



UNLEASH

RELEASING GOD'S RADIANT LOVE

SESSION 1

INTRODUCTION

“For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases Him.”
Philippians 2:13

ABOUT THIS SESSION

This fall CR First is launching into a bold step of faith. Together we are following God's call to develop 500 disciplers, launch 50 people into full-time ministry around the world, create a movement in Eastern Iowa where people experience freedom, equip the next generation to usher in a move of God, and work with our global partners to help the unreached encounter Jesus. While others are calling for caution, we are moving ahead with clarity and passion. Your leadership is vital to the success of this mission. As Pastor Brian shared recently, only by moving at the Speed of Unity will we accomplish what God has called us to become. We are moving together, united heart and soul.

The first gathering of this Life Group is meant to set the stage relationally for the weeks to come. We hope tonight can help you develop relationships which help each other throughout the week. Remember, Life Group isn't the meeting, but Life Groups have meetings. Take time to get to know each other. Remember, this is just a guide. You don't have to answer every question or say everything word for word. Make the time personal, relaxed and fun. If you need any help don't be afraid to reach out to Pastor Kristi (kristi@crfirst.org).

COME TOGETHER

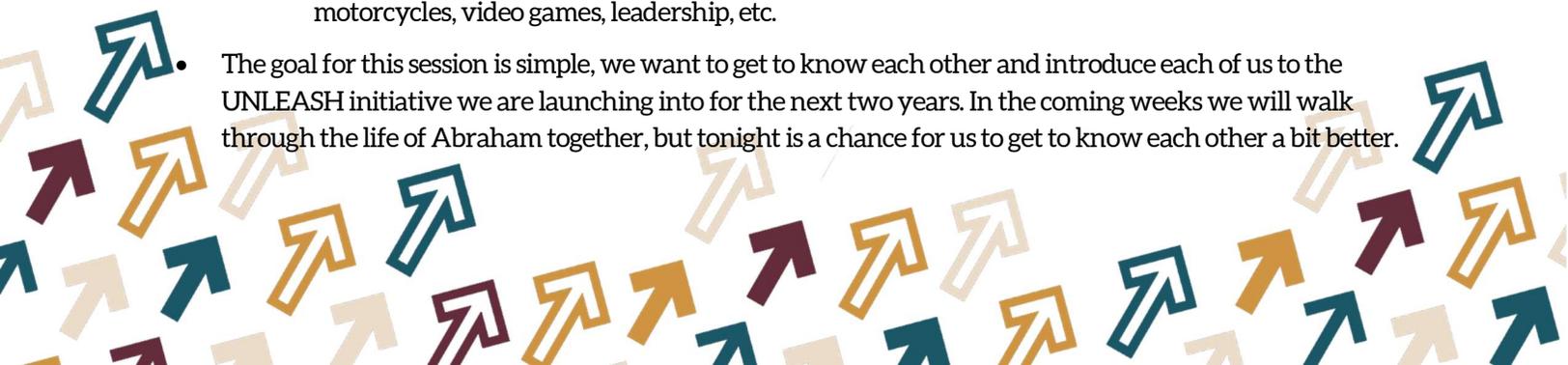
We highly recommend name tags for this session. It helps everyone feel like they belong, especially those who are new and don't know other's names before they came to the group.

Make sure everyone is welcomed personally when they arrive. Find a person in your group that loves to connect with people and place them at the door. Remember, most people feel uncomfortable coming to a gathering, until they meet a friend. Go out of your way to help people feel like an insider. One of our key values at CR First is: **WE WILL MOVE MOUNTAINS TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE.**

Open your group with prayer. This should be a brief, simple prayer, in which you invite God to be with you as you meet. You can pray for specific requests at the end of the meeting or stop momentarily to pray if a particular situation comes up during your discussion.

- Take several minutes to introduce everyone—have each person answer the following questions but let everyone know they have a maximum of 2 minutes time.
 - Name & a bit about you (number of kids, what you do for work, how long married, etc.)
 - How did God draw you to be a part of CR First and how long have you attended?
 - What is one **HOT BUTTON** for you? In other words, what is a topic of conversation that you will jump into, even from across the room? For example, it could be scrapbooking, Hawkeyes, motorcycles, video games, leadership, etc.

• The goal for this session is simple, we want to get to know each other and introduce each of us to the UNLEASH initiative we are launching into for the next two years. In the coming weeks we will walk through the life of Abraham together, but tonight is a chance for us to get to know each other a bit better.



- Before we begin, we want to give you the simple values we have for every time we gather as a CR First Life Group. For sports fans they are easy to remember – ESPN
 - ENCOURAGING ENVIRONMENT
 - SCRIPTURE
 - PERSONAL PRAYER
 - NEXT STEPS
- With those in mind, I'd like a few of you to answer the following questions:
 - How has someone encouraged you recently?
 - What is a verse of scripture that has helped you make a wise decision recently?
 - Many people don't have someone they can call on to pray for them. Why are so many people hesitant to ask others to pray for them?
 - When it comes to taking next steps Pastor Brian likes to say it this way, "What is God saying to you?" and "What are you going to do about it?" How do those questions help you take next steps with your relationship with God?

LEARN TOGETHER

We want to introduce you to the UNLEASH INITIATIVE. We are going to watch a video together and then share some thoughts with each other.

WATCH: UNLEASH VIDEO

Go to www.crfirst.org/lgleaders

- After watching the video, which of the stories did you connect with the most? What about their story stood out to you?
- Of the three areas - ENGAGE OUR COMMUNITY, EQUIP THE NEXT GENERATION, EXPAND GOD'S KINGDOM - which one excites you the most and why?
- What does the word Unleash mean to you? What does it mean to you to hear that God wants to UNLEASH His radiant love through you?
- What can we do as a Life Group to show God's love to our community?

GROW TOGETHER

During the coming weeks we are going to walk through a series of passages that Pastor Brian will be speaking on during the month of October. We will also be participating in a PIE night for one of our sessions. At this PIE event one of the pastors will be joining us so we can ask questions about UNLEASH and they will be showing us details about the building expansion. Now it wouldn't be a PIE night, which stands for Providing Information about Expansion, without having actual pie. Also, every time we gather it is nice to have some refreshments. So we are going to take some time here to fill you in on the schedule for our group & sign up for different items we each can bring.

TAKE SOME TIME TO SOLIDIFY ALL THE DETAILS YOU NEED TO COVER FOR YOUR MEETINGS.

PRAY TOGETHER

To close our time together, we are going to pray for each other personally. First, we need to answer these simple two questions:

- What did God speak to your heart about tonight?
- What are you going to do about it?

Ask everyone to share, "How can we pray for you this week?"

