journey**" markers. These suggested pause points help create space for prayer, reflection, and application before your next gathering.

# Program Overview & Structure

**New Life Community** is a flexible, ongoing discipleship journey built around nine transformative chapters. Each chapter is Christ-centered, Gospel-driven, and intentionally designed to help people encounter Jesus and experience true freedom. Churches and ministries are encouraged to run New Life Community year-round, allowing new participants to join at any point.

## Group Format & Core Elements:

Every New Life Community gathering may look different depending on the setting, but we recommend the following core components be present in every session:

- **Prayer** – Begin and end each gathering with prayer, inviting the Holy Spirit to lead.
- **Praise & Worship** – Create an atmosphere of surrender and reverence with simple, heartfelt worship.
- **Show a Teen Challenge transformation story video** – Find powerful testimonies to share with your group at [newlifetc.org/videos](http://newlifetc.org/videos).
- **Evangelistic Message & Salvation Invitation** – Present the Gospel clearly and offer an opportunity to receive Christ.
- **Group Discussions** – Separate men's and women's group time creates safe spaces for deeper sharing and connection.

## Suggested Weekly Ministry Night Flow:

- **6:00 PM – Leader Meeting:** A time of fellowship, encouragement, equipping, and prayer for all group leaders. Includes brief training, leadership development, and spiritual encouragement.
- **6:30 PM – Large Group Gathering:** All participants and leaders come together for worship, announcements, a short teaching or a testimony. This moment sets the tone for the evening and points everyone toward Christ.
- **7:30 PM – Small Group Breakouts:**
  - Men and women separate into gender-specific small groups
  - Each group is led by a trained leader
  - Group members reflect on and discuss that week's chapter content
  - The focus is on sharing, prayer, accountability, and applying the truths from the curriculum to their own lives

During small group time, leaders are not teaching a lesson or delivering training. Instead, they are shepherding each participant through the week's chapter—unpacking the spiritual truths, discussing the personal reflections, and helping individuals hear from God for themselves. **Leaders must remain sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings throughout the gathering, creating space for ministry, prayer, and unexpected moments of breakthrough.**

- **8:30 PM – Fellowship Time:** Casual hangout space for connection, coffee, and community. These moments often foster relationships and deepen trust within the group.

### Flexible Pacing:

While the curriculum contains nine chapters, each group can move at the pace that best fits their journey. The structure is flexible to the needs of your church or ministry. Transformation is not rushed; it is walked out.

### Open Enrollment:

New Life Community is designed so that individuals can join at any point in the cycle. Each lesson stands on its own while building toward the full picture of freedom in Christ.

### Leadership Expectations:

Group Leaders are:

- **Shepherds of the broken** – leading people with love, humility, and spiritual authority.
- **Full of faith and the Holy Spirit** – ready to minister, pray, and lead others to Christ at any moment.
- **Focused on lasting transformation** – guiding others not just through curriculum, but into lifelong discipleship and service within the local church.

Our vision is not only for participants to experience healing, but to rise up as future leaders—serving in ministry and using their gifts to build the body of Christ.



# Leading Someone to Christ: A Shepherd's Roadmap

*"All of heaven rejoices when one sinner repents."  
Luke 15:7*

As a leader, be ready. You are a shepherd and watchman, and your highest calling is to point others to Jesus. Whether in a group setting or one-on-one, remain sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading.

**Go as you pray, and pray as you go.**

## Infusing the Heart of Soul Winning (J. Oswald Sanders)

### 1. Know the Value of a Soul

"But how can we compute the value of a soul?" — J. Oswald Sanders, *The Divine Art of Soul Winning*

- Its Nature and Origin: Made in God's image (Genesis 1:27); breathed into by God (Genesis 2:7).
- Its Powers and Capacities: Capable of fellowship with God, yet hijacked by sin (Romans 8:11).
- Its Duration: The soul exists eternally—either in bliss or in woe (Matthew 25:46; 2 Corinthians 4:18).
- Its Redemption Cost: Bought not with silver or gold, but the blood of Jesus (1 Peter 1:18–19).
- The Battle for It: A battleground between God and the enemy (Jude 7; 2 Peter 3:6–7).

Let this reality ignite urgency and compassion in your heart.

### 2. Present the Gospel Clearly

- All have sinned and fall short – Romans 3:23
- Sin earns death; God's gift is life – Romans 6:23
- God's love sent Christ – John 3:16
- Jesus died while we were still sinners – Romans 5:8
- Repent, be baptized, receive the Spirit – Acts 2:38–39
- Confess and believe to be saved – Romans 10:9–10, 13
- Jesus came to save sinners – 1 Timothy 1:15
- Salvation is by grace through faith – Ephesians 2:8–9

### 3. Invite Response in Faith

After explaining the gospel, lead them in a prayer such as:

"Jesus, I believe You are the Son of God. I believe You died for my sins and rose again. I confess my need for You. Please forgive me, change me, and come live inside of me by Your Holy Spirit. Today I turn from my old life and follow You as Savior and Lord. Thank You for loving me, saving me, and making me new. In Jesus' name, amen."



#### 4. Explain What Comes Next

- Sealed with the Spirit – Ephesians 1:13–14; 2 Corinthians 1:22.
- Indwelt and Empowered – Romans 8:1; Ephesians 2:10.
- God’s Property and Protected – Ephesians 4:30.

#### 5. Teach Them to Walk as Disciples

“To be a happy Christian, he must confess Christ to men... He must be out and out for God to experience God’s best.” — *J. Oswald Sanders*

- Confess Christ publicly – *Romans 10:9–10*
- Surrender fully – *Matthew 16:24; Galatians 2:20*
- Read the Bible daily – *Ephesians 2:4–5; Romans 6:6*
- Learn to pray – *Matthew 6:6; Hebrews 13:5–6*
- Be filled with the Spirit – *Joel 2:28–29; Matthew 3:11*
- Join community – *Ecclesiastes 4:9–10*
- Begin serving others – *2 Timothy 4:7*

Encourage immediate obedience to Jesus. Teach them that through the Spirit’s power, they are a new creation with a new mission and identity.

#### Simple Teaching Moments

- God doesn’t just restore; He re-stories.
- Grace finds you where you are, but doesn’t leave you there.
- Sometimes God lets things die to raise something new.
- The road is long, but Jesus walks with you.
- You’re not just forgiven—you’re commissioned.



## From New Life to New Purpose: Turning the Hopeless into Givers of Hope

Completing the nine chapters of New Life Community is not the end of the journey—it's only the beginning of a life ignited by purpose, filled with power, and led by the presence of God. What God has begun is not a finish line but a launch point into a Spirit-empowered destiny.

Participants who have experienced freedom and healing are uniquely positioned to walk alongside others who are still hurting. This is the powerful shift—from once being hopeless to becoming a giver of hope. This identity shift is central to the mission of New Life Community. Those who complete the journey should be encouraged to pour out what they've received: compassion, wisdom, and the testimony of God's goodness.

Every participant who completes this journey has the potential to become a lay leader in the group—helping guide others through the same Gospel truths that set them free. Others may step into service in their local church, outreach teams, mentorship roles, or broader ministry opportunities. The goal is to help them:

- Identify their spiritual gifts and callings
- Discover the joy of serving as vital members of the Body of Christ
- Embody the hope of Jesus in their families, churches, and communities

Participants should be encouraged: **don't limit what God can do with your life.** You are not defined by where you've been but by who He says you are. **There is kingdom potential in every story of redemption.** You were rescued to become a rescuer. You were healed to bring healing. You were restored to be a restorer.

This is a call to rise—to become a vessel of transformation, a light in dark places, and a living testimony that Jesus still saves, heals, and sends.

This next season is about multiplication—taking what was received and freely giving it to others. The journey is not just about personal transformation; it's about becoming a vessel of transformation for others.