

YES CHANGES EVERYTHING



Small Group Leader's Guide

GUIDELINES FOR YOUR SMALL GROUP OR CLASS DISCUSSIONS

As your group engages with the content of *Yes Changes Everything, Life Action* wants to offer a few options for going deeper, not just in terms of content, but also in terms of your experience together with God. However, it is first helpful to set appropriate expectations for healthy group engagement. Here are four we recommend discussing with your group members:



1. Trust matters.

We want to be able to discuss things openly and honestly—which means we need to be able to trust that stories, ideas, and prayer requests we share here should stay here. And, we cannot allow gossip to occur in our group.



2. Schedule matters.

We plan to keep to our time frame. Even though all of us may want to fellowship and continue talking after our meeting, we want to be sure we officially end in prayer at the stated time, so we all know we can count on a consistent schedule.



3. Listening matters.

We aren't here to fix each other's problems; we are here to care, pray, and learn together. Let's not assume we need to jump in and work out solutions to issues that are shared, unless such solutions are specifically requested.



4. Friendship matters.

We aren't just here to work through the book; we are here to grow our relationship with God and with each other. Let's intentionally take time to get to know other members in our group, care for them in an attentive way, and serve each other in the love of Jesus.

LEADING YOUR GROUP

Hopefully, everyone in your group has a copy of John and Donna Avant's book *Yes Changes Everything*. (If you need more copies, they are available from LifeAction.org or from popular online booksellers.) As people start to read the book, it will be your job as the leader to set the pace and frame the conversation.



PACE

The book has seven chapters, which likely means you could host up to eight group meetings (an introduction meeting, and then one after each chapter has been read). Determine when these will be, and offer specifics to your group. If you wish to move through the content faster, there is no harm done in that; it is certainly possible to assign multiple chapters for reading in preparation for a meeting.

CONVERSATION

To help you prepare for your conversation time, each chapter concludes with discussion and thought questions to prompt meaningful dialogue regarding the chapter. This is where your group can really come to life! We have also posted short, free videos that parallel the content of each chapter, which provide an excellent way to begin a group meeting. Not only do these videos feature the authors and review the core principles of each chapter, they also introduce additional stories and ideas beyond what is available in the book. These videos can be freely downloaded or streamed from LifeAction.org/Yes.



GROUP DYNAMICS

Every small group or class is different, and hopefully as you go you can adapt to a format that best fits your style and that of your church/group. Here is a sample layout for an evening small group that includes the elements of fellowship, learning, conversation, and prayer.

SMALL GROUP SCHEDULE

6:00 p.m.

Group members arrive at host home* with their potluck dinner items in hand.

(Involving dinner, or at least snacks, is a great way to create a joyful atmosphere. Some groups theme their food each night, or divide preparation responsibilities.)

7:00 p.m.

You call the group to order and open in prayer. Ask each person (who is willing) to share a one-minute personal update about their week.

7:15 p.m.

Show the video from LifeAction.org/Yes related to this past week's reading.

7:25 p.m.

Turn to the chapter of the book and ask, "Before we look at the discussion questions, does anyone want to note any particular points the authors made that meant something to you?"

Turn to the final page of the chapter and walk through whichever discussion questions you think would help your group learn and apply the content.

7:45 p.m.

Ask each group member to share one item for prayer in the week ahead. (Have someone take notes during this part.) Then, invite a few people to offer closing prayers that will mention these items, and also pray about personal obedience to the chapter content.

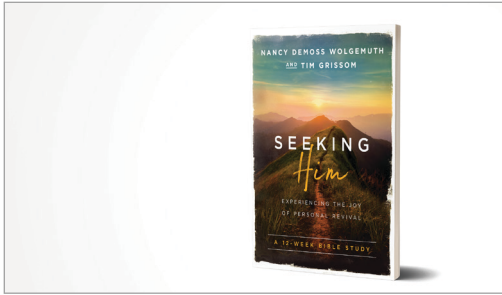
8:00 p.m.

Dismissal (and likely, more snacks!)

*The host may be you (the group leader), or it could be someone you invite to team up with you. This way you can focus on the teaching, and your teammate can focus on hospitality.

GOING FORWARD

Life Action Ministries offers a wide range of resources and experiences designed to inspire your next yes to God. This book is only the beginning! A few of the things our family of outreaches can offer you and your group:



ADDITIONAL BOOKS FOR SMALL GROUP USE

To take your group to the next level, we recommend *Seeking Him: Experiencing the Joy of Personal Revival*.



CHURCH EVENTS

Life Action can send a speaker or team to your church to help bring the “yes to God” message of revival and renewal to your whole congregation.



CAMP AND RETREATS

We offer camp ministries throughout the year near our southwest Michigan headquarters, and we offer conferences and events in various places across North America.



WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Life Action is in the same ministry family as *Revive Our Hearts*, a global women's ministry founded by Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth. There are many audio, digital, email, and print resources available at ReviveOurHearts.com.



PRAYER MINISTRIES

Life Action Ministries is also home to *OneCry: A Nationwide Call for Spiritual Awakening*, which offers networking and resources for those who wish to unite in prayer for spiritual renewal in America.

All of this and more is ready to discover at LifeAction.org!

A FREE BONUS FOR YOUR GROUP

You've finished *Yes Changes Everything* but wish it didn't have to end?

Take heart—our team has developed a special resource you can download today, free of charge! *The Kingdom-First Life* is a small group curriculum developed to help follow up *Life Action*'s local church events, but its content also serves as a perfect continuation to the study you've just completed.



You can download your free (reproducible) six-week study here: LifeAction.org/WhatsNext

This six-week study dives further into the mission Jesus calls us to live, beginning with this simple question: "I've said yes. Now what?"