

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 – Conflict

Ice Breakers

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

- A. *What do you think is the greatest movie of all time?*
- B. *What is the most popular sport in America?*
- C. *What is the best restaurant in Corpus? (These questions are designed to create some conflict in your group 😊)*

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 Romans 12:18.

1. What causes conflict?

Sometimes a difference of opinion.
Sometimes a difference of personality.
Most of the time it is self-centeredness.

- Which of these causes of conflict do you experience the most?
- How would you describe your personality?
- Do you think your personality causes conflict with the people in your family? How about the people at your work place? How about your friends?
- Why does conflict seem to magnify in a marriage relationship?
- Why do we sometimes get angry over the smallest of things?

2. How do you respond to conflict?

Turtle or Shark

- Do you avoid conflict or look for it?
- What do you think makes you a shark or a turtle?

3. How do you fight fair?

A - Attack the problem

- What do we usually attack instead of the problem? (the person) Why do we do this?
- What are three major areas of conflict in your marriage? Singles: What do you anticipate will be your areas of conflict?
- What is the stupidest thing you can remember fighting over in the last few years?

B - Best time, best way

- What times of the day do we typically experience conflict in marriage?
- Has anyone else experienced major conflict on Sunday mornings while you are getting ready for church? Why do you think this happens?
- What are some things that we do that makes the conflict worse?

C - Confess and Change

- If conflict is occurring in marriage, do you think both husband and wife are responsible for the conflict?
- Why is it important to resolve conflict sooner rather than later?
- How does pride affect the process of conflict resolution?
- Why is it important for us to confess our sins to each other? How does that help us resolve the conflict?
- How are the children affected by the conflict in a marriage?
- Do you think parents should hide their conflict from their children?
- Do you think that mom and dad sometimes need to confess to the children?

*Paul and Barnabas had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company.
(Acts 15:39a)*

I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord. (Philippians 4:2)

*What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but don't get it.
(James 4:1-2a)*

A patient man has great understanding, but a quick-tempered man displays folly. (Proverbs 14:29)

Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. (James 5:16a)

Assignment: Everyone: Read, Memorize and Apply 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

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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