

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 – Cheating

Ice Breakers

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

- A. *Are you a rules follower, or do you believe rules are meant to be bent and broken at times? (this is meant to be a fun question)*
- B. *Who is the strangest celebrity couple that you can think of?*
- C. *Name something you own that you really wish you get a new one to replace the old one?*

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.

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 or share from memory Exodus 20:14.

"You shall not commit adultery."

Lie #1: I have to go “all the way” to be guilty.

Don't think you've preserved your virtue simply by staying out of bed. Your heart can be corrupted by lust even quicker than your body. Those leering looks you think nobody notices - they also corrupt. (Matthew 5:28 MSG)

- How have you seen this lie communicated through television and media?
- Why is it such a believable lie?
- Who gets to decide what “all the way” means?
- What are some of the common relationships that end up in affairs? (example: secretary/personal assistant)
- How can we guard ourselves from believing this lie?

Lie #2: Because I love my spouse I am not capable of adultery.

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. (1 Peter 5:8)

- How have you seen this lie communicated through television and media?
- Why is it such a believable lie?
- Are you confident that you would never commit adultery? If so, why are you confident?
- What role do our emotions play in the temptation to cheat?
- How can we guard ourselves from believing this lie?

Lie #3: If I have an affair, it is my spouse’s fault.

My son, keep my words and store up my commands within you . . . they will keep you from the adulteress, from the wayward wife with her seductive words. (Proverbs 7:1,5)

- How have you seen this lie communicated through television and media?
- Why is it such a believable lie?
- Why are we quick to place blame on others for our own actions?
- What does it mean to own your mistakes in the relationship?
- How can we guard ourselves from believing this lie?

Have someone in your group read Proverbs 7 (the whole chapter) and then talk about the different stages that Micah shared in the message.

1. Vulnerable Stage.

He was going down the street near her corner. (Proverbs 7:8a)

2. Intentional Stage

walking along in the direction of her house. (Proverbs 7:8b)

3. Private Stage

at twilight, as the day was fading, as the dark of night set in. (Proverbs 7:9)

4. Affectionate Stage

Then out came a woman to meet him. (Proverbs 7:10a)

5. Passionate Stage

She took hold of him and kissed him. (Proverbs 7:13)

6. All the Way Stage

With persuasive words she led him astray; she seduced him with her smooth talk. (Proverbs 7:21)

7. Destruction Stage

All at once he followed her like an ox going to the slaughter. (Proverbs 7:21-22a)

- Why is it important to understand the different stages that lead up to having an affair?
- Most people are not aware that they are in the beginning stages. How can those people become more aware?
- How can a good Christian friend help someone recognize the beginning stages?
- If you find yourself in one of the stages above, what should you do?
- How can couples better communicate and guard each other from the beginning stages?
- Do you think husbands should have significant relationships with other women, and wives with other men? (I think the answer is no, but discuss this with your group.)

Assignment: Single: Write down what you are looking for

Couples: Write down why you fell in love with your spouse.

May you rejoice in the wife of your youth. May you ever be captivated by her love. (Proverbs 5:17b, 18b)

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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