

LIFT Groups

Lasting Impact Fellowship for Teachers

“You did not choose me, but I chose you, and appointed you to go and bear fruit...fruit that will last.” John 15:16

What is the purpose of a LIFT Group?

- A LIFT Group is an intentional gathering of Christians designed to provide fellowship, encouragement, prayer and support for each other at school.
- The goal is to find each other, build community and seek God together in order to have *lasting impact*.

Who is a LIFT Group for?

- LIFT is for all followers of Christ working in your school, not just teachers. Together, as unique members of one body, we seek to follow Christ and have lasting influence on those He has place in our lives.

Suggestions

- **Should it be called a Bible Study?**
 - Though God’s word may be shared and discussed at a LIFT Group, the focus is on fellowship. A LIFT Group provides a place to connect with others and share stories, challenges and praises. It’s a place to find strength, inspiration and sometimes guidance from others who are also on the journey with Christ.
- **Should it be called a prayer group?**
 - Though prayer is vital, and often offered at the beginning and/or close of a LIFT Group, it’s not the purpose of the gathering. Many desiring fellowship may not be comfortable praying in front of others or participating in intercessory prayer. As friendships deepen and sharing becomes more personal, praying for one another, for children and for what happens at school will naturally occur.
 - Both **Bible study and prayer are vital** in the life of a Christian, but the goal of a LIFT Group is fellowship, encouragement and support. Smaller groups for study and prayer may spring out of a LIFT Group, but are not the primary purpose.

Some Ideas and Guiding Principles

- **Keep it simple**
 - Weekly, or twice a month seems to work well.
 - Some schools find it workable to have their LIFT Group during their lunch hour, but for many schools the schedules are too fragmented for that to occur.

- **Find what will work at your school**
 - Be intentional
 - Be persistent...finding a time to gather is a challenge
 - Persevere. It's important...and God will bless your efforts.

- **Pursue unity**
 - Establish a “no-fly zone” for controversial discussions about politics, theology and denominational differences.
 - The enemy will attempt to isolate, create tension and disrupt fellowship. Don't be unaware of his schemes (2 Corinthians 2:11).
 - Be alert to Satan's attempts to kill, steal and destroy (John 10:10) what God is doing at your school.
 - Conflict and division is a common strategy Satan uses to snuff out the sweet aroma of the knowledge of God that we are to manifest in every place (2 Corinthians 2:14).

- **A variety of methods** can be used pertaining to food.
 - Each one brings their own.
 - Have sign-ups and take turns bringing lunch, breakfast or snacks.
 - Find a local church, or Christian parents group (ex/ Mom's in Touch) to help provide food once a month.

- **Devotional Models**
 - Have a closed Facebook or email group and take turns sharing a Monday morning devotional to begin the week.
 - Take turns at LIFT Groups sharing a short devo, favorite verse or encouraging story of how God worked in a special way.

- **Develop a LIFT leadership team**
 - Prayerfully seek the Lord on how to gather, encourage and support the believers at your school.
 - Serve as unofficial chaplains, caring for the spiritual needs of your colleagues.

Contact us at <http://www.ceai.org> if we can help in any way. Do you have questions about what you can, and cannot do at school, we can help you navigate that line. If you have legal questions, or just need some new ideas, let us know. There is an extensive network of experience through CEAI to support you.

