

## **Guidelines for LHM Men's NetWork Bible Studies**

Thank you for your interest in becoming an author of a **Men's NetWork** Bible study. What we are looking for may be different from studies you have prepared in the past. The study we are most interested in will speak to the hearts and lives of men, challenge their thinking, and lead them to bold expressions of their faith in word and action. Because this is our goal, we would ask you to consider the following guidelines as you prepare your study:

- Plan for a 4 to 6 session study.
- Most, if not all, studies will have two parts:
  - A video section—you or another leader on video.
  - A discussion guide.
- God is always the hero in the Bible and in our lives. Make sure your study contains both Law and Gospel and that it helps men see themselves as redeemed, freed people of God. It should plainly show God as the hero. How will Christ be presented in the study?
- Consider what response you intend to provoke. The study should have a clear “take home” value for the participants.
- You may choose to do all the video for a session first and then follow with discussion questions, or you may want to alternate between video and discussion during a session.
- Most of the content/input of the study should be in the video segments, so plan accordingly.
- We understand that your creative strength may lie more in writing than producing a video. We have a production team that will film and edit the video necessary to develop your Bible study.
- Casual dress on video is vital. Please don't plan to wear a tie or clerical collar. We want to establish a relaxed, informal atmosphere in our video presentations.
- Be creative with the visual content of the video. Think about the backdrop to the piece. Are there certain physical locations or visual settings you would like to use to make your point? We want to avoid a “talking head” look.
- Dream big. We are happy to take our video crew to interesting locations—a baseball stadium, a pool hall, a lake, your deck. Describe how you envision the study from a creative point of view.
- When selecting Scripture passages for your study—for either the video portion or the written portion—select larger sections of Scripture and avoid the temptation to make it a “proof-text Bible study.” Help men see God's Word in a larger context.

- Avoid jargon (Christian or secular). The writing style should be straightforward and clear.
- The discussion guide should be simple but profound:
  - o Avoid fill-in-the-blank answers.
  - o Avoid simplistic, factoid answers.
  - o Be clear as to what topics you hope the participants discuss.
  - o Design discussion questions to help men apply the Scriptural truths emphasized in the video to their lives. Conversation among users is paramount. Well-built questions demand thoughtful, honest answers and can add greatly to the take-away value of these studies for participants.
- Recognize that Lutheran Hour Ministries will be purchasing your work and will edit as needed. This also means you will not be free to use it outside the context of Lutheran Hour Ministries' **Men's NetWork** without our written permission.
- All submitted Bible studies are subject to doctrinal review.

You are an integral part of a program that we are praying will have a huge impact on our LCMS congregations and on the men in their churches and communities. Thank you again for your willingness to serve in this way. Please contact us with any questions you may have about the process. You may contact Bruce Wurdeman by phone at 314-317-4221 or by e-mail at [bruce.wurdeman@lhm.org](mailto:bruce.wurdeman@lhm.org). Our videographer is Troy Teuscher. He can be reached at 314-317-4151 or at [troy.teuscher@lhm.org](mailto:troy.teuscher@lhm.org).