

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 – Unmet Needs

Ice Breakers

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

- A. *What do you like most about your spouse? Singles – What is the number 1 thing you are looking for in a mate?*
- B. *Talk about your favorite vacation. What did you like about it?*
- C. *How would you describe your parent’s marriage, and how has their marriage affected the way you look at marriage?*

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 Philippians 2:3-5.

The Number One Enemy of Marriage: Self-centeredness_____

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. (Philippians 2:3-5)

Her Needs

1. Affection
2. Conversation
3. Authenticity
4. Financial Security
5. Family Focus

His Needs

1. Sex
2. Recreational Companionship
3. An Attractive Spouse
4. Domestic Support
5. Admiration

- Have the married people in your group talk about these needs. How true are these to your group?
- Have any singles in your group talk about whether they have some of these needs too.
- Why does it seem like the guy’s list looks more superficial than the girl’s list?
- How does selfishness affect how these needs are fulfilled?

Your Greatest Need: A Relationship with Christ

My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:19)

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. (2 Peter 1:3)

- What are some of the highlights from this Seven series?
- Which week has been most meaningful to your marriage?
- What have you learned about yourself?
- What have you learned about your spouse?

- What do you think needs to change in your marriage over the next few months?
- Why is it important for our marriages to thrive instead of just survive?

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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