



ADULT SINGLES & MARRIEDS VIDEO TRACKS FOR SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES

You are going to have a great time working through the singles and couples studies in the RAM Series!! This page is designed to outline the basic steps for deciding what format best fits your ministry, and to explain the options for facilitating the video series with Discussion Guides. If you work with a team, then you will want to decide what steps you want team members to do on their own and what you want to do with your team all together. A suggestion is to have Steps 1-2 done by each team member and then have a team meeting to review and brainstorm how best to implement this series with your adults (Step 3).

1. Create accounts on the RAM Series Video Platform for Singles and the RAM Series Video Platform for Couples (see pdf DIRECTIONS FOR ACCESSING PLATFORMS in the CHURCH LEADERSHIP PLATFORM): You can review the six sessions of the study for singles and couples on these platforms. There are two formats of the video sessions: 1) Sessions in their entirety; 2) Session divided into segments.

2. Create an account on the Small Group Staff Platform (see pdf DIRECTIONS FOR ACCESSING PLATFORMS in the CHURCH LEADERSHIP PLATFORM): You can download and print the Couples and/or Singles Facilitator Notes (depending on which study you are leading, download and print the Facilitator Notes). Although these are NOT necessary to be used in a small group or home group settings (Format 1 below), they can be extremely helpful in the Formats 2 and 3. There are accompanying video Tutorials to these Facilitator Notes for both the singles and the couples studies.

3. Meet with your team to determine the format option best for your ministry:

FORMAT 1: Life Groups (usually in homes). The Singles and Couples video-based discussion groups are designed to be run in small groups with 10-16 members and with little involvement of a small group host (e.g. Life Groups). The videos set the stage for what the small group will discuss, and the Discussion Guides provide summaries of the content of the video sessions, the small group discussion questions for each session, and between session growth questions and activities. There are also sections for taking notes, prayer requests, how to maximize the benefits of the Discussion Guide, and small group rules/guidelines for small group hosts.

FORMAT 2: Life Groups with a more involved Facilitator/Teacher: There may be some small group hosts that want to have a more active role in facilitating this material. The Facilitator Notes for the Singles and Couples Studies can be used to give that small group facilitator suggestions and ideas on how to combine some teaching with the videos and small group discussion questions.

FORMAT 3: Large Group meetings with small group breakouts: The Facilitator Notes are primarily designed to equip a facilitator who leads a large group meeting with small group breakouts (e.g. youth groups; young adult and other single ministries; weekly evening 2-hour sessions for couples). This approach would combine a mix of facilitating large group discussion, viewing the video segments, facilitating small group discussion or activities, and teaching.

One type of large group may have the participants sitting in small groups (e.g. tables) so that both large group discussion/teaching and small group discussion can be seamless. An example is to



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have a weekly dinner for singles and couples in a fellowship hall. Then have the couples stay at the round tables and the singles go to another large area with table groups (or several large classrooms). The singles and couples view their video track (respectively) in a large setting with table-groups for the small group discussion. It is advisable to assign people to a specific table group for the entire series. This build comradery and accountability week to week as they engage in the discussion questions.

Typically, the video is watched in the large group in its entirety (not by segments). Therefore, the logistics of the facility may dictate the extent that the “host” facilitates the discussion questions and any teaching throughout the session. The lesson plans provide ideas for large group discussions, teachings, and activities that apply one or more questions, and can replace just discussing the question in their small groups.

Another large group/small breakout groups format is to begin all together for the first 15-20 minutes, then break out to small groups for the remaining hour. This is a common format for youth groups, college/career groups, and other larger group meetings. The Video Tutorial explains how to use the Singles Facilitator notes with a focus on applying them to this format. In this format, the video is watched in segments, with the first segment and the first few discussion questions from the Discussion Guide being facilitated in the large group, and then afterwards the remaining video segments and questions are discussed in the small groups. Each session concludes with all small group participants returning to their large group for a wrap-up.

Both formats require viewing the entire video session. As just explained, this can be in one of two ways. First, the facilitator can show the video segments as described in the Facilitator Notes. In the discussion question section of each lesson in the Discussion Guide, there are indications of where the session video segments occur (this matches the Facilitator Notes). The second approach is that the facilitator can show the video session in its entirety at the beginning of their meeting/class.

The discussion questions in the Discussion Guides are designed to move individuals or couples (respectively) into deeper and more meaningful conversations. They usually require 1 to 1.5 hours and, with the additional time for viewing the video session, a typical small group will need around 2 hours for each session. Therefore, any additional teaching or activities from the Facilitator Lesson Plans will usually require some of the discussion questions to be included or replaced (the Facilitator Lesson Plans explain how to do this) in the activity or teaching.

It may also be necessary in large group setting that you provide periodic time-checks for the small group breakouts in order to keep them on pace with discussing their questions.

Be sure to have those in groups bring and use their Discussion Guides. There are valuable between-session growth sections that you should encourage them to do. You can have a short amount of time at the beginning of each session for group members to share what they gained from doing the activities/questions in that growth section.