

# 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 Afterlife – What happens after I die?

## Ice Breakers

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

- A. *What is the best meal you can cook by yourself?*
- B. *What is your opinion on Black Friday shopping? (Worth it or waste of time)*
- C. *What new movie are you looking forward to seeing?*

### **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 called Afterlife. Many people live in fear because they are unsure what will happen after they die. They try to avoid thinking about it, but death is all around us. All you have to do is turn on the TV or read the headlines, and you are reminded of the reality of death. What if you could know for sure what will happen after you die? Would that change the way you are living right now?

God does not want us to be unsure of what happens in the afterlife, so He has clearly revealed to us in the Bible what will happen when we die. Hope for the afterlife is part of what makes the Gospel the “good news”. As Christians, we should not fear death and our thoughts about the afterlife should change the way that we are living in the here and now. While it’s not easy to talk about death, it’s very important that we understand what the Bible tells us on this difficult subject.

# 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 Proverbs 10:7.

*“Lord, remind me how brief my time on earth will be.”* (Psalm 39:4a NLT)

- What do you want on your Tombstone ... pizza?
- Ok, now what do you want on your real Tombstone?
- What do you hope people will remember about you after you die?

1. People will remember what I say.

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. (Acts 11:23)

- Is it challenging for you to be around family during the holidays?
- How can you be encouraging with what you say as you hang out with family during the holidays?

2. People will remember how I live.

I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace. (Acts 20:24)

Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men. (Ephesians 6:7)

- How can you live out the gospel during the holidays this year?
- How can you show your kids the real meaning of Christmas?
- What do you want people to remember about the way that you live?

3. People will remember what I give.

"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' "This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God." (Luke 12:20-21)

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth . . . But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven. (Matthew 6:19-20)

Treasure (thesaurus): a deposit, wealth.

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. (2 Corinthians 9:6)

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

- How is giving more about your relationship with God than the need of the person that you are giving to?
- What are some of the things that may have to sacrifice in order to give?
- What are some of the deeper ideas that we will have to give up on in order to become people who give generously? (control, comfort, power)
- What are the barriers that keep you from giving?

Question: What matters 100 years from now?

But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup>What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ. (Philippians 3:7-8)

- What have you learned during this afterlife series?
- What are you trying to change as a result of what you learned?
- How can you keep an eternal perspective day in and day out?

## 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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