

Leader's Guide

For the week of January 29, 2012
Sermon Series: Made
Message #3: Made: To Rule, 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:

Which would you most prefer to be, and why: starry-eyed lover? Zookeeper? Children's choir director? Environmentalist? King of _____? Astronaut? Angel?

What is your visual image of the perfect garden? Where would it be? What work would you do there?

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 **Psalm 8**.

Before asking the following questions, ask the group to reflect on the scripture and share if anything caught their attention.

1. How does he describe God?
2. How does he describe humans?

Read **Genesis 2:4-25**.

Before asking the following questions, ask the group to reflect on the scripture and share if anything caught their attention.

3. How does this passage describe creation before man? How is life in the Garden described?

Note that there were no shrubs or plants because there was no rain and man wasn't there to work the ground. After being placed in the Garden, Adam had to work it and take care of it. It is important to see that being in the garden BEFORE the fall still required work. This idea of work will be expanded on in future lessons.

Apply (20+ minutes)

4. In what areas do you have authority?
5. How can you use your authority in those areas to serve, release, bless, protect, strengthen and bring out the potential in others?

Spend a significant amount of time on this question. Help your group discover areas where they do have authority and ways that they can use their talents and resources to bless others.

6. What one insight from this lesson would you like to focus on for application this week? What concrete steps can you take in light of this insight?

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.

In what ways can you use your authority for the benefit of those who do not know Christ?

Pray (15+ minutes)

Gender Breakouts: At least once a month, split up the women and men for prayer time.

Requests:

Announcements

Please share these opportunities with your group.

REVEAL Survey

If you have yet to take the online survey, please do so. It will help us be better equipped to help you as a believer in the long run. You can get to it by going to www.thebranch.org. Thank you!

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: \$75 per couple (early bird price ends January 31)

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.