

# Preparing for LifeGroup

1. Prepare for each LifeGroup session by praying for:
  - A. Each group member
  - B. That God would make His Word (the Bible) clear to people in the group.
  - C. That God will help you as you lead
2. Personally prepare for the LifeGroup Discussion by:
  - A. Reading through this LifeGuide and becoming familiar with the content.
  - B. Make sure you take time to read and study the Scripture that is used in this LifeGuide.
3. Create a positive LifeGroup Environment by:
  - A. Serving Food! (Snacks or a meal – rotate who provides) - \*optional
  - B. Arranging the seating where everyone can see everyone's face
  - C. Setting the room temperature @ 69 degrees (cold keeps them awake)
  - D. Placing pets in another room
  - E. Supervising and placing children in a remote room
  - F. Keeping room bright with natural and artificial lighting
  - G. Having light/fun music playing (low to medium sound volume)
  - H. Having pens available
  - I. Keeping extra Bibles on hand
  - J. Making sure everyone knows each other
  - K. Making sure you don't go too long. (Try aiming for 30 minutes of fellowship at the beginning and 1 hour of group time.)

**Now you are ready for group time!**

# LifeGuide for Seven – Change in Priorities

## Ice Breakers

Use one or more of the following “Ice Breakers” to get them talking:

- A. *Tell us about your worst dating experience.*
- B. *What is your favorite thing to do on a Saturday?*
- C. *What’s the worst weather you have ever experienced?*

### **Leader Tips:**

Remember that the purpose of the ice breakers is to get everyone involved and ready to talk. Try to make this a natural transition into your Bible study time.

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## Setting the Stage

**Leaders:** The purpose of “setting the stage” is to effectively transition from the icebreakers to a discussion of the current weekend message. This section reminds everyone in your group of the overall theme and purpose of the sermon series, and gets their minds prepared for the subject matter.

Micah has started a new sermon series on relationships called Seven. Lawyers in California came up with the top seven reasons why marriage relationships end in divorce. There is no doubt that relationships are difficult and we need help to understand how to make them last. Good thing we have the Bible to help guide us in through the relationship challenges in our lives. God wants us to have meaningful relationships that bring Him the glory that He deserves. Our marriage relationships paint a beautiful picture of God’s love and redemption through the person of Jesus Christ.

This sermon series will provide much needed help for married couples and good foundational truth for singles. God’s Word speaks with authority and power to the challenge of making marriage relationships last a lifetime. We hope this series encourages each of you to work hard to make your marriage relationships God honoring. You will not be able to do it alone, but with the help of God’s Spirit speaking through His Word, you will have everything that you need.

# Discussion Time

**Leaders:** Let me take a moment to make you aware of the content found in each LifeGuide, and how you can use it. Remember this is a “guide” so you should not feel compelled to read every word and follow it in perfect order. Basically, I want this guide to provide you Scripture that you can read and study together, explanation and commentary, and discussion questions to get the group talking. The questions are bulleted so that you can locate them easily. The guide does provide you with a general flow for the evening, but you are free to adapt the guide to the needs of your group. You are always welcome to call or email me if you have any questions. Please don't feel like you are bothering me. It's my pleasure and my job to help you.

Have someone in your group read Mark 12:28-31.

In the U.S., 50% of the couples who get married will stay married 15 years.  
6 out of 10 marriages will end in divorce.  
Every 12 seconds another couple divorces.

- Why are the divorce statistics so bad?
- Are they any better within the church? Why not?

Why Don't Relationships Survive?

1. Priorities
2. Communication
3. Money
4. Affairs
5. Romance/ Sex
6. Conflict Resolution
7. Unmet Needs

- What do you think of the list above? Are there any surprises? Which ones do you think are the top ones?
- What kinds of answers does our culture have to these challenges?
- Why do you think it gets tougher with each new generation to make marriages last?
- How does divorce affect the children in the families?

Priorities:

You will never be fulfilled in life until you find the one.

- What does Jesus have to do with your marriage being successful?
- What does Jesus know about marriage, since he was never married?
- How does Christ in you, help you better love and serve your spouse?
- Singles: Why is it important to date someone who knows and love Jesus like you do?

*"Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all*

*your mind and with all your strength. 'The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:28b-31)*

God is the one.

My spouse is the two.

*"You shall have no other gods before me." (Exodus 20:3)*

*Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. (Matthew 6:33)*

7 Minute Assignment:

Share prayer requests with each other.

Pray with each other about these requests.

7 Days of Prayer

When a couple attends church together, reads the Bible together and prays together, the odds of them getting a divorce are 1 in 1,105.

- How does church attendance help a marriage?
- How does Bible reading and study help a marriage?
- How does prayer help a marriage?
- Why do so many men struggle to spiritually lead their families in these spiritual disciplines?

## Wrap Up

Sum up the lesson by re-capping the main point and challenge the group to apply the truth to their life this week.

1. Ask for praise reports from previous prayer requests
2. Ask for prayer requests
3. Ask each person (or couple) to volunteer for part of next week's meal/snack.
4. Make any announcements
5. Close with prayer and praise

☺ Let me know if you have any questions.

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