

Men's Devotional and Lesson Introduction

Greetings! My hope is that these lessons will bless you as much as they have our Alive at Heart Men's Fellowship group at The Gathering Place in Marion, Ohio.

About the lesson plans:

My apologies as the format of the actual lesson plan is still evolving, so some are more developed in structure, but the content is complete in every lesson. The more developed lessons have sheets to hand out in smaller groups. Some lessons you will have to make copies from your master lesson plan. This is the basic difference.

Each lesson plan is designed to look at a particular topic from the Scriptures, and then to give each member of the group something to walk away with that he can work on that week. These groups are very interactive, and are structured to bring every man to his own conclusion as to what element he needs to work through with God. He'll have a plan, so the he can have victory.

Here is the question structure that we ask in every group:

Icebreaker Question. A fun, easy, but subject-related question to get things going. IE: If you were stranded on an island and there was no one else there, what animal would you want to have with you and why? There's no right answer: A dog for company, a chicken for eggs, an ox for work, could be some responses.

Situational Question. A question about the subject matter that group members may have experienced. IE: When was a time in your life that you really felt included in a group (like one of the guys)? Why?

Experience Question. This question goes one step deeper. It addresses the conflict or the block to achieving success in an area. What is the problem? IE: What is an obstacle that keeps you from deeply becoming part of a group?

Application Question: This question addresses how each person will attack the problem. This is the concluding answer to how we get the victory over our own unique problem. IE: How can God help you to include yourself in this group?

These lessons are NOT DEPENDENT ON THE TEACHER! They are dependent on the group as a whole. We cover a vast amount of material in a very short period of time, and this is how we do it: There are usually three to four areas that we want to look at in each lesson, so we break up into as many subgroups as we have segments to do. Each group is given a segment, and discusses it amongst themselves. Some of the lessons have specific questions to be answered. Each subgroup is given up to 10 minutes to complete the discussion. Once complete, a spokesman for the subgroup gives a short overview of the Scripture and what they discussed in the group. This is where the facilitator may need to interject, but mostly our group hits it right on the money every time. The specific questions to answer help guide the discussion. Have the spokespersons keep their overview to 5 minutes or less. Ours usually go three minutes. There! You just covered 45 minutes to one hour or more in material in just about 20 minutes! We then answer the questions above.

Our groups go 90 minutes, and end *promptly*. We structure them as follows:

Praise and Worship – 5-10 min.

Icebreaker question – 5 minutes

Breakouts – 10 minutes

Breakout discussion – up to 15 minutes total

Situational Question

Experience Question

Application Question:

Prayer: for these needs, and ministry as needed.

We try to manage the remaining time 50/50 Questions / Prayer.

EVERYONE is encouraged (but not forced) to answer, and that does take some time. If an individual does not answer the questions, then no healing occurs in that individual's life. The prayer time is so we can pray for and encourage each other. Whatever each person's specific problem is concerning the subject matter, then that is what we pray for.

I can be reached for questions at:

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God bless