

Leader Notes: Easter Experience

Session Five- I Have the Promise of Eternal Life

Before Everyone Arrives

Be sure to have watched the leader training videos on Disc 3 for great training on leading.

Be sure to test your DVD and watch the *intro* and *episode five* for “I Have the Promise of Eternal Life.”

Suggested agenda for a 90-minute group gathering:

25 minutes: welcome, appetizers, icebreakers, and connecting with one another.

30 minutes: intro video and main video

20 minutes: discussion

15 minutes: prayer requests, prayer, and departure

* Do your best to start and end on time each week

During Your Meeting

By this point your group members may be discussing the ever-looming question, “What will we do next?” If this is the case then celebrate! People only ask what is coming next when they are looking forward to continuing in their time of community. Congratulations on a job well done.

The reality is that your group has several options to take from here. We have curriculum suggestion guide at www.simplesmallgroups.com and there are new resources available for group leaders in the Media Resource Center on the second floor of the atrium. The first step is to talk to your coach and he or she will have suggestions for what your group may want to study next.

Episode five provides a unique look at the thief on the cross scene that will be a new concept to most groups. Take time to contemplate the text and ask questions before you watch the video.

After Watching the Video

The questions after the video for episode five are very important so make sure you have allowed for ample time of discussion. Take your time while contemplating the thief’s change of heart and encourage your group to share heart-change stories of their own.

Strive to continue modeling the importance and value of prayer to your group in these final weeks. Reinforce the importance of making personal prayer requests (as opposed to simply a laundry list of all the sick people and their pets in your life). Remind your group that as Christians we believe that prayer is effective both in building genuine community and because we have a God who truly listens to the desires of our hearts.

Again we want to congratulate you and thank you for joining thousands of other Christians in studying *The Easter Experience*. We hope that as you enter into your final week of study that you have enjoyed this experience but also that you have been pushed to think about your faith in a new way. Thanks again!

