

LEADING A SEMINARY NOW LEARNING GROUP IN YOUR LOCAL CHURCH

We are so excited that you have decided to partner with your local church to lead a *Seminary Now* Learning Group. Seminary Now courses are perfect for group studies, and are a wonderful way to equip and resource people in your church to deepen their own discipleship, as well as help others to do the same. Here are three basic tips to help you and your church as you establish your Learning Groups:

- 1. Appoint a Facilitator for each group.** We have found that the most effective Learning Groups are led by someone who can take responsibility for keeping the group on track – making sure that participants are resourced and reminded to take responsibility for the learning experiences that these groups can provide. This person does not need to be able to teach the course material, but should be skilled in leading discussion and following a group structure for learning in community. This individual will need a Seminary Now Group Subscribers account (one of the logins included in your Church Subscription purchase).
- 2. Provide for a great learning experience for group members.** You will want to prepare the course videos for viewing each group session, provide a comfortable environment for learning together in community, and share the participant workbook (either electronically or print copies) with everyone attending. (Your group members are not required to have a Seminary Now account, though this would certainly add to their learning experience!)
- 3. Set a structure for your Learning Group meetings.** For the group to have a good experience, we recommend creating a structure for your times together and sticking to it. Most Learning Groups enjoy time together in weekly 60- to 90-minute gatherings.

The sequence of a great group study:

Begin (5–10 minutes)

Use the opening question (in course Leader Guide) to start a short discussion about your group's perspective on the topic. This is a great way to see where people are and help them to start thinking before the teaching begins.

Learn (10–20 minutes)

Watch the video session together. Encourage the group to take notes of things they find particularly interesting or helpful or write down questions they might have. If you want, you can have people use the Engage section of their workbook to keep notes and track the main ideas from each session.

Discuss (25–35 minutes)

After the session ends, work through the discussion questions together to continue learning and to make the content applicable in your setting. This is the place to work through questions and learn from one another.

Pray (5–10 minutes)

Conclude your time with prayer. Be sure to ask for prayer requests as the group prayerfully reflects on what they learned.

If you need any further assistance, please reach out to us at info@seminarynow.com.

We are here to serve you!