

Leader's Guide

For the week of January 22, 2012
Sermon Series: Made
Message #2: Made: Blessed, 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)

Spend some time getting your group warmed up with ONE of the following questions:

Up to this point, what image or metaphor has best described your life?
A race, a circus, something else?

What is your earliest memory of church?

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 1:25-31**.

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

1. What are two responsibilities God gave to Adam?
2. What was God’s evaluation of creation before Adam was created? What was it after he was created?

Read **Ephesians 1:3-14**.

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

3. What “mystery” has God revealed as part of His ultimate plan and purpose (v. 9)?
4. What are the spiritual blessings in Christ? Which of these blessings is most meaningful to you?

Apply (20+ minutes)

1. When did you come to appreciate all that God has done for you in Jesus Christ?
2. How do you feel about the quality of love of the One who has chosen you and blessed you? How does this affect your love for others?
3. In what areas do you need the freedom to say “yes” or to say “no?”
4. Who is someone who is “farther along” than you who could help you stay focused on pleasing God instead of pleasing others?

Read out loud together the prayer from Ephesians 3:17-19.

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

Intimacy: Spiritual, Emotional and Physical, Featuring Dr. Doug Weiss

Friday : 6:30 pm - 10:00 pm

Saturday: 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Farmers Branch Campus

Cost: \$85 per couple

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! Dr. Doug Weiss is a Licensed Psychologist and the Executive Director of Heart to Heart Counseling Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Dr. Weiss is a frequent guest in television, radio, and print media.

The Men’s Retreat: March 30-31

Riverbend Retreat Center, Glen Rose, TX

Cost: \$75 per person

Men are called to be disciples of Jesus and leaders in our homes, church, and community. But what does that mean? Join other men of The Branch at the Riverbend Retreat Center as we explore who Jesus is and what He has called us to be. We will have time of worship, recreation, fellowship, and more.

Spring Women’s Retreat: April 20-21

SPRING CLEANING: Cleaning up the Clutter in our Lives, Featuring Kathy Peel

Farmers Branch Campus

This spring, we will host **Kathy Peel**, who is called “America’s Family Manager” by journalists and millions of readers. She is founder and CEO of Family Manager Coaching. She has written 21 books (over 2 million sold), and has been a guest on many television and radio programs.