

Leader's Guide

For the week of January 15, 2012
Sermon Series: Made
Message #1: Made to Thrive,
by Chris Seidman

Leader notes are in BLUE.

Group member homework is in BLACK.

This guide is designed for a 90-minute meeting. Use the timing guides for each section to keep your meeting on track. Depending on your group, there may be too much material in a section. Choose the questions that best fit the needs of your group.

Connect (10+ minutes)

Welcome back to small group! Spend some time checking in from the break. Here are some questions to warm things up:

What is the one thing from 2011 that you are most thankful for?

What are you looking forward to the most in 2012?

What is something that you have made (aside from your kids) that you are most proud of?

Review (10-15 minutes)

Spend time reviewing the sermon notes and any follow-up from previous discussions.

Encourage all of your group members to “Read the Bible Daily” by participating in the Life Journal Reading Plan. What is one insight you’ve had from your daily Bible reading this week?

Looking back at your notes from this week’s message, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged you, or confused you?

Discover (20+ minutes)

Read **Genesis 1:1-2, 1:26-2:1, 2:7-9, 2:15-25.**

Before asking the following questions, ask the group if anything in these passages particularly caught their attention.

1. What does it mean to be made in the likeness of God?
2. What does God say to Adam and Eve (words, instructions, commands, etc.)?
3. In what ways are humans like God? In what ways do they fall short?
4. How do **Colossians 1:16-17**, **John 1:1-3**, and **Hebrews 1:2** inform our view of creation?

Apply (20+ minutes)

1. In the past, how have you defined “intimate relationship with God?” How should you define it now?
2. From what parts of your life are you excluding God?
3. How can this group help you live in a more intimate relationship with God? How can you help others in their relationship with God?

Serve – Go (10 minutes)

Serve – Go helps develop ministry and leadership through missional activities. Serve is INSIDE the church and Go is OUTSIDE the church. These activities can be done as a group or as individuals.

Spend time as a group praying about ways God can use you and your group to serve each other and the church.

Pray (15+ minutes)

Requests:

Announcements

Please share these opportunities with your group.

Marriage Seminar: February 24 & 25

We will be hosting **Dr. Doug Weiss** for a two-day marriage seminar at the Farmers Branch Campus. Couples attending this conference will be given the tools needed for an abundant marriage. Doug Weiss will walk couples through the **three levels of intimacy - spiritual, emotional and physical** – so that marriages can remain strong and resistant to divorce, which is plaguing America today. When marriages are intimate, they can last a lifetime!

The Men’s Retreat: March 30-31

Join other men of The Branch at the Riverbend Retreat Center Friday night and Saturday. Details will be available soon. Contact Jason Burnett if you would like to help.

Spring Women’s Retreat: April 20-21

Plans are still in the works. Stay tuned for more information! Contact Janice Ingram to help.