

LIFE Community Case Study

Butterfly

LIFE Community Leaders: Nancy and Vic Overton

LIFE Community Coach: Pat Peterson

LIFE Community Members: Sarah Bright, Nick Sparks, Jason & Kim Eagerton, Beth Chou, Robert and Bert Stride, Cheryl Setski, and Bart & Denise Dedicated.

Background: The Wilmington LIFE Community has been meeting for three years and Pat Peterson just recently came on as the Overton's coach. They have an excellent group and many have come in the last year but have not stayed. Nancy and Vic wonder if it's because the group is so big and people haven't felt connected or supported. Pat has been talking with Nancy and Vic about finding others in the group who might share some leadership by making follow up calls or visits for new people coming to the group. Nancy and Vic, on three occasions, have shared with Pat there isn't anyone ready.

The Challenge: How to find and then develop leaders to lead with you and to lead new LIFE Communities?

The January LIFE Community: Nancy and Vic had gotten home late and began getting ready when the doorbell rang. It was Cheryl a half hour early. Nancy thought to herself, "Why can't people come on time?" Cheryl asked if there was something she could do as she placed cookies on the table. Nancy said, "No, why don't you sit there and make yourself at home." She left to get the dishes and napkins out. When Cheryl saw Vic walk in to the living room, the doorbell rang again and she offered to get it. He said, "No, you've had a long day relax, I'll get it." It was twenty of seven when he opened the door to Nick who came in all excited about his new role as soccer coach. He has been coaching the under-ten year old boys in town for three weeks now. Vic listened as he got his Bible and leafed through the passage he was going to discuss that night. The doorbell rang again and Nancy ran out of the kitchen signaling for Nick to sit down and leave Vic alone for a minute. In walked the Eagertons who brought juice and pumpkin bread, which they set on the table and gave big hugs to everyone. Then as a group before the door closed Beth, Robert and Bert came in and sat right down and began talking with Cheryl and Nick.

Now it was 7:10 and Nancy and Vic quickly prayed in the kitchen for the night to go well. Nancy came out and invited everyone to grab something to eat and drink and thanked to others for adding to her goodies. Vic was a little antsy. He wanted to start but Bart and Denise weren't there yet, which was strange because they never missed a group. Just as he decided to call

them, the phone rang and it was them. They shared with him they were going to miss the group because a neighbor had a car accident and they were in the hospital caring for her and her family. He shared with the group what was going on. Nick said, "We should pray for them now." Vic looked at Nancy who looked to the ceiling and said, "Nick that is a great idea, let's do that at the end when we are done with the Bible Study." Vic led them through the passage and asked a few questions which Sarah responded to well; she really knows her Bible. Nick also spoke up and so did the Eagertons. Beth, Robert and Bert were quiet as usual. They prayed at the end and for the family that was in a car accident. Everyone left.

Nancy and Vic felt exhausted and said to each other, "How can we find anyone to lead? I don't know what we are going to say to Pat; another night and no one stepped up, no one is ready."

The Solution: Are there caterpillars ready to turn into butterflies in this group?

Questions:

1. Who in this group showed potential and how?
2. How might you invest in these folks with potential?
3. How might you give part of your LIFE Community responsibilities to these emerging leaders?
4. What would that do to your leadership?