

VALIDATE!

FACILITATORS GUIDE

Meeting # 1: Introduction to each other and the *VALIDATE! STUDY GUIDE*

AGENDA: (Suggested time table)

5:45 *Arrive early enough to greet folks as they arrive.*
Arrange furniture for meeting.
Find TV and video/DVD player. Cue up DVD or website for opening of meeting.

6:00 ***Participants arrive*** - introduce each person as they arrive to someone else.
•Name tags, sign-in sheet
Encourage soft drinks, coffee, cookies or snacks.
Kids off to childcare
Hand off books (if not already passed to participants)

6:10 ***Settle into group, PRAY***
Express something about the importance of unity, oneness and intimacy for relationships and marriage in the local church, the families within the church, and the individuals we all come in contact with within the culture we live and work in.
“For quite some time now the Church in America has adopted the perspective that sound Biblical teaching is enough to have great marriages and relationships. Well, the evidence is in and it isn’t pretty. There is little difference in the divorce rate between those who are religious and attend church and those who don’t. There is no doubt that the foundation for any lasting, loving, caring and intimate relationship is sound doctrine, but we have placed most of the emphasis on understanding relationships and have not put enough emphasis on showing people how to apply the principles they are being taught. In a word, we need *training*, the kind that is *hands on*. That is why this course has been put together. It is *very practical, very hands on, and very application oriented.*”

6:25 ***What is the purpose of this group?***
First of all we believe that the best context to learn to apply biblical truth is in the context of a dynamic, caring, engaging group of fellow learners. The design is to learn, apply, grow, and bond with your spouse or another significant person in your life.
Secondly, my hope is that we all have significant things happen in our relationships as a result of this time spent together.

The Issue Of Confidentiality.

This is not a support group. This is a growth opportunity. However, my hope is that you will feel free to be open about the dynamics of your various relationships,

VALIDATE!

particularly with your spouse and family. This vulnerability, or authenticity will be a little scary at first if you are not used to being open in groups. However, I want to strongly exhort each of us to not share anything personal you hear in these meetings outside of our times together. Obviously you can talk to each other, but to encourage an environment for openness each time we meet it is imperative that we keep these meetings confidential.

My Role as facilitator: My hope is that the material will teach, encourage, exhort, convict, equip, and motivate. My job is to facilitate you all getting the most from the material and learning from each other.

Your role as participant: Your role as participant is to learn, encourage, teach, equip, and training each other. Consider yourself as a co-facilitator. The more you engage the material, and others in this group, the more you will learn, grow and develop relationally. (Encourage punctuality to help make the most of this opportunity.)

6:40 ***Conversation Starter*** (Two to Five minutes each) Facilitator goes first to set the pace and level of sharing.

Ask each person to answer the following:

- Where are you from originally?
- How did you arrive in this particular city?
- How did you get connected to our church?
- What do you hope to get out of a course on Relationships?

(Obviously if you are in an established group you may skip this section. You may want to focus on the last question some and allow your “connected” group to begin being vulnerable.)

7:15 ***Outline of Tonight’s Meeting:***

Discuss overall course content – Introduction, book contents and design, and Study Guide.

Discuss “How to get the most from this book.” (page xxi)

Make some comments about questions at the end of each chapter of the book. They are designed to have a couple discuss the topic and what they are learning before they come to the group meeting. It is an essential part of the learning process.

Comment on the importance of engagement – this study is designed to interrupt unhealthy patterns of living with others. These patterns have taken a long time to develop and will take some work to unearth and change. This study will take work. Please prepare to do some “heavy lifting”.

7:45 **Pass out a sign up list to get email**, home and work phone, participant’s names, children, etc.

VALIDATE!

7:46 **Answer any questions.**

Pray for the couples and single adults by name. Ask for God to transform their relationships and bring glory to Himself as a result. Pray that the couples would learn to experience ONENESS and that all would see relationships healed and more peaceful.

7:56 **We are done**, but please stick around for a few minutes if you can and get to know someone better.

Record any significant comments, questions, prayer requests, or follow-up here:

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2.

3.

4.

5.

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