

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 studies we are most interested in will speak to men, challenge their thinking, generate lively discussions and lead them to express their faith authentically in word and action.

Because this is our goal, we would ask you consider the following guidelines:

- Plan for a 4 to 6 session study.
- Studies will have two parts:
 - A video section—the purpose of the video is to introduce the topic and stimulate conversation.
 - The discussion guide.

Please note that each session should be able to be completed in about an hour. This includes the video and the discussion.

- While knowledge of the Bible is expected, don't be intimidated if you're not a Bible scholar.
- God is always the hero in the Bible and in our lives. Make sure your study contains both.
- Law and Gospel should be present, this will help guys see themselves as flawed, but at the same time 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 would like to achieve. What do you want the participants to be thinking about over the next few days?
- 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.
- Provide suggestions for 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.
- Suggest discussion questions to help men apply the Scriptural truths to their lives emphasized in the video. Conversation among users is paramount. Well-built questions demand thoughtful, honest answers and can add greatly to the takeaway 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.

The Process:

1. Submit a written script, PowerPoint or detailed outline for consideration. This should include an objective of sessions and key discussion points for each.
2. The **Men's NetWork** will review your submission.
3. If approved, a written agreement will be sent.
4. The written agreement will include descriptions of the work and timelines for deliverables and the financial terms.

Creative support:

The **Men NetWork** has editors, video producers, and videographers on staff tasked with bringing studies to life visually and textually. Please use your creativity but understand that there is "bench strength" to help with the creative process.

Thick Skin Required:

A well-written Bible study is not synonymous with a workable video script for the same. We wish it were but we know that it is not. Therefore we want to be honest and up front that the material is subject to edit, and the editing process can, at times, be trying for the author. It is the nature of the video production beast. The proverbial "cutting room floor" is a reality. The reasons for the edits are varied, including clarity, brevity, humor, integration with the visual treatment, doctrinal clarity, length, etc. Please understand that our goal is to present the material in a way that engages the viewer visually, intellectually, emotionally and theologically.

Our producers are good at helping presenters feel comfortable for on-camera work. That being said, not everyone is cut out for this. A screen test is required for all new presenters and the **Men's NetWork** has the final decision on a potential presenter's ability to communicate effectively on camera. Please don't be discouraged if your script is used, yet we feel another presenter would be more effective delivering the material.

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 the **Men's Network** by e-mail: mensnetwork@lhm.org.