WATCHMEN ON THE WALL LEADERS GUIDE

Thanks for leading this short course, Watchmen on the Wall. Although it is only two lessons, there is a lot of powerful content packed into each one!

We hope these guidelines will make your preparation more streamlined and organized, and maximize the experience for those taking the course. Feel free to adapt the material any way you wish.

Commit to praying for those who will be in your group, asking God to teach each one more about Himself, and more about seeking Him in prayer.

Meeting in Person

Suggestion: Have people do the reading, watch the video and spend time thinking about the discussion questions on their own prior to meeting as a group. This will help them to be well-prepared for discussion and prayer each week.

Meeting Online

- Here are some helpful tutorials if you would like to use Zoom as a tool to present any of the information in this course and to be sure everyone is instructed about how to take part.
 <u>Click for Zoom Tutorials</u>
- Be sure you or your church has an account that will allow you to meet longer than 40 minutes, as this is the maximum length of time allowed by free accounts.
- Be sure you have the email contact for all participants ahead of time to send Zoom invites, and so they can be connected with you if they have questions or comments about the course.

Suggestion: Have people do the reading, watch the video and spend time thinking about the discussion questions on their own prior to meeting as a group online. This will help them to be well-prepared for discussion and prayer each week.

PDFs:

Familiarize yourself with the PDFs that are available. This gives greater flexibility for you as a leader, as well as for those taking the course. Whether you are meeting in person or online, you should be able to help your group access the content however it works best for them.

- Lesson PDFs Lesson 1 and Lesson 2 have their own PDFs of the content with the exception of Supplemental Materials. You may want to print off a copy to use as a reference for leading.
- Discussion Question PDFs there is a PDF for the discussion questions in both Lesson 1 and Lesson 2 so that you can make hard copies available to people to write notes on during your group gatherings.
- Other PDFs you will see links to PDFs for various articles and blogs throughout both lessons. Please note that there are PDFs for the Spend Time in Prayer sections for both Lesson 1 and Lesson 2.

Planning the Lessons

• Read through each lesson ahead of time.

It will be important to familiarize yourself with all of the material available to you. For example, you may wish to incorporate one or more of the Supplemental Materials into the lesson depending upon time. Print off each Lesson if that will help you guide your meeting times. • Plan how participants will access content when you meet together.

Meeting in Person:

- 1. Suggest that people look at the questions and other content on their phone or iPad in order to participate in discussion, prayer time, etc.
- 2. Use a TV screen at church or in whatever home you are meeting in to project the content for everyone to see.
- 3. Be prepared in case someone asks you for a paper copy of any of the content. Ask them to let you know ahead of time.

Meeting by Zoom:

When you meet as a group on Zoom, there are a variety of ways people can join in to follow along with the material:

- Suggest people use a different device than what they are using for the Zoom call to access Discussion Questions, Spend Time in Prayer and Next Step materials, etc. For example, if they are on a computer for the call, they might use their phone or iPad to look at content.
- 2. Screen Sharing: share content on your own screen to show the Discussion Questions (we suggest you show the PDF for greater clarity) when you are ready to discuss the reading and videos for each lesson. Do the same thing for Spend Time in Prayer using the PDFs of the Prayer Guides for each lesson. Although you don't have PDFs, screen sharing is also a good way to talk about Next Steps and Supplemental Materials. If you don't know how to screen share, please refer to the Zoom Tutorials mentioned above.

• We recommend planning a minimum of 75-90 minutes for the group meeting portion of each Lesson.

Adapt to whatever works for your group, taking into account whatever time people want to spend fellowshipping together. Remember, unless you decide to structure things differently, each person will already have done the reading, watched the first video and spent time with the discussion questions. Hopefully most participants will come prepared to discuss and pray! Choose the discussion questions you most want to talk about in case you don't have enough time for all of them.

• Schedule plenty of time for prayer:

The **Spend Time in Prayer** section is a crucial part of each lesson and is designed to help people apply what they are learning. Our recommendation is to allow at least 20-30 minutes of your lesson time for prayer.

* Special note for Lesson 1:

This prayer time is in two sections: personal and group. If you have time, do both sections. If not, choose the group section and suggest they do the personal prayer time at home.

Here is one way to structure the group prayer time; however, feel free to be creative:

If meeting in person: have different people read each Scripture and allow the prayer points to guide your prayers as you pray corporately. You may wish to break into smaller groups of 2-4 if your group is large. Be sure to give people permission not to pray out loud if they are uncomfortable but encourage them to pray "in agreement" with others rather than just listen. It is good to stretch them and challenge them to try praying even short sentence prayers if they can. **If meeting by Zoom**: you can structure your time the same as above but obviously can't break people into smaller groups. Close each prayer time after a few minutes by saying, "Let's bring our prayers to a close." Then, go on to the next Scripture. Choose in advance which Scriptures you want to focus on if you don't have time to pray through them all.

- Give people permission to pray silently in agreement if they are uncomfortable praying out loud. Also, let them know you will not call on them to pray out loud. We have found, after years of experience in many churches, people will need to hear you say these things or they will be reluctant to participate.
- Next Steps, Supplemental Materials and Going Deeper Please allow 5-10 minutes to talk about and encourage people to do the Next Steps and to look through the Supplemental Material. Both will enhance what people are learning and experiencing about prayer individually and as a group.
- Remind people to do the reading, watch the video and spend time with the discussion questions prior to the next meeting.

QUESTIONS? We are here to help you! Simply click on "Contact" in the menu bar and either call or email us!

WE'D LOVE YOUR FEEDBACK! Please let us know what you thought of the course! If you, or anyone in the group, have any suggestions about how we can make the course better or more user friendly, please let us know! OR, if there is something you really liked, we'd love to know this also! Simply click on "Contact" in the menu bar and either call or email us! THANK YOU!

ONE MORE THING

Thanks for choosing to lead a group through Watchmen on the Wall. We pray that you and your group will be blessed!

Your church can sign up now to get all of the courses and resources on **PrayerU** for \$120 annually (that's only \$10 per month for unlimited usage). Check it out <u>HERE!</u>

Be sure to scroll down after you have finished Lesson 2 to get more information, and feel free to check out our home page and Menu to see FAQs, Benefits for Membership, etc.

"Prayer is sacrifice. Prayer always comes at the expense of something else and it requires great faith to believe that prayer is more important than productivity. The benefit of prayer is not easily measured which means we are prone to replace it with anything or everything else."

Tim Challies, in his review of **In Light of Eternity***, the biography of Leonard Ravenhill*