



Living
with HOPE

Small Group

LEADER'S HANDBOOK

*Everything you need to use the **Living With Hope**
Evangelistic curriculum in a small group setting.*



- Setting the Stage for Small Groups
- Icebreaker Questions
- Illustrations and Bible Commentary
- Discussion Questions
- Decision Questions



NAD CHURCH RESOURCE CENTER

Living with HOPE

SmallGroup LEADER'S HANDBOOK

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Updates: Check www.livingwithhopeseminar.com frequently to make sure that you have the latest update for all of the **Living With Hope** documents. If you see mistakes that need fixing please send your suggested corrections to dave@acn.info.

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Small Group

LEADER'S HANDBOOK

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Overview

The *Living With Hope* Bible marking series is designed to systematically take a community through the teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in sixteen presentations. Ideally this will be broken up into eight Big Group presentations and eight Small Group presentations. However Big Group helps and Small Group helps are available for every lesson. This allows you to mix and match and customize for your setting.

What is the definition of Small Group? Small Groups can be any group with three to twelve people in attendance. This could be a home bible fellowship, Sabbath School Class, or Pastor's Bible class.

Small group provides an environment where attendees can know others and be known. Small groups are an essential part of spiritual disciplines. They provide an ideal setting for someone who would like to link their personal spiritual journey with a few others in a passionate pursuit of God. Personal spiritual challenges are easier to work through in a safe caring environment. Difficult decisions are made easier when an individual knows that there are a team of friends praying for them and holding them accountable.

Sabbath School Classes

Existing small groups such as Sabbath School classes can be used for Living With Hope. This leverages the existing volunteer structure for the purpose of public evangelism. It also cements new attendees into the habit of Sabbath School attendance.

Leverage the Power of Existing Volunteers

Here are the tasks that need to be done in Small Group and some suggested officers to do the task:

Small Group Leader: Sabbath School Teacher

Small Group Co-leader: Assistant Sabbath School Teacher

Materials Distribution: Sabbath School Secretary

Evangelistic Visitation Team: Sabbath School Teachers

Production of Participant Handouts: Church Bulletin Secretary

Small Group Leader

As the small group leader you will be the key person who facilitates the Bible study and journey toward Jesus. Use this handbook to set up for a small group and the lesson helps to walk you through the teaching portion of the lesson.

Teaching the Living With Hope Curriculum

The Living With Hope curriculum is a systematic approach to studying the great truths of the Christian faith. Although you and your small group members will have some outstanding tools for Bible study, it will take preparation, prayer, and study on your part and on the part of your students for the Bible to come alive in the class.

You will pass out next week's participant handout at the end of every small group. Your members will have already underlined and studied the lesson before they come to your group. This will allow time to discuss and to let the truths of the script sink in. Don't feel that you have to cover every text in the lesson. Your group will have already studied it at home.

Every small group will have four components: Prepare, Engage, Teach, and Invite. On the next page you will see a sample lesson and commentary on what's included in the lesson helps.

Name of Lesson
of Lesson
Subject

Copy of Participant
Handout inside
this box

Small Group Leader's
notes outside of box



Prepare:

Read the preaching manuscript so you are very familiar with its content. Make sure you have the handouts including the next participant handout, felt tip pens, back lessons, and Bibles for newcomers. Cue the DVD player up to the lesson *Just Desserts* (Great Controversy).

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Engage:

Have everyone take one shoe off and write with a felt tip pen on the bottom of their shoe some of the evils that Satan has brought into their life—ie: broken relationships, addictions, injustices. Have them share that with a partner.



Teach:

Can you think of any times when God gets blamed for the evil in this world?

What led the perfectly created angel Lucifer, turned into the devil?

Do you face any of those temptations?

Just Desserts
(4) Great Controversy

GC1 Is God gracious and good? **Exodus 34:6 (64)**

GC2 According to a farming parable of Jesus, who is behind all the evil in the world? **Matthew 13:24-30 (679)**

GC3 Who is behind all of the suffering, heartache, pain, and bondage in this world? **Luke 13:16 (725)**

GC4 Where did Satan come from? **Luke 10:18 (721)**

GC5 Do you see any characteristics of Satan seen in the picture of the king of Tyre? **Ezekiel 28:12,14,15,17 (597-598)**

GC6 Do you see any characteristics of Satan seen in the picture of the king of Babylon? **Isaiah 14:12-14 (485)**

GC7 What happened to Lucifer once his character of evil was established? **Revelation 12:7-9 (855)**

GC8 About how many angels fell victim to the dragon's temptation? **Revelation 12:4 (854-855)**

GC9 What did Satan do once he came to the earth? **Genesis 3:1-6 (2)**

GC10 What happened after Adam and Eve sinned? **Genesis 3:8 (2)**

GC11 What effect did Adam and Eve's sin have on the natural world? **Genesis 3: 17-19 (3)**

GC12 Where is God when we are suffering? Does He remember us? **Isaiah 49:14, 15 (512)**

GC13 Can Jesus empathize with our suffering? **Hebrews 2:14,17,18. (830)**

GC14 Who was the culprit behind all of the sufferings of Job? **Job 1:6, 7 (353)**

GC15 What happened to Job once the tribulation was over? **Job 42:10, 12 (376)**

GC16 If what happened to the king of Tyre is any indicator, what will eventually happen to the devil and his angels? **Ezekiel 28:18 (598)**

GC17 And what happens to the laboratory of planet earth, so decimated by the raging disease of sin? **Revelation 21:1 (860)**

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Why doesn't God do something right now to stop all of the suffering in the world?

Do you think if the devil was eradicated that there would be no more sin?

What will it take to finally eradicate sin and suffering from the cosmos?

Invite someone to share with the group how God has helped them through suffering.

What are you looking forward to the most when the cosmos is finally cleared of sin?



Invite:

Remind your group that "As we walk out of this place today, walk out in hope. These hurts, fears, and lies (some of which we listed on our shoes) will all be crushed someday soon. The process might take awhile, but make no mistake. Satan has lost the war and the grace of God will overcome."

(Before attendees leave make sure they have the next lesson and pen)
For Further Study: *Searching for a God to Love*, Chris Blake

Recommended resources to help you
prepare for the lesson



Prepare

Set up the chairs in a circle. Make one chair the designated 'empty chair.' This will serve as a reminder that members of the group should continually be inviting more people to the group. Have water or light refreshments ready. Take care of distractions such as kids, pets, TVs. Set air temperature to a comfortable range. Have a supply of Story of God NIV Bibles handy. Have a supply of previous current and next week's participant handouts ready. Have a supply of previous, current, and next week's felt tip pens handy. **Read the manuscript for the lesson several times so you are intimately familiar with it.** You can obtain all of these supplies from the Living With Hope materials coordinator. If you need them in a hurry you can download them from www.livingwithhopeseminar.com. Read the lesson helps several times so you are familiar with them. Write notes to yourself in the lesson helps. If you intend to use the DVD slides make sure that you have a copy of the DVD, set up your DVD player and TV, and cue the DVD up to today's lesson.



Engage

Welcome attendees as they arrive. Help them feel comfortable as a gracious host/hostess offering to take their coats, and give them drinks. At the designated start time begin with an icebreaker question that you think would be relevant for your group. This should last only about ten minutes.



Teach

Make sure everyone has a Bible and today's lesson. If you use the DVD slides, have a technically gifted assistant run the DVD player so you can concentrate on teaching. Because this is quite content driven you will be speaking much of the time. Use the discussion questions to pull people into the lesson but don't let the conversation wander because there is much material to cover.

Since not everyone is comfortable reading scripture use a soft ball or stuffed animal to select a person to read the text. The person with the object can either read the text or decline and pass the object on to someone else. Invite volunteers to share the answer to the questions. Comment on the main truth of each text. Share personal stories or illustrations when appropriate.



Invite

The appeal question will start out in the 3rd person voice. For example, you may ask, "What do you think would keep someone from studying the Bible for the Living With Hope seminar?" The group will then come up with theoretical and personal answers, but because it was asked in the 3rd person the discussion will be 'safe.' Follow up with "What advice would you have for someone who found _____ was keeping them from studying the Bible?" This engages the entire group in solving the theoretical issues, but more importantly

the personal issues. As time and trust develops these questions will naturally move from the 3rd person to the 1st person voice.

Prayer

Lead the small group in prayer asking God's leadership as the group is working through the truth that was discovered in the lesson.

Dismissal

Hand out next week's participant handout as well as the new colored felt tip pen.

Follow up

Make sure that someone from your group contacts those who have missed the meeting by shooting them an email or phone call. Arrange to get them the lesson in time for them to complete it by the next small group meeting.

Journey toward Jesus.

Your role as a Small Group leader includes teaching the curriculum, and even more important, to assist the group members in their journey toward Jesus. Think of yourself as a leader of a group of people on a hike through the mountains. You are ahead of the group but you haven't yet completed your journey. You are on the same journey with them.

Making Decisions

As your group continues down the path there may be truth that comes up that invites group members to make a decision. Some of the decisions may include getting off work on Sabbath, changing lifestyle habits, getting baptized, and becoming an official member of the church. The Invitation part of the class provides a safe environment for individuals to make tough decisions. If someone is struggling to make a decision be sure to surround that person in the closing prayer.

One on One

Spend some personal time with those who are making difficult decisions. Take the time either before or after class to talk and pray one on one with your members. If it is a huge issue you may wish to set up a time outside of the group time to offer spiritual counsel to your group member.

Working with Big Group

If your church is combining the Small Group with the Big Group, some of the decisions will be called for in the Big Group setting. If so, the interest coordinator of your church will be contacting you with the decisions that your group members made in the Big Group. Let your group member know that you are aware of those decisions. Be sure to affirm them and offer them prayer and support as they are being transformed by the grace of God.

Baptism and Membership

It may very well be that one or more of you members will in the course of your small group, decide that they want to be baptized and become an official member of your church family. If so, talk with your pastor or Elder about scheduling the date for the baptism. Try to choose a date when most of your small group and the baptismal candidates friends and family can be there to witness the baptism. It may be that you will want to join your group member in the baptismal tank and that the rest of your small group members can stand up in affirmation during the baptism.



Prepare:

Have a supply of the first two lessons, one to pass out at the beginning and one to pass out at the end. Also have a supply of Bibles and felt tip pens. Get a small bean bag or squishy ball to pass around the room. Cue the DVD player up to the lesson "Soul Food (Bible)". Preselect someone to advance the slides on the DVD player. Make enough copies of the group directory. You can find it in the back of this book. Make sure there is an empty chair in the room.

Soul Food

(1) Bible

BIB1 What was the Bible called in Jesus' day? **Luke 24:45 (735)**

BIB2. To what three parts of scriptures did Jesus refer? **Luke 24:44 (735)**

BIB3 What is the purpose of the Bible? **846 Romans 15:4 (789)**

BIB4 By what process was the Bible written? **II Peter 1:21 (843)**

BIB5 How is the Bible useful and relevant to our life? **II Timothy 3:16 (826)**

BIB6 What is the Bible compared to? **Psalms 119:105 (431)**

BIB7 What is one thing that sets the Bible apart from most other books? **Isaiah 42:9 (505)**

BIB8 What is another thing that sets the Bible apart from other books? **Hebrews 4:12 (830)**



Engage:

Go around the circle and invite everyone to give their name and what they hope to get out of this small group, and what their favorite kind of bread is.



Teach:

Much of this lesson will be taken up in preliminaries. You will not make it through the entire lesson!

Pass out Bibles, Soul Food participant handouts, a felt tip pen, and any other handouts from your church.

Instruct everyone how to break in the paperback bible by starting with the covers and working your way to the inside.

Have everyone write in Bible "BIB1 Lk 24:45" in the inside back cover of their Bible.

Everyone turns to that verse and underlines it.

Write LK:24:44 in the margin. Underline text and so on...

Turn to the table of contents and describe the different parts of the Old Testament and the New Testament.

BIB9 What is one of the greatest proofs of the authenticity of the Bible? **885 II Timothy 3:15 (826)**

BIB10 What was John's reason for writing his book? **John 20:30, 31 (754)**

BIB11 What did the Bereans do that resulted in a commendation in the book of Acts? **Acts 17:11 (770)**

BIB12 How does the study of Scripture impact us? **Psalms 19:7 (383)**

BIB13 What was God trying to teach the Israelites through feeding them manna? **Deuteronomy 8:3 (129)**

BIB14 What was Jeremiah's response to hearing the word of God? **Jeremiah 15:16 (539)**

Partner up and have partners share a time when they got lost in the dark. How is the Bible like a flashlight?

How is the Bible different than other books?

Invite someone to share what kind of a difference Bible study has made in his/her life.

Pass out small pieces of bread and invite people to partake. How does this bread become part of the human body?

How is the reading of the Bible like eating bread?

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Invite:

What is it that keeps some people from studying the Bible?
How can those obstacles be removed?

(Before attendees leave make sure they have the next lesson and pen)

For Further Study: *Soul Food* (1) LWH Preaching Manuscript;
Searching For A God to Love, Chris Blake



Prepare:

Have enough of the next lesson to be passed out at the end of the small group. Also have a supply of Bibles for newcomers as well as previous lessons. If possible get a copy of the book *Who is My Mother*. Most public libraries will have one in the children's section. Cue the DVD player up to the lesson "Who is My Mother? (Trinity)"

Are You my Mother?

(2) Trinity

GOD1 What analogy does James give that describes the wishes of someone who doubts? **James 1:6 (837)**

GOD2 What does the Bible say is likely to happen to those who leave God out of the equation? **Romans 1:28-31 (781)**

GOD3 Jesus uses the analogy of paths and gates. What happens if we take the wrong path? **Matthew 7:13 (673)**

GOD4 Who does the Bible say created the heavens and the earth? **Genesis 1:1 (1)**

GOD5 Where did mankind come from? **Genesis 2:7 (2)**

GOD6 What is God's chief attribute? **I John 4:8 (846)**

GOD7 What is one of God's chief passions? **2 Corinthians 5:19 (803)**

GOD8 What is one of God's greatest hope for mankind? **John 6:40 (741)**



Engage:

Try these icebreaker questions: "Who Are You? How do you identify yourself to others?"



Teach:

Pretend like you are a parent and read the book "Who is My Mother" in its entirety to your small group.

Use the metaphor of the Baby Bird who looked for identity in animate and inanimate things. How do we find our identity? Explore identity with God and without God.

Ask the group to share what they know about: Animism, polytheism, monotheism. Discuss the concept that all paths lead to truth.

How do general perceptions of God differ from the portrayal of God in the Bible?

How is the God of the Bible different from the gods of other religions?

GOD9 What question did they ask Paul? **Acts 17:18 (770)**

GOD10 How did Paul describe his God? **Acts 17:24-27 (771)**

GOD11 How does God refer to Himself in **Genesis 1:26? (1)**

GOD12 Even though the plural form is used what does the Bible have to say about the concept of polytheism (many gods)? **Deuteronomy 6:4 (128)**

GOD13 Who are the three members of the Godhead? **Matthew 28:19 (694)**

GOD14 Can you find the three members of the Trinity and how God is reaching out to us today? **John 15:26 (750)**

GOD15 Jesus tells a story about a guy who finds a treasure. How badly did the seeker want that treasure? **Matthew 13:44 (679)**

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Baby bird was satisfied when he finally discovered his mother. What satisfaction comes when we discover our parentage in God?

Have someone try to explain the Trinity.

Birds imprint on their parents. How can we imprint on God?

What are some things we can do to passionately pursue God?



Invite:

What is it that keeps some people from passionately pursuing God?
How can those obstacles be removed?

(Before attendees leave make sure they have the next lesson and pen)

For Further Study: Are You my Mother? (2) Trinity LWH Preaching Manuscript
The Shack, by William P. Young;
Searching For A God to Love, Chris Blake



Prepare:

Read the preaching manuscript so you are very familiar with its content. Have enough of the next lesson to be passed out at the end of the small group. Also have a supply of Bibles for newcomers as well as previous lessons. Cue the DVD player up to the lesson *Is There Hope for Me?* (Salvation)

Is there Hope for Me?

(3) Salvation

SAL1 What is the Purpose of life? **Isaiah 43:7 (506)**

SAL2 What description did God use to describe people? **Isaiah 60:21 (520)**

SAL3 How did sin enter this world? **Romans 5:12 (783)**

SAL4 What are the results of sin? **Romans 6:23 (784)**

SAL5 How many have sinned and were born with a broken relationship with God? **Romans 3:23 (782)**

SAL6 In fact, how much does God love us? **John 3:16 (738)**

SAL7 How does God save us from destruction? **Ephesians 2:8-9 (811)**



Engage:

Try these icebreaker questions:

- 1) What's the toughest examination you've ever had in school?"
- 2) Why was it hard?
- 3) If you could come up with the most important question you could ever ask anyone what would it be?
- 4) What do you think of the question, "Do you ever wonder if there is any purpose to life?"



Teach:

Use the picture frame slides on the DVD to review different world religions' picture of salvation: Islam's five pillars, Jewish ethical behavior, Buddhist eightfold path, Relationship with Jesus.

Define sin as straying off a path. Have your group partner up and have each one share to each other a hiking experience where they got lost.

Be clear on the following points:

- 1) God created us to bring Him glory.
- 2) Sin makes it difficult for us to see God clearly.

SAL8 What did we have to do for Christ to accept us? **Romans 5:8 (783)**

SAL9 So if no one is good enough and there is nothing that we can do to make God love us, how then are we saved from destruction and given eternal life? **907 I John 5:13 (846)**

SAL10 What did God do for us? **2 Corinthians 5:21 (803)**

SAL11 What did the jailor ask Paul? **(Acts 16:30 770)**

SAL12 And what was Paul's answer? **Acts 16:31 (770)**

SAL13 How does Paul describe this transformation? **Ephesians 2:10 (811)**

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3) All of us are by default in a broken relationship with God.

How does a broken relationship get fixed?

What part does God play and what part do we play in fixing the broken relationship?

What do you think it means to believe in Jesus?

Do a little role playing with the Jailor and Paul. Choose a narrator, someone to read the part of Paul and someone to read the part of the jailor and have them read the entire story from Acts 16:25-34. Ask Paul what he was feeling. Ask the jailor what he was feeling.

Does this story intersect with your personal story in any way?

Have someone share a short story of how God has transformed their life.



Invite:

What is it that keeps some people from accepting God's grace? On a scale of one to ten, how sure do you think most people are of their salvation? What would it take to move them up to a ten?

(Before attendees leave make sure they have the next lesson and pen)

For Further Study: *Is there Hope for Me?* (3) Salvation LWH Preaching Manuscript *Steps to Jesus*, by Ellen White



Prepare:

Read the preaching manuscript so you are very familiar with its content. Make sure you have the handouts including the next participant handout, felt tip pens, back lessons, and Bibles for newcomers. Have a few permanent markers handy for the engagement exercise. Cue the DVD player up to the lesson *Just Desserts* (Great Controversy).

Just Desserts **(4) Great Controversy**

GC1 Is God gracious and good? **Exodus 34:6 (64)**

GC2 According to a farming parable of Jesus, who is behind all the evil in the world? **Matthew 13:24-30 (679)**

GC3 Who is behind all of the suffering, heartache, pain, and bondage in this world? **Luke 13:16 (725)**

GC4 Where did Satan come from? **Luke 10:18 (721)**

GC5 Do you see any characteristics of Satan in the picture of the king of Tyre? **Ezekiel 28:12,14,15,17 (597-598)**

GC6. Do you see any characteristics of Satan in the picture of the king of Babylon? **Isaiah 14:12-14 (485)**

GC7 What happened to Lucifer once his character of evil was established? **Revelation 12:7-9 (855)**

GC8 About how many angels fell victim to the dragon's temptation? **Revelation 12:4 (854-855)**

GC9 What did Satan do once he came to the earth? **Genesis 3:1-6 (2)**



Engage:

Have everyone take one shoe off and write with a felt tip pen on the bottom of their shoe some of the evils that Satan has brought into their life—i.e, broken relationships, addictions, injustices. Have them share that with a partner.



Teach:

Can you think of a time when God gets blamed for the evil in this world?

What led the perfectly-created angel Lucifer, to turn into the devil?

Do you face any of those temptations?

Why do you suppose God didn't just annihilate the devil before sin got out of hand?

GC10 What happened after Adam and Eve sinned? **Genesis 3:8 (2)**

GC11 What effect did Adam and Eve's sin have on the natural world? **Genesis 3: 17-19 (3)**

GC12 Where is God when we are suffering? Does He remember us? **Isaiah 49:14, 15 (512)**

GC13 Can Jesus empathize with our suffering? **Hebrews 2:14,17,18. (830)**

GC14 Who was the culprit behind all of the sufferings of Job? **Job 1:6, 7 (353)**

GC15 What happened to Job once the tribulation was over? **Job 42:10, 12 (376)**

GC16 If what happened to the king of Tyre is any indicator, what will eventually happen to the devil and his angels? **Ezekiel 28:18 (598)**

GC17 And what happens to the laboratory of planet earth, so decimated by the raging disease of sin? **Revelation 21:1 (860)**

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Why doesn't God do something right now to stop all of the suffering in the world?

If the devil was eradicated would there still be sin?

What will it take to finally eradicate sin and suffering from the cosmos?

Invite someone to share with the group how God has helped them through suffering.

What are you looking forward to the most when the cosmos is finally cleared of sin?



Invite:

Remind your group that "As we walk out of this place today, walk out in hope. These hurts, fears, and lies (some of which we listed on our shoes) will all be crushed someday soon. The process might take awhile, but make no mistake. Satan has lost the war and the grace of God will overcome."
(Before attendees leave make sure they have the next lesson and pen)

For Further Study: *Just Desserts* (4) Great Controversy LWH Preaching Manuscript
Searching for a God to Love, Chris Blake



Prepare:

Read the preaching manuscript so you are very familiar with its content. Make sure you have the handouts including the next participant handout, felt tip pens, back lessons, and Bibles for newcomers. Cue the DVD player up to the lesson *The Blessed Hope* (Second Coming).

The Blessed Hope **(5) Second Coming**

SC1 What illustration does Jesus use to describe the surprise element? **Matthew 24:43, 44 (689)**

SC2 What clues does Jesus give about conditions on the earth before he returns? **Matthew 24: 4-7 (688)**

SC3 What clues does Paul give to Timothy about the conditions of society before Jesus returns? **2 Timothy 3:1-5 (826)**

SC4 What else will take place before Jesus returns? **Matthew 24:14 (688)**

SC5 What will it look like when Jesus returns? **Acts 1:9-11 (756)**

SC6 How many people will witness the return of Jesus? **Revelation 1:7 (849)**

SC7 What will it sound like when Jesus returns? **I Thessalonians 4:16 (820)**

SC8 What happens to those believers who have died before Jesus returns? **1 Corinthians 15:51-52 (800)**



Engage:

Choose a partner. Ask your partner if they are usually the one waiting for someone else or are they one who shows up late. Follow up: Why are people typically late for appointments?



Teach:

Play "Bill's Birthday" Off the DVD Player.

What is the difference between perceptions of when we expect Jesus to return and when He expects to return?

Why does it seem that Jesus is waiting so long to return?

Will it be worth the wait?

According to the Bible do you think that the coming of Jesus will be a big deal?

SC9 What happens to those believers who are alive when Jesus returns? **1 Thessalonians 4:17 (820)**

SC10 What will happen to those who are not faithful to Jesus? **2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 (821)**

SC11 What will happen to the earth? **Revelation 21:1-5 (922)**

SC12 Where will the believers live? **John 14:1-3 (749)**

SC13 How will we gain salvation and eternal life in heaven? **Titus 2:11 (827)**

SC14 Through who was that grace delivered? **Hebrews 9:28 (833)**

SC15 How do we live on this earth while we wait for his return? **Titus 2:12-13 (827)**

SC16 What invitation does Jesus give us? **Revelation 3:20 (851)**

In what group do you imagine yourself to be when Jesus returns?

Among the dead?

Among the faithful?

Among the wicked?

Not sure?

Can one be sure?

What does it mean to open your door and invite Jesus in for a meal?

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Invite:

Why haven't some people "invited Jesus in for a meal?" What would have to change for that to happen?

(Before attendees leave make sure they have the next lesson and pen)

For Further Study: *The Blessed Hope* (5) Second Coming LWH Preaching Manuscript



Prepare:

Get a sheet of blank paper for everyone. Read the preaching manuscript so you are very familiar with its content. Make sure you have the handouts including the next participant handout, felt tip pens, back lessons, and Bibles for newcomers. Cue the DVD player up to the lesson *There's Hope for Your Driving* (Commandments).

There's Hope for Your Driving **(6) Commandments**

LAW1 What word does the Bible use as a definition of lawlessness? **I John 3:4 (845)**

LAW2 What natural laws are described in the creation story? **Genesis 1:14 (1)**

LAW3 How does Deuteronomy describe the relationship between God and man? **Deuteronomy 6:5 (128)**

LAW4 What do the first four commands say about man's relationship with God? **Exodus 20:3-11 (53)**

LAW5 How does Leviticus describe the relationship between people? **Leviticus 19:18 (83)**

LAW6 What do the last six commands tell about our relationship with each other? **Exodus 20:12-17 (53)**

LAW7 Where did God instruct Moses to place the Ten Commandments after He inscribed them? **Deuteronomy 10:5 (130)**

LAW8 Where were all of the other laws placed? **Deuteronomy 31:26 (145)**



Engage:

Hand out a blank piece of paper and a pen. Have everyone draw the shape of a road sign that they have at times ignored. i.e. speed limit, speed bump etc. Then have them share with a partner their story of why they ignored it and what were the consequences.



Teach:

What are some natural laws in the universe?

What are some of the laws of the land? Ancient Israel? Contemporary North America?

What would life be like without any laws?

How are the ten commandments the same, or different than the laws of the land?

LAW9 Which commandment is Paul quoting from in **Romans 7:7?**
(784)

Law10 Which commandment is Jesus referring to in **Matthew 22:36-39?** (687)

LAW11 How powerful is the law in helping someone behave? **Romans 8:3** (785)

LAW12 How did he describe the relationship between the law and sin? **Romans 7:8-10** (784)

LAW13 Who are the two powers who are vying for control of our lives? **Romans 8:8,9** (785)

LAW14 What does James say will happen when we submit ourselves to God? **James 4:7** (838)

LAW15 Does law keeping make us right with God? **Galatians 2:16** (808)

LAW16 How many are righteous in God's sight through keeping the law? **Romans 3:20** (782)

LAW17 So what is the relationship of the law to salvation? **Ephesians 2:8-10** (811)

Living
with HOPE

Have you ever touched something that had a sign on it "Wet Paint?" What is it about laws that bring out the worst in us?

If obeying God's laws doesn't bring us salvation, and if they are impossible to keep perfectly in this sinful world, what purpose do they serve?

How can we let the law play a meaningful part in our lives without becoming legalists?



Invite:

Have group members turn paper over and draw a picture of a figurative road sign of life that they have or currently are ignoring to the detriment. Place all of the papers in the middle of the group and pray over them that God will empower the group to stay on the path as they follow after God.

(Before attendees leave make sure they have the next lesson and pen)

For Further Study: *There's Hope for Your Driving* (6) Commandments LWH Preaching Manuscript
Searching for a God to Love, Chris Blake



Prepare:

Read the preaching manuscript so you are very familiar with its content. Make sure you have the handouts including the next participant handout, felt tip pens, back lessons, and Bibles for newcomers. Cue the DVD player up to the lesson *Racing with Hope (Baptism)*.

Racing with Hope **(7) Baptism**

BAP1 What does the author of Hebrews compare the Christian life to? **Hebrews 12:1(835)**

BAP2 What initiation rite did Jesus instruct His disciples to administer to new followers? **Matthew 28:19 (694)**

BAP3 What happened in the interchange between Philip and the Ethiopian? **Acts 8:30-32 (762)**

BAP4 What was the Ethiopian's question and what was Philip's response? **Acts 8:34-35 (762)**

BAP 5 What are the three components to baptism and what do they represent? **Romans 6:3-4 (784)**

BAP6 Does getting baptized mean that we will no longer be tempted? **Matthew 4:1 (670)**



Engage:

Choose a partner. Ask them what's the longest footrace they have ever completed. Now find out who in the group has completed the longest race. Interview them briefly about what it feels like to start the race, run the race, and cross the finish line.



Teach:

According to the Bible what are the requirements that someone needs to meet in order to be baptized?

In what way is baptism a metaphor for salvation?

How is baptism like the start of a race?

Have someone describe their baptism. What did they experience? What were they feeling? Did they 'live happily ever after?' Would they recommend baptism to someone else? (It may help to prompt someone ahead of time on this one so they can be prepared to share their testimony).

BAP7 When you initiate your Christian journey what team do you join? **I Corinthians 12:13a (797)**

BAP8 Is there refreshment available in the Christian race? **I Corinthians 12:13b (797)**

BAP9 What was the Ethiopian's question to Philip after he understood and accepted the good news? **Acts 8:36 (762)**

BAP10 How many people were around to witness Jesus' baptism? **Mark 1:5,9 (694)**

BAP11 Is the rite of baptism optional for the Christian? **Mark 16:16 (709)**

BAP12 How was baptism practiced by the early followers of Jesus? Sprinkling? Pouring? Immersion? **Acts 8:38-39 (762)**

BAP13 What did Jesus do for the children? **Mark 10:13-16 (702)**

BAP14 Is it ever appropriate to be baptized a second time? **Acts 19:1-5 (772)**

Living
with HOPE

Describe some of the refreshments that are available to those who are running the Christian race?

How is baptism by immersion a better metaphor than some of the more convenient methods of baptism?

Share with the group when the next baptism is going to be available at your church. (Talk to the pastor ahead of time to obtain this date)



Invite:

What would keep someone who is starting to follow Jesus from being baptized? What could be done to remove those barriers? Ask if anyone would like for you to help them schedule their baptism.

(Before attendees leave make sure they have the next lesson and pen)

For Further Study: *Racing With Hope* (7) Baptism LWH Preaching Manuscript *The Purpose Driven Life*, pages 120-121.



Prepare:

Read the preaching manuscript so you are very familiar with its content. Find a children's puzzle with about the number of pieces as members of your small group. Make sure you have the handouts including the next participant handout, felt tip pens, back lessons, and Bibles for newcomers. Cue the DVD player up to the lesson *Body of Hope* Spiritual Gifts (Great Controversy).

Body of Hope **(8) Spiritual Gifts**

SG1 How did the apostle Paul wish to be remembered? **II Timothy 4:6-8 (826)**

SG2 What metaphor did Paul use to illustrate the roles that we can live out for God? **Romans 12:4,5 (788)**

SG3 How does Luke describe the problem? **Acts 6:1 (760)**

SG4 What solution did they come up with? **Acts 6:2-4 (760)**

SG5 How was the proposal received? **Acts 6:5,6 (760)**

SG6 What was the result of specialization in ministry? **Acts 6:7 (760)**

SG7 What are some examples of some of the spiritual gifts that the Spirit gives? Ephesians 4:11 **(812)**

SG8 What are some other examples of spiritual gifts? **Romans 12:6-8 (788)**

SG9 How does David describe the way that God formed him? **Psalms 139:13,14. (437)**



Engage:

Hand a piece of the puzzle to each person in the group. One at a time have them place their piece into the puzzle frame. As they are doing so ask for someone else to describe that person's unique contribution to your small group.



Teach:

Have you ever had to work for a micro manager? What was it like?

Have you ever worked with a team of specialists? What was that like?

Share with a partner what spiritual gifts come easy for you? What spiritual gifts don't seem natural for you? See if your partner agrees or disagrees with you.

SG11 Who is it that calls all of the individuals into ministry in the church? **Ephesians 4:15-16 (812)**

SG12 What is the purpose of spiritual gifts and ministry? **I Corinthians 12:7 (797)**

SG13 If we share these gifts with the community in works of service what will happen to the body of Christ? **Ephesians 4:12 (812)**

SG14 What does Paul say about someone who would like quit because they can't get the role they want? **I Corinthians 12:14-16 (797-798)**

SG15 What would happen if everyone had the same gift? **I Corinthians 12:17,18 (798)**

SG16 What was the master's reaction to the third servant's investing strategy? **Matthew 25:26-29 (689-690)**

SG17 What did Jesus do to show us how important service is? **John 13:4,5 (748)**

SG18 What practice did Jesus instruct the disciples to do? **John 13:13-15 (748)**

Living
with HOPE

What does Paul mean when he says to "build up the body of Christ?"

What can we do to keep our egos and jealousies out of the way when we're working with a team for Christ?

Ask if anyone has experienced a growth in their spiritual gift or a discovery of a new gift in service in a church.

Are there any tasks that are too menial to perform in the service of Christ?



Invite:

Have everyone retrieve their piece of the puzzle as a reminder of the unique role they can play in the small group and in the church. Question: Why do you suppose people don't use their spiritual gifts for building up the body of Christ? What can be done to remove those obstacles?

(Before attendees leave make sure they have the next lesson and pen)

For Further Study: *Body of Hope* (8) Spiritual Gifts **LWH Preaching Manuscript**



Prepare:

Read the preaching manuscript so you are very familiar with its content. Make sure you have the handouts including the next participant handout, felt tip pens, back lessons, and Bibles for newcomers. Purchase a brick for each person in your group. Have permanent marking pens available. Cue the DVD player up to the lesson *Rechargeable Hope* (The Sabbath).

Rechargeable Hope **(9) The Sabbath**

SAB1 As the Creator finished His work of creating the earth, what was His final act of creation? **Genesis 2:2 (1)**

SAB2 When God gave the children of Israel their supply of manna, what instructions did He give them? **Exodus 16:25, 26 (51)**

SAB3 What does the fourth commandment say about work and rest? **Exodus 20:8-11 (53)**

SAB4 What promise did Isaiah give the residents of Jerusalem if they would reconsider the blessings of the Sabbath? **Isaiah 58:13,14 (518)**

SAB5 Of what crime did Jesus get accused of perpetrating as he was walking through a field on the Sabbath day? **Mark 2:23,24 (695)**

SAB6 What was Jesus' response? **Mark 2:27 (695)**

SAB7 What did Jesus say to clarify His position? **Matthew 5:17 (671)**

SAB8 Besides resting, what else did God do with the Sabbath? **Genesis 2:3 (1)**



Engage:

Give a brick to each person. The enslaved Jews in Egypt were valued by how many bricks they could produce. Have everyone write some things on the brick that they produce that people value them for. Have them share their writing with a partner.

Now share how the Sabbath reminds us that God affirms us not for how much we can produce but by how much he loves us.



Teach:

What is the most days you have ever worked in a row?

When was the first time you really began to appreciate the Sabbath? (You may have someone primed with a short testimony)

Instead of being a time of refreshing and recharging sometimes the Sabbath becomes a set of 'do's' and 'don'ts.' How can we prevent that from happening?

SAB9 When does a day begin and end according to the Bible?
Genesis 1:5 (1)

SAB10 What were the believers in God to do in order to show that they belonged to God? **Ezekiel 20:12 (590)**

SAB11 What did Moses call this time of united worship? **Leviticus 23:3 (86)**

SAB 12 Do you recognize the quotation from the Sabbath commandment as John speaks about worshipping the Creator? **Revelation 14:7 (856)**

SAB13 What habit of spiritual recharging did Jesus have? **Luke 4:16 (713)**

SAB 14 What habit of spiritual recharging did His disciples have? **Acts 13:14, 42, 44 (766-767)**

SAB15 What was Jesus' advice for those who were preparing for the impending destruction of Jerusalem? **Matthew 24:20 (688)**

The word Sabbath literally means 'rest.' What are some things that you would like to rest from during this upcoming Sabbath?

The Sabbath also comes with a refreshing. What are some spiritually refreshing activities that can help give you a spiritual recharging?

Living
with HOPE



Invite:

Why do you suppose that some people aren't brave enough to ask their boss to get the Sabbath off? What could you say to encourage them to take that big step?

Let everyone take their bricks home as a constant reminder that God gives us the Sabbath to show us that he loves us not for how much we produce but for who we are.

(Before attendees leave make sure they have the next lesson and pen)

For Further Study: *Rechargeable Hope* (9) The Sabbath LWH Preaching Manuscript
Searching for a God to Love, Chris Blake



Prepare:

Read the preaching manuscript so you are very familiar with its content. Make sure you have the handouts including the next participant handout, felt tip pens, back lessons, and Bibles for newcomers. Purchase enough bamboo finger traps for each pair in your group. Cue the DVD player up to the lesson *Window of Hope* (The Sanctuary).

Window of Hope **(10) *The Sanctuary***

SAN1 What happened to Adam and Eve after they ate from the forbidden tree in the Garden of Eden? **Genesis 3:8-10 (2)**

SAN2 What Canaanite practice did God strictly forbid? **Deuteronomy 12:31 (132)**

SAN3 Describe what happened during a typical sacrifice for sin? **Leviticus 4:27-29 (71)**

SAN4 What does Hebrews call this sacrificial system? **Hebrews 8:5 (832)**

SAN5 What name did John the Baptist give Jesus as he saw Him coming down to the Jordan river? **John 1:29 (736)**

SAN6 In the Bible who initiates the attempt at reconciliation? **John 3:16 (738)**

SAN7 What does the Bible teach about Christ's death and what it means for us? **1 Corinthians 15:3 (799)**



Engage:

Divide into pairs. Give each pair a bamboo finger trap. Let each partner put a finger into the trap and then pull and see what happens. Then figure out how to release the trap. Have them share a time when they were stuck in a broken relationship but were able to find release through reconciliation. In that reconciliation who made the first move?



Teach:

This lesson shares how God made the first move in reconciliation and invites a response from us.

Note that the sacrificial system is extremely foreign to our way of thinking but was common in most cultures of the world. Share examples from the preaching manuscript: China, Mexico, etc.

In what way was the sacrifice on Calvary similar to the ancient sacrificial system of appeasing the gods? In what way was it different?

SAN8 What are some of the Scriptures that talk about His death in our behalf? **Isaiah 53:4-6 (515)**

SAN9 What happened in the earthly temple at the death of Jesus Christ that indicated that the earthly sacrificial model was no longer needed? **Matthew 27: 50-51 (693)**

SAN10 Who was the facilitator of the sacrificial system? **Leviticus 17:6 (82)**

SAN11 How does Hebrews describe the reconciliation ministry of Jesus today? **Hebrews 8:1-2 (832)**

SAN12 Why do we need it? **I John 1:8 (844)**

SAN13 What happens now when we sin? **I John 2:1 (844)**

SAN14 What is the physical act that we can do to accept the grace of God and repair the broken relationship? **I John 1:9 (844)**

Living
with HOPE

What can we learn from the Jewish sacrificial system?

What can we learn from Jesus' death on the cross?

Like the Chinese finger trap, God the Father made the first move by offering God the Son at the cross at Calvary. What move can we make to proceed with the reconciliation?

In this sinful world reconciliation is an ongoing process. What move is Jesus taking right now toward reconciliation? What move can we make in response?



Invite:

Break back up into partners. Ask if there is anything standing in the way of your relationship with God? Have partners pray for one another to remove that obstacle.

(Before attendees leave make sure they have the next lesson and pen)

For Further Study: *The Open Window* (10) Sanctuary LWH Preaching Manuscript



Prepare:

Read the preaching manuscript so you are very familiar with its content. Make sure you have the handouts including the next participant handout, felt tip pens, back lessons. Set up a potting table with potting soil, some seeds, one small clay pot for each member and a watering can. Cue the DVD player up to the lesson *Growing With Hope (Spiritual Disciplines)*.

Growing With Hope **(11) Spiritual Disciplines**

SD1 What does God call those who have accepted His love? **I John 3:1 (845)**

SD2 What should God's children say 'yes' to and 'no' to? **Titus 2:11 (827)**

SD3 What are eight qualities that should be growing in members of God's family? **II Peter 1:5-8 (842)**

SD4 Who does Paul say we should imitate? **Ephesians 5:1,2 (813)**

SD5 **Meditation**--What should the believer meditate upon? **Psalms 1:2 (377)**

SD6 **Prayer**—What request did the disciples bring to Jesus? **Luke 11:1-4 (721-722)**

SD7 **Fasting**—At what point did Jesus say that His disciples would begin to practice fasting? **Luke 5:33-35 (715)**

SD8 **Study**—What commendation did Jesus give to the Jewish leaders? **John 5:39 (740)**



Engage:

As people come in have them fill up a clay pot, plant a seed and water it. Invite people to share ways in which they would like to grow as a Christian.



Teach:

Is there a difference between trying to behave yourself to earn love, and behaving yourself because you are loved? What is the difference?

There was a popular slogan a few years back entitled WWJD (what would Jesus do?) How can we model our lives after Jesus when we can't be sure what he would do in any given setting?

What can you do to eliminate distractions in meditation?

How can you focus your mind in prayer?

Is fasting just for food or are there other things that we could fast from?

What study habits have worked best for you?

SD9 Simplicity—What did Jesus warn us to be on guard against? **Luke 12:15 (723)**

SD10 Solitude—Where did Jesus go to find His inner strength? **Luke 6:12 (715)**

SD11 Submission—What is one of the prerequisites of following Jesus? **Mark 8:34 (701)**

SD12 Service—If we desire to become great, what must we do? **Mark 10:43-45 (703)**

SD13 Confession—What do we need to do with our sins in order to be healed? **James 5:16 (839)**

SD14 Worship—What are some of the things that we should do together in worship? **Colossians 3:16-17 (818)**

SD15 Guidance—What should the Christian community do if one of its members strays? **Galatians 6:1-2 (810)**

SD16 Celebration—What does Jesus wish for us? **John 15:11 (750)**

Living
with HOPE

What would you like to simplify in your life?

Where are your favorite places of solitude?

What spiritual disciplines have worked for you?

What spiritual disciplines haven't worked? Why haven't they worked?



Invite:

Place the planted pots in the middle of the room as a symbol of your growth in Christ. Have someone pray for each member of the group for specific things that have come up in the discussion. Take the plants home and take good care of them as a reminder that we need to take good care of our relationship with God. Before attendees leave make sure they have the next lesson and pen.

For Further Study: *Growing With Hope* (11) Spiritual Disciplines LWH Preaching Manuscript Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline* (San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1998).



Prepare:

Read the preaching manuscript so you are very familiar with its content. Make sure you have the handouts including the next participant handout, felt tip pens, back lessons, and Bibles for newcomers. Get an inexpensive generic greeting card and stamp for everyone. Cue the DVD player up to the lesson *Driving Hope* (Healthy Behavior).

Driving Hope **(12) Healthy Behavior**

LIV1 What does the Bible wish for us? **3 John 2 (847)**

LIV2 What is Jesus' desire for our lives? **John 10:10 (745)**

LIV3 What was the original diet of mankind? **Genesis 1:29 (1)**

LIV4 What assignment did God give mankind? **Genesis 2:15 (2)**

LIV5 What kind of food did God allow Noah and his family to add to their diet? **Genesis 7:2 (5)**

LIV6 What distinction between clean and unclean animals was spelled out to the Jews? **Leviticus 11:2, 3,7, 9,10 (76)**

LIV7 What warning does the Bible give about alcohol? **Ephesians 5:18 (813)**

LIV 8 How does the Bible describe drunkenness? **Proverbs 23:31-35 (457)**



Engage:

Pull out the owners manual for your car and read a few things that you are supposed to do to take care of your car. Divide into partners. Have each partner share three goals that they have for the next year for taking care of their bodies. Share some with the big group. Are there any themes that emerge?



Teach:

Do you think that the eating regulations given in the Old Testament have any value today? If so, why?

Do you think that people who don't abide by those regulations will be denied access to heaven?

Have you or anyone you know suffered from the disease of alcoholism? How did it affect your life?

LIV9 What is the lofty goal that Jesus sets for mankind? **Matthew 5:48 (672)**

LIV10 Besides our physical health, what other system is involved in making up a person? **Romans 12:2 (788)**

LIV11 What does the Bible teach about what kinds of things we should be inputting into our brain? **Philippians 4:8 (816)**

LIV12 How does the Bible describe what a believer looks like on the outside? **I Peter 3:3,4 (841)**

LIV13 So far we have been talking about the human body being yours, but according to the apostle Paul, who owns it? **I Corinthians 6:19? (794)**

LIV14 What was that price that was paid for us? **Matthew 20:28 (685)**

LIV15 Who gives us the power to walk after Christ? **Philippians 2:13 (815)**

Living
with HOPE

The word 'perfect' means being 'whole' or 'integrated'. What are some ways in which we compartmentalize different parts of our life?

With the pervasiveness of media what precautions have worked for you to filter the input?

Since we don't have a digital photograph of the dress style of the early Christian believers, what are the principles of dress that can apply to every time and culture?

What difference does it make if you own your body or if God owns your body?



Invite:

Have everyone write in the greeting card some of the behavioral goals that they have for the next year. Have them share those goals with a partner. Then have them seal it in the envelope, put their own name and address on the stamped envelope and turn it in to you. Promise them that you will drop it in the mail in one month as a reminder of their commitment today. Before attendees leave make sure they have the next lesson and pen.

For Further Study: *Driving Hope* (12) Healthy Behavior LWH Preaching Manuscript



Prepare:

Read the preaching manuscript so you are very familiar with its content. Make sure you have the handouts including the next participant handout, felt tip pens, back lessons, and Bibles for newcomers. Cue the DVD player up to the lesson *Hope Mortuary* (Heaven).

Hope Mortuary **(13) Heaven**

HEV1 Was Jeremiah's life simply a random occurrence or did God plan for his existence? **Jeremiah 1:5 (525)**

HEV2 Did God also have plans for us before we were born? **Ephesians 2:10 (811)**

HEV3 What were the two components used to create Adam as a living being? **Genesis 2:7 (2)**

HEV4 What boldfaced lie did Satan tell the woman? **Genesis 3:3,4 (2)**

HEV5 In what way do we grow when we come to realize that life is short? **Psalms 90:12 (416)**

HEV6 According to Solomon, what happens to us when we die? **Ecclesiastes 12:7 (470)**

HEV7 What metaphor does the book of Kings use to describe the state of death? **I Kings 2:10 (233)**

HEV8 How does Solomon describe what its like to be dead? **Ecclesiastes 9:5 (468)**

HEV9 How does Jesus describe the experience of someone who has died? **Mark 5:39 (698)**

HEV10 What did Jesus propose to do with Lazarus? **John 11:11 (746)**

HEV11 Did the disciples understand the metaphor? **John 11:12-15 (746)**

Before Life

Mortal Life

Death



Engage:

What are some of the easiest goodbyes you have ever said? What are some of the most difficult? Why is it hard to say goodbye?



Teach:

This lesson covers the chronology of personhood:

Before Life
Mortal Life
Death
Resurrection

Note: this lesson is extremely content intensive so there is not a lot of time for discussion.

HEV12 Was Jesus able to bring Lazarus back to life? **John 11:43,44 (747)**

HEV13 How does Paul describe the awakening of the dead? **I Corinthians 15:51-53 (800)**

HEV14 What two classes of people did Paul say will experience the resurrection? **Acts 24:15 (776)**

HEV15 What does Jesus say will happen to the two classes of people at the resurrection? **John 5:28,29 (740)**

HEV16 Why do the wicked dead need to be brought back to life? **Revelation 20:12 (860)**

HEV17 What will happen to the grace-rejecters after they have faced their condemnation? **Revelation 20:14-15 (860)**

HEV18 What are some of the things that will be missing in the earth made new? **Revelation 21:1-4 (860)**

HEV19 Will we be able to recognize each other in the earth made new? **John 20:18 (754)**

HEV20 What did Jesus do to convince them that he was flesh and bones? **Luke 24:37-42 (735)**

HEV21 Will we have real flesh and bone bodies in the earth made new? **Revelation 22:1,2 (860)**

HEV22 What will we be doing with all of our time? **Revelation 22:3 (860)**

Resurrection

The Bible uses the metaphor of sleep to describe death. Does that bring you comfort knowing that those who have gone before us are simply in a very deep slumber?

What are you looking forward to most as you enter into heaven?

How does hope in the resurrection make saying goodbye in this lifetime easier?

Living
with HOPE



Invite:

Can you think of any reason why someone wouldn't want to spend all eternity with Jesus? What would you say to them that would encourage them to be open to the gift of eternal life? (Before attendees leave make sure they have the next lesson and pen)

For Further Study: *Hope Mortuary* (13) Heaven LWH Preaching Manuscript



Prepare:

Read the preaching manuscript so you are very familiar with its content. Make sure you have the handouts including the next participant handout, felt tip pens, back lessons, and Bibles for newcomers. Get handfuls of low denomination coins. They don't have to be from your country. Also get the decision cards entitled "Money Back Guarantee". Cue the DVD player up to the lesson *Hope on a Rope* (Stewardship).

Hope on a Rope **(14) Stewardship**

GIV1 What was Jesus' investment advice? **Matthew 6:19 (673)**

GIV2 What is Jesus' investment strategy? **Matthew 6:20 (673)**

GIV3 What does Jesus mean by storing up treasures in heaven? **Matthew 6:33 (673)**

GIV4 What were the two different types of givers at the temple? **Mark 12:41, 42 (705)**

GIV5 After watching the contrasting givers what lesson did Jesus teach his followers? **Mark 43, 44 (705)**

GIV6 What did Jesus tell the man he must do before he was ready for heaven? **Mark 10:21,22 (703)**

GIV7 What did Paul tell Timothy about the root of all evil? **I Timothy 6:10 (824)**

GIV8 How wealthy is God? **Psalms 50:10, 12 (397)**

GIV9 Where did David say his wealth came from? **I Chronicles 29:14 (301)**



Engage:

Give everyone a handful of coins as they come in. First, try and talk to those around you and convince them to give you some of their coins. If someone asks you for a coin, you must give them one. See who can obtain the most coins. Second, see who can give away the most coins. You may only offer one coin at a time to someone, and if you are offered a coin you must keep it. What kind of person are we? One who is constantly taking or one who is constantly giving? Discuss.



Teach:

Name the usual investment instruments that people use to build wealth. What are the risks of each of them?

How do we make deposits in heaven?

What are the risks of investing in heaven?

GIV10 What did Abram give Melchizedek? **Genesis 14:20 (9)**

GIV11 What were the people of Israel to give to the Levites in return for the work that they did? **Numbers 18:21(107)**

GIV12 In addition to tithe, what other opportunities did the people of Israel have to trust in God with their finances? **Deuteronomy 12:6 (132)**

GIV13 Was tithing more important than justice, mercy or faithfulness? **Matthew 23:23 (687, 688)**

GIV14 How were the preachers of the gospel to be paid in New Testament times? **I Corinthians 9:13,14 (795)**

GIV15 What test does God challenge us with? **Malachi 3:10 (665-666)**

Pass out a tithe envelope and describe how the tithe is pooled and is redistributed as a flattened salary system for pastors. Describe the advantages of tithe pooling. Share that the finances of the congregation are taken care of by offerings.

Ask someone to share his/her testimony of how God has opened the blessings of heaven because of faithful stewardship.

Living
with HOPE



Invite:

Pass out the decision card entitled Money Back Guarantee that says “I will return my tithes and offerings for the next three months knowing that if God does not bless that I can feel free to ask for my money back.” Invite them to take the card home, pray about it, and then drop it in the offering plate next Sabbath. Before attendees leave make sure they have the next lesson and pen.

For Further Study: *Hope on a Rope* (14) Stewardship LWH Preaching Manuscript



Prepare:

Read the preaching manuscript so you are very familiar with its content. Make sure you have the handouts including the next participant handout, felt tip pens, back lessons, and Bibles for newcomers. Have everyone bring a something they have created: artwork, sculpture, poem, song etc. Cue the DVD player up to the lesson Mission of Hope (The Church).

**Mission of Hope
(15) The Church**

WE1 Need Oriented Evangelism—What were the two components to Jesus ministry? **Matthew 4:23 (671)**

WE2 Which of the two components was Jesus emphasizing as he first sent the disciples on their first mission? **Matthew 10:7,8 (675)**

WE3 What will be some of the traits of his followers? **Matthew 25:34-36 (690)**

WE4 How did Jesus state the mission to meet spiritual needs? **Luke 24:47 (735)**

WE5 What does Matthew call the process of inviting people to follow Jesus? **Matthew 28:19? (694)**

WE6 Passionate Spirituality—Who did Jesus say would empower His followers in their mission? **Acts 1:8 (756)**

WE7 Inspiring Worship—What does the Bible have to say about Christians getting together with one another? **Hebrews 10:24-25 (834)**

WE8 What are some of the tools that the early believers used in their worship service to be transported into God's presence? **Ephesians 5:19 (813)**

Ministry Oriented

Need Oriented

Passionate Spirituality

Inspiring Worship



Engage:

Start with 'show and tell time where all of the artwork, sculpture, creations, poems, and songs are displayed. Let people share the joy of their creation with the group.



Teach:

A massive study discovered that healthy growing churches excel in the following eight areas:

- Need Oriented Evangelism**
- Passionate Spirituality**
- Inspiring Worship**
- Holistic Small Groups**
- Functional Structure**
- Empower Leadership**
- Gift Oriented Ministry**
- Loving Relationships**

If you were to take a survey of your church, which do you think would be your strongest traits and which do you think you could do some improvement in?

WE9 Holistic Small Groups—In addition to worshipping together in an assembly in what other configurations did the followers of Jesus meet? **Acts 2:46,47. (757)**

Small
Holistic
Groups

WE10 Functional Structure—Who is the head of the church? **Colossians 1:18 (817)**

Functional
Structure

Which of these characteristics do you have a passion for?

WE11 Where is the mission of hope to go? **Revelation 14:6 (856)**

Empowering
Leadership

WE12 Empowering Leadership—How did Jethro suggest that Moses change his leadership style? **Exodus 18:18-22 (52)**

Gift
Oriented
Ministry

WE13 Gift-Oriented Evangelism—What are some of the unique spiritual gifts that God gives His followers? **I Corinthians 12:27-31 (798)**

WE 14 Loving Relationships—What does Jesus say that the community of His followers is to be known for? **John 13:35 (749)**

Loving Relationships

What can we do together as this small group to help our congregation grow in its weakest areas?

WE15 What does the Bible say is one thing we all, regardless of our background, have in common? **Romans 3:10-12 (782)**

WE16 What has Jesus done for us ? **Romans 6:6-8 (784)**

Living
with HOPE



Invite:

Remind the group that you only have one more meeting together. Discuss if you would like to continue meeting as a group. If so, begin to offer some curriculum suggestions and mission options. (Before attendees leave make sure they have the next lesson and pen)

For Further Study: *Mission of Hope* (15)The Church LWH Preaching Manuscript
Natural Church Development, Christian A Schwarz



Prepare:

Read the preaching manuscript so you are very familiar with its content. Make sure you have the handouts including the next participant handout, felt tip pens, back lessons, and Bibles for newcomers. Arrange to have an Elder with your group to assist you in celebrating the communion service. Have water, basins, towels, grape juice and unleavened bread prepared.

Living Bread; Forgiving Wine **(16) Communion**

BRD1 What did Jesus desire to show His disciples? **John 13:1 (748)**

BRD2 What did Jesus do to resolve the awkward moment? **John 13:4,5. (748)**

BRD3 How did Peter react when Jesus tried to wash his feet? **John 13:6-8 (748)**

BRD4 What truth was Jesus trying to teach in the foot washing experience? **John 13:12-17 (748-749)**

BRD5 What did Jesus say that the bread represented? **Matthew 26:26 (690)**

BRD6 What does Jesus claim to be? **John 6:48 (741)**

BRD7 What eventually happened to the Jews who escaped the slavery of Egypt? **John 6:49 (741)**



Engage:

You are celebrating the communion service with your group. Invite everyone to participate freely. They don't have to be a member of your church to partake. You will use the lesson as the outline for the service.



Teach:

Model the foot washing service. Invite others to partner up and engage in the servant metaphor.

BRD8 What happens if someone partakes of the “bread of life”?
John 6:51 (741)

BRD9 Did the listening Jews catch on to Jesus’ metaphor? **John 6:52 (741)**

BRD10 Besides eating his body, what is the other metaphor that Jesus introduces? **John 6:53-56. (741)**

BRD11 What element in the Passover does Jesus use to symbolize his blood? **Matthew 26:27,28 (691)**

BRD12 What does Paul say we are to do in remembrance of Jesus? **I Corinthians 11:23,24 (797)**

BRD13 What else does Paul say that we are to do in remembrance of Jesus? **I Corinthians 11:25 (798)**

BRD14 What does Jesus promise to refrain from until He returns again with His Father’s kingdom? **Matthew 26:29 (691)**

Living
with HOPE

Pass the unleavened bread out to everyone. Invite an Elder to have a blessing over the bread. Partake together.

Pass the grape juice out to everyone. Invite an Elder to have a blessing over the bread. Partake together.



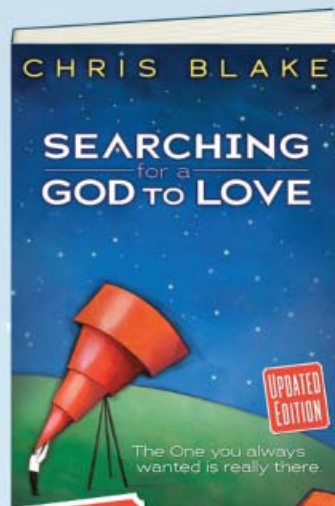
Invite:

Even though this is your last session together invite your group to either reform with new curriculum. Take a couple weeks off and then invite friends, neighbors, and family members for the next small group. Conclude your time together by standing in a circle, holding hands and reciting the Lord’s Prayer.

For Further Study: *Living Bread; Forgiving Wine* (16) Communion LWH Preaching Manuscript

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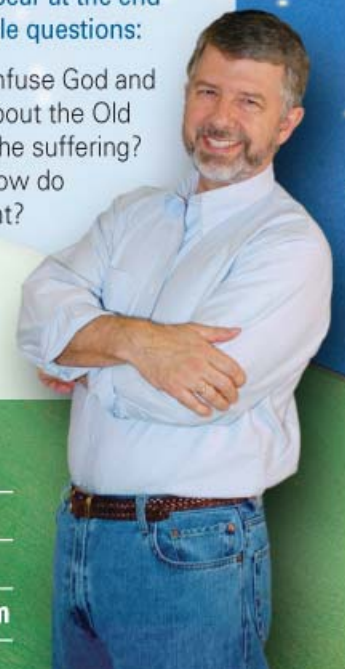
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Living with HOPE

Suggested Schedule for Big Group/Small Group Combination

Week #	Group	Subject	Title	Pen Color
1	Big	(1) Bible	Soul Food	Gold
	Small	(2) Trinity	Are You My Mother?	Cornflower Blue
2	Big	(3) Salvation	Is There Hope for Me?	Crimson
	Small	(4) Great Controversy	Just Desserts	Gray
3	Big	(5) Second Coming	The Blessed Hope	Orange
	Small	(6) Commandments	Hope for Your Driving	Brown
4	Big	(7) Baptism)	Racing With Hope	Powder Blue
	Small	(8) Spiritual Gifts	Body of Hope	Lime
5	Big	(9) Sabbath	Rechargeable Hope	Orchid
	Small	(10) Sanctuary	Window of Hope	Navy
6	Big	(11) Spiritual Disciplines	Growing With Hope	Olive
	Small	(12) Healthy Behavior	Driving Hope	Black
7	Big	(13) Heaven	Hope Mortuary	Hot Pink
	Small	(14) Stewardship	Hope on a Rope	Sea Green
8	Big	(15) Church	Mission of Hope	Teal
	Small	(16) Communion	Living Bread; Forgiving Wine	Purple