# Elder Training for local churches





## "True education is drawing out what God has put in." Dr. A.B. Simpson



### ElderLife is a holistic system of development for Local Church Elders. We believe Elder qualities break down into five areas of an Elder's Life: God, Family, Mission, Ministry & Leadership.

Elder Teams will grow in their life and leadership by being intentional with the ElderLife system. ElderLife also serves as a tool to equip emerging Elders in preparation to serve the Church and Community with excellence. An Elder Team will spend two sessions in practical training for each life area. Elders experience the content of ElderLife in both synchronous and asynchronous learning methods. Most of learning content will be provided to Elders using the online learning platform - LEAD Learn (learn.leadcma.org). ElderLife lessons are to be a guide to each learner. The learning platform and the structure of the ElderLife course provide each learner with a pathway to complete learning content: a video to watch, a book to read, Scripture to consider, and practical experiences to propel Elders into deeper life with God and leadership of the local church. ElderLife is designed to be a life-giving developmental process experienced by a team of Elders. Each session has accompanying handouts, lesson plans, and presentations so ElderLife group leaders can facilitate robust group discussion. The estimated time required is 5-8 hours per session. This time estimation includes a 2-hour facilitated group conversation.

Each month will be comprised of the following assignment types to aid in the development of Elders:

Lesson - comprised of video teachings and reflective questions lessons are time conscious for busy leaders.

**Experience** - an environment of practice that could be inside or outside the faith community. Experiences will primarily be outside of the ElderLife meetings.

Reading - an environment of critical thinking and sharing perspectives.

Activity - practical assignments that engage people inside and outside the faith community.

Integration - reflective processing to help Elders integrate Bible reading with experiences.

**Conversation** - each session has a 2-hour facilitated discussion for further application and activation.



#### Life with God - Session 1

Lesson: ElderLife - Life with God (John 15) Lesson: 1 Timothy Reading: Pursuit of God by AW Tozer Reading: Gospel of John chapters 1-11 Integrative Assignment: Integrate the Gospel of John reading with the Pursuit of God reading Activity: Spiritual Pathways Assessment - Ortberg Conversation: ElderLife Group Gathering #1

#### Life with Family - Session 2

Reading: Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 13, Ephesians 5, Philippians 2 Lesson: Life with Family - Marriage and Ministry Activity: Mountain Top of Marriage Vision Retreat Guide by Jimmy and Karen Evans Experience: Marriage retreat or a series of date nights to cultivate vision for the Elder's marriage. Integrative Assignment: Integrate Bible reading with what was learned from asking your marriage Conversation: ElderLife Group Gathering #2

#### Life in Ministry - Session 3

Reading: Gospel of Luke Reading Integrative Assignment: Integrate the Gospel of Luke with the experience of praying with the Elder Team. Lesson: Life in Ministry Lesson: Filling with the Spirit Training Experience: Elder Retreat Experience: Stories from team members Experience: Training Session - Church Values Activity: Prayer Seat Conversation: ElderLife Group Gathering #3

#### Life on Mission - Session 4

Lesson: Life on Mission Reading: Acts Bible Reading with Integrative Assignment Lesson: Art of Neighboring by Pathak Reading: Art of Neighboring by Pathak and Runyan Lesson: Sharing Your Story Experience: Hospitality - Invite two different non-believers or non-believing families to have a meal with you Conversation: ElderLife Group Gathering #4

#### Life in leadership - Session 5

Lesson: Life in Leadership Reading: 1 Corinthians Lesson: Building Trust Reading: Humility by Murray Activity: Local Church Polity - Constitution and Bi-laws Integration: Constitution of the C&MA Integrative Assignment: Integrate 1 Corinthians reading with Humility Conversation: ElderLife Group Gathering #5



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#### Life with God - Session 6

Reading: The SoulCare Leader by Reimer Activity: Leadership Culture Reading: Gospel John Bible Reading chapters 12-21 Activity: Present Reality - Future Ideal Assessment by Bieri & Franks Lesson: ElderLife - Life with God Part 2

#### Life with Family - Session 7

Reading: Deuteronomy Bible Reading with Integrative Assignment Activity: Family Time Reading: Shepherding a Child's Heart by Tripp Lesson: Life with Family: Children & Ministry

#### Life in Ministry - Session 8

Reading: Philemon Bible Reading with Integrative Assignment Lesson: Evangelism Training (MyCircle) Experience: Hospitality - Invite two different church families over to your home. Lesson: Life on Mission Part 2 (Evangelism Training)

#### Life on Mission - Session 9

Reading: James Bible Reading with Integrative Assignment Reading: Creating a Healing Community by King Experience: Healing Prayer - Ask another person if they need prayer for healing and pray for them Lesson: Alliance Vision & Distinctive Integrative Assignment: Integrate James Reading with Creating a Healing Community Reading Lesson: Life in Ministry Part 2

#### Life in leadership - Session 10

Lesson: Principles of Leadership Development Reading: Ephesians Reading chapters 1-6 Reading: The Advantage by Lencioni Activity: APEST Assessment Integrative Assignment: Integrate Ephesians and APEST Lesson: Life in Leadership Part 2



#### **Benefits of ElderLife**

- Holistic development system
- Current and emerging Elders
- Online content delivery
- On demand ministry training
- **M** Localized by church leadership
- Paced by local church leadership
- Practical life and ministry application
- Highly relational
- Group leader resources (included)
- Group leader coaching (available)
- **M** Thoughtful integrations
- Group management
- Individuals or groups but always with a ElderLife Leader

#### **ElderLife Trains Elders To:**

- Walk closely with God
- 🗹 Lead out of an overflow of the Holy Spirit's work in their lives
- **M** Practice Hospitality towards insiders and outsiders
- Share their grace story with confidence
- I Lead with spiritual authority and grace
- Manage their family well
- Model a missionary lifestyle

#### Cost

- 🗹 \$389 per Elder
- Yurchasing 5 or more seats? Receive discounts of up to 20% (Save up to \$77.80 per Elder)

#### **Next Steps**

- Purchase ElderLife seats
- 2 months of onboarding included
- Schedule 10 sessions of ElderLife Content
- Purchase ElderLife Coaching
- Get Access to 18 months of ElderLife



