

# ***Take 5—Launching the First Small Group (Life Group)***

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Do you remember the centipede? We are told that it has 100 legs give or take a few. When this arthropod begins to walk if he (she?) can get the first leg going then the other 99 will follow! Launching the ***Take 5 Life Groups*** in a local church is kind of like this as well—if we can get “started on the right foot” the others will follow.

Allow me to share how you as a church leader can put your “best foot forward” and start effective and long-lasting small groups in your church.

**Introduce the *Take 5* plan to the church.** Remember that this is a plan for the local church to merge small home-based groups with personal evangelism teaching and training. At its core, it is a Bible study for believers that prepares and equips them to reach unbelievers. How this plan is introduced to the church is very important because people, by nature, resist change. How ***Take 5*** is introduced greatly affects whether the congregation will adopt it. Here are some pointers to get you started on the right foot:

- *Introduce Take 5 as a way to reach the goal of evangelism.* Most everyone in your church would agree that we, as a body of believers, must reach more souls for Christ. The momentum is already in your congregation for a plan to win more souls. Share a vision of how the church can reach out more effectively in the community.
- *Introduce Take 5 as an addition—not a replacement.* Often times, church people resist change because they feel that any new addition to the roster of programs will result in losing a program that they really like. Show them that the plan will help the church gain favor in the community, will help the church grow and result in many more people visiting the services for the first time. They lose nothing and gain so much with ***Take 5***.
- *Introduce Take 5 as a short-term venture not a long-term commitment.* Members who question whether the change is an appropriate or wise move for the church will be more open to accepting a trial period in which the church implements and then evaluates the new idea. This gives the ***Take 5*** plan a chance to be properly planted and grow in the hearts and minds of the people of God.
- *Start with an announcement to the leaders first.* It is best to explain the details of the plan (see the ***Take 5 Leader’s Guide***) with the core group of leaders, then work together with the committed workers and then share the plan with the entire congregation.

**Choose the first *Take 5 Life Group* members.** Choose them wisely. The first ***Take 5 Life Group Leader*** couple is what we call the “generator” couple. They generate all future group leaders. We are assuming that you (the pastor or staff member) will lead this first group. This means that the ones you choose for your group will *each* be asked to lead a ***Take 5 Life Group*** at the end of the five month training period. Thus the pastor begins with four other couples or singles or a mix of both. Choosing the right people at this point is absolutely critical to the overall success of starting small groups because these people will be the first visible leaders of other couples and singles in the local church. At this point we don’t look so much for *qualifications* as we look for *qualities*. Here’s what to look for:

- *Faithfulness.* God’s word tells us in 1 Corinthians 4:2 that “..it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.” God can help them with the leadership abilities that they need but He cannot use them if they are not dependable and faithful.
- *Passion.* Great soul winners are not great because of technique—they are great because they have a passion for souls. They really care about reaching lost people. It is first and foremost a matter of the heart rather than the head. When we have the same compassion for others as God does for us, we are open to opportunities to serve
- *Availability.* The time commitment for ***Take 5 Life Groups is minimal—only three hours per month for the meeting for five months.*** In addition, we ask them during the other three weeks between meetings to reach out to their focus (lost-unchurched) couples. Just being there for them, doing deeds of kindness and opening up their homes for them for fellowship etc. We all know that if you want something done, you ask someone who's already busy. We always pick the busy couples or singles because they are usually willing to work, but it is also important to look for people who are not currently serving or even being asked to serve so no one is left out or ignored.
- *Teachable spirit.* Find people who are open to learning new skills and approaches in ministry. Our text *Share the Gospel in Three Stories* is fun, easy to read and will be a great help to any believer who wants to learn how to share Christ with the lost.

**Set a date for the *Take 5 Life Group organizational meeting.*** Our *Take 5 Leader’s Guide* suggests that before you meet in homes and begin teaching your group, you **schedule an organizational meeting.** *We suggest gathering at the church for this meeting because it is a neutral place and works well for people who are getting together for the first time.*

This meeting is very important because it allows you to meet all of the team members and hear from them personally. During this time you can impart your burden and vision for the group you will be leading. You will use this event to gather personal information so you can keep in contact with all the members. We like to get contact information from each person because people are so busy these days and sometimes emails go unnoticed. Most everyone has a personal email address and a cell phone. The organizational meeting gives you an opportunity to take care of all the details involved, such as gathering information, distributing books, discussing meeting times, and giving the first assignment.

Two important items for you!

- *Organizational Meeting PowerPoint.* We have prepared a very good set of PowerPoint slides for you to use in announcing and explaining the ***Take 5 Life Group*** plan. This file is available as a free download from our website at: [www.take5lifegroups.com](http://www.take5lifegroups.com). Please remember to click the “Downloads” link.
- *Organizational Meeting Agenda.* Here is an agenda for the organizational meeting. Feel free to modify it as needed.

## AGENDA FOR THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

| Topic  | Explanation  |
|--|--|
| <b>Introductions</b>                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce yourself/your spouse as group leaders.</li> <li>• Share burden/vision for the <i>Take Five</i> journey.</li> <li>• Explain the potential for revival, renewal, and growth as the group reaches out to the church-detached.</li> <li>• Team members introduce themselves/briefly share background (who they are and what they do).</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Show the promotional video</b>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Show the 16-minute <i>Take Five Promo Video</i>. Explain the strategy and details of the plan.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note: This video is on the Teaching DVD.</b></p>  |
| <b>Gather personal information</b>                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribute <b>Personal Information Handout (#1)</b> to each member (fill out).</li> </ul> <p><b>Note: Form information will be confidential.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect Personal Information form.</li> <li>• Use <b>Master Contact List Handout (#2)</b> to compile information.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Explain Core Values</b>                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribute <b>Core Values Handout (#3)</b> to each member.</li> <li>• Read through the seven points.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Share overview of the <i>Take Five</i> sessions</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share a general outline of what will be taught in each of the five monthly sessions.</li> </ul> <p><b>(Refer to chapter four of this <i>Leaders Guide on Teaching the Take Five Life Group Sessions</i>).</b></p>   |
| <b>Choose meeting times</b>                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Select day/time that is most convenient for these meetings (mid-week vs. weekend, noon vs. evening).</li> <li>• Be flexible enough to change the schedule if needed.</li> <li>• Remember that the meeting will convene in a <i>different</i> member's home each month if feasible.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note: At this time choose all the dates for the next five monthly sessions. Include them in your first email contact with the team.</b></p> |
| <b>Distribute books</b>                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Try to purchase a copy of <i>Share the Gospel in Three Stories</i> for each member in the group.</li> <li>• Have the books on hand at this meeting.</li> <li>• They can be ordered at <a href="http://www.take5lifegroups.com">www.take5lifegroups.com</a>.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Give reading assignment</b>                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assign the first chapter to be read before the next meeting.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Closing prayer</b>                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thank everyone for being a part of this great adventure and close with a prayer for its success.</li> </ul>   |