

EXPERIENCING GOD WEEKEND EVENTS

*Experiencing God Weekend
Your Church Experiencing God Together
Called and Accountable Weekend*

GENERAL PREPARATION GUIDE

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Foreword

God has initiated, and is deepening, a great hunger in the hearts of His people for a real, personal love-relationship with Himself. In the churches (leaders and members alike), is a longing to experience God. They long to know His love experientially, to know His voice practically, and to know and do His will thoroughly. Never have I seen so many people of all ages, and churches of all sizes, come to greater joy in their walk with God. It seems that God has placed His hand of blessing upon the study,

Experiencing God, Knowing and Doing the Will of God

which He privileged me to write along with Claude King in 1990. An **Experiencing God Weekend** was introduced in 1991 and God has used that event in many churches to prompt the members to complete the study simultaneously. Since then He has blessed greatly, in the same measure, an additional event and the accompanying study,

Your Church Experiencing God Together Weekend *Your Church Experiencing God – God's Plan To Touch Your World*

Our earnest prayer while writing each of these was that they would not be just "another study." We prayed (and enlisted others to pray) that this material would become an encounter with God who would change lives deeply. This has been the universal testimony of those who have used these studies as tools to know God.

Our continuing prayer is that "He (our Lord) must increase," and we must decrease. May God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit become an ever-increasing reality in your life and in your church. May the challenge of Jesus be real as you study.

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6 NIV

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. John 15:9-11 NIV

May our Lord be greatly honored and His people be greatly strengthened to the glory of God, as the people go on mission with Him in a needy world!

Henry Blackaby, President
Henry Blackaby Ministries
2 Corinthians 9:8

What Is An Experiencing God Weekend Event?

Background and Perspective

Experiencing God Weekend: In 1990 the Lord gave us one of the great tools that He has been using in our days to disciple and motivate His people. That tool was the study titled “*Experiencing God, Knowing and Doing the Will of God*” by Henry Blackaby and Claude King. Literally hundreds of thousands of Christians the world over are experiencing Him in a new way because they did this study more deeply than at the intellectual level. Many hundreds of churches have done the study as a corporate body. At this writing (late 2005) over 5 million copies have been sold in over 66 languages.

In 1991 those churches who wanted to do “*Experiencing God*” as a corporate body asked for a better way to introduce the study to the whole church body. In response, Texas Baptist Men developed the “**Experiencing God**” Weekend to fill this need. Since then hundreds of churches have held **Experiencing God** Weekends. Thus the first of the Experiencing God Weekend Events came about. In this weekend the church is introduced to some of the main concepts of the “*Experiencing God*” course through teaching sessions and testimonies of team members who have lived out the various realities of “*Experiencing God.*” The church members go deeper in small discussion groups on Friday and Saturday. On Saturday night members are given an opportunity to process and evaluate what the Lord has said to them during the weekend and to make a tangible response to Him. After the weekend the “*Experiencing God*” course is offered to the church.

Your Church Experiencing God Together Weekend: In 2003 many churches were very interested in further application of the study of *Experiencing God, Knowing and Doing the Will of God*. This resulted in the publication of *Your Church, Experiencing God Together* by Henry Blackaby and Mel Blackaby, which is a further application of the principles of *Experiencing God* to the body of believers. This immediately led to the development of the **Your Church Experiencing God Together Weekend**, which introduces the new material to the church much as the **Experiencing God Weekend** introduced that material.

Many churches that had a good experience with *Experiencing God* are now continuing the spiritual process and doing the **Experiencing God Together Weekend** as a corporate celebration of how God has designed His church to function. Great things are occurring in these churches.

Called and Accountable Weekend: In 2005 the book *Called and Accountable*, originally written by Henry Blackaby was revised by Henry and his son, Norman Blackaby. This book is a powerful resource tool which God can use to help us understand God’s call on our life. The study deals with (1) Why does God call us? (2) What is a call? (3) Who are the called? (4) How am I called? (5) When am I called? and (6) How do I live out the call? A weekend event to introduce this six-week study to the church will be offered to local churches beginning in 2006.

Experiencing God Weekend Events – Overall Content and Major Emphasis

1. ***Experiencing God Weekend:*** This event provides an overview of the seven realities of ***Experiencing God, Knowing and Doing the Will of God.*** The seven realities listed below will be covered in several sessions. God is always at work around you.
2. God pursues a continuing love relationship with you that is real and personal.
3. God invites you to become involved with Him in His work.
4. God speaks by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, circumstances and the church to reveal Himself, His purposes and His ways.
5. God's invitation for you to work with Him always leads you to a crisis of belief that requires faith and action.
6. You must make major adjustments in your life to join God in what He is doing.
7. You come to know God by experience as you obey Him and He accomplishes His work through you.

This Weekend is the *foundational* study that can lead to subsequent studies. The participants will be encouraged to undertake the 12-week study ***Experiencing God, Knowing and Doing the Will of God.*** Numerous resources are available to support this study, including video tapes.

Your Church Experiencing God Together Weekend – God's Plan to Touch Your World: This event provides a catalyst for a church to study the sequel to ***Experiencing God; Knowing and Doing The Will of God.*** During the ***Your Church Experiencing God Together Weekend*** the following truths will be explored:

Your Church in the Heart of God

- Believers are born into a spiritual family as children of God. God has no orphans, only family. Families support and nurture each other.
- Eternal life is based on a personal love relationship with God through His Son. His children are to love one another with the same kind of love.

Your Church as The Body of Christ

- God places His children in His Living Body on earth.
- Jesus builds His church. He is the Living Head of the Body.
- Christ directs the Body and instructs and motivated the Body to follow Him to complete everything the Father asks Him to do.

Your Church Empowered by The Holy Spirit

- The Holy Spirit empowers and enables a Church to function as a Living Body and together accomplish God's will and purposes.

Your Church On Mission With God

- God has a plan for every church to be "on mission with Him".
- God provides His power to complete His unique assignments.

An interactive workbook and videos support the eight week follow-up study.

Called and Accountable Weekend – Discovering Your Personal Place In God’s Eternal

Purpose: This event presents spiritual truth in a simple and understandable core message: We are called by God; chosen for God and are accountable to God. Weekend sessions consider these six questions and answers.

- Why does God call us? God calls individuals into a personal love relationship with Himself in order to use them to accomplish His eternal purposes.
- What is a call? The call of God is a life-transforming and ultimately world-changing experience with God. God’s call is always redemptive in nature.
- Who are the called? Every believer is called. There is no distinction between clergy and lay people.
- How am I called? God speaks through His Word to individuals committed to meet Him in the Scriptures and respond in obedience to His voice.
- When am I called? A call begins at personal salvation. Seeking after God will help identify God’s greater revelation for His specific call.
- How do I live out the call? God gives His Holy Spirit to thoroughly equip and enable believers to live out His call and accomplish His will.

The church is confronted with a fresh awareness that God’s call is universal to every believer and every believer is accountable to understand and respond to God’s call. A six-week interactive workbook with guidelines for group study is the key resource for the follow-up to this weekend.

Weekend Details and Format

All weekend events follow the same format and the same general schedule (see typical schedule in the appendix), with minor modifications to fit the weekend material. Each weekend event incorporates the overview teaching of the major points from the course material. The teaching material is supplemented with testimonies by visiting team members, and sometimes by the local church members. These testimonies demonstrate that the material is scripturally accurate and relevant and that the concepts and principles really work in real life.

Each event incorporates small discussion groups. This both reinforces the teaching and allows the local church members to share their experience and reaction to the truths that have been revealed during the course of the weekend. Appropriate material for children and youth is provided in most of the weekends. Most weekends are for the whole church family to participate in together. In many cases outside children and youth leaders can be invited in to help lead those age groups in that particular weekend.

As each weekend develops, a great sense of fellowship and commitment grow in many local church members. This comes to a climax usually on Sunday evening when the body of believers takes time for evaluation and testimony. Individual members share what God has revealed to them and what they individually believe God is now leading them to do as a result of the weekend.

There is no set sequence usually to the weekend events, although the “Experiencing God Weekend”, we believe, is foundational and sets the stage for the other type of weekends. It is important to remember that every type of weekend requires spiritual preparation on the part of the church and for key church leaders to lead out in the preparation of the weekend.

Before the church considers having any type of weekend the pastor and possible other spiritual leaders in the church should formulate a core spiritual resource group and read that particular book together and discuss it (or do the course based on the book) and then come together and decide if the church would benefit from that particular weekend event.

The core leaders that evaluated the material for the church would usually become the spiritual growth group for implementing the weekend if the church decides to have it. They often also become small group discussion leaders during the follow-up study.

There is no substitute for the lay leadership involvement in any type of weekend. The church staff should be totally involved in the planning, but the lay leadership are the ones that are key in implementing the weekend in any church. Lay leadership identification and development are often key byproducts of any weekend event.

Things a Church Should Consider When Evaluating the Possible Scheduling Of an Experiencing God Weekend Event

- Is there a need for God to revive and renew His people?
- Does the Church need a fresh encounter with God?
- Is the Church busy with religious activities rather than God-sized assignments from the Father?
- Is your Church Body doing things “for God” instead of God working through His Body to accomplish the things that He alone can do?
- Would you describe the Church as consciously “Knowing and doing the will of God”?
- Are the church members living out God’s call on their lives?
- Is your Church intentionally seeking to help members grow spiritually through transforming Word-centered studies?

Resources

The following resources are available for preparing and teaching **Experiencing God Weekend Events**. All resources are available from Blackaby Ministries International and proceeds help support Blackaby Ministries International. These are also available online at www.blackaby.org.

Blackaby Ministries International Resources (1-800-816-1165)

Experiencing God, Knowing and Doing the Will of God by Henry Blackaby and Claude V. King. Workbook: ISBN 0-8054-9954-7. Leader's Guide: ISBN 0-8054-9951-2. Videotapes ISBN 0-7673-2776-4

Your Church Experiencing God Together by Henry Blackaby and Mel Blackaby. Workbook: ISBN 0-6330-8818-8. Leader's Kit including videos: ISBN 0-6330-1856-2. Hardback: ISBN 0-8054-2481-4

Fresh Encounter Member's Book 1 by Henry Blackaby and Claude King: ISBN 0-8054-9920-2

Fresh Encounter Member's Book 2: ISBN 0-8054-9919-9

Called and Accountable (Revised Edition 2005) New Hope Publisher by Henry Blackaby and Norman Blackaby: ISBN 1-56309-946-2

Blackaby Ministries International (1-770-603-2900) Atlanta, Georgia office
Blackaby Ministries International (1-469-366-1492) Dallas, Texas office

Other special conferences are available on the following from Blackaby Ministries International:

Spiritual Leadership – by Henry and Richard Blackaby

Hearing God's Voice – by Henry and Richard Blackaby

The Man God Uses by Henry and Tom Blackaby

The Legacy Series – Abraham, Samuel, Joshua, Paul

What is the Spirit Saying to the Churches (hardcover) by Henry Blackaby. Published by Multnomah. ISBN 1-5905-2036-X.

Texas Baptist Men (1-214-828-5350 or www.baptistmen.org)

Don Miller Prayer Seminar “*A Walk With The Master*” – Excellent spiritual preparation for any weekend event. Designed to be taught by the pastor.

Texas Baptist Men and Blackaby Ministries International have trained coordinators who are available to help coordinate these weekends and conferences. Texas Baptist Men also are the contact for the Don Miller prayer material and can be contacted direct for weekends. (See contact phone numbers)

CHURCH PREPARATION GUIDE

There are three necessary elements in the preparation for a Weekend Event: (a) a foundation of **prayer**, (b) good physical and organizational **preparation**, and (c) **participation** by the local church members.

Prayer is critical. Without a foundation of prayer the weekend will not be all that God intends it to be. Spiritual preparation is the most important part of all the preparation for the weekend and prayer is the foundation for spiritual preparation.

“Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,” says the LORD Almighty.” Zech 4:6 NIV

The Don Miller prayer seminar, “*A Walk With the Master*” is a good tool to help prepare the church in this area. The seminar consists of 10 one-hour sessions in which Miller teaches about the prayer life of Christ. Included with the videotapes is a complete instruction manual with overhead cells that are used as Miller teaches through the video presentation. The instructor simply fills in the blank on the overhead cell as Miller teaches. The participants receive a workbook that corresponds to the overhead cells. They fill in the blanks as the sessions progress. The videotaped seminar may be obtained from Texas Baptist Men (214-828-5359) or from Baptist Bookstore Customer Service, 1-800-458-2772.

The church may also want to use a locally developed prayer guide prior to the weekend. Models are available covering periods from one week to 30 days. The Weekend Coordinator will usually have several to use as a model or to reproduce. The Pastor should challenge the church to use such a guide.

Preparation for the weekend involves several areas: **personal, pulpit, and physical**. **Personal preparation** comes from prayer, individual study, and from the pulpit. The booklet *What the Spirit is Saying to the Churches* by Henry Blackaby can be used for personal study or in small groups before the weekend.

For **pulpit preparation** the pastor should consider a series of sermons based on the material in *What the Spirit is Saying to the Churches* or related material from the 13-week *Experiencing God* study. *Hearing God's Voice* by Henry and Richard Blackaby also provides good material for pulpit preparation.

Physical preparation is very important, not because the Lord can't work without it, but because with it the weekend will be free of distractions and last-minute complications. Distractions will keep the participants from experiencing all that the Lord has for them during the weekend. We strongly encourage this to be a lay-led effort. We strongly discourage the church staff from doing what the Lord wants His body of lay people to do.

Participation by the people is essential. All the church family should be involved, from infants

to most senior citizens. Extra effort should be made to encourage maximum church participation. While this is not an outreach weekend, the people should be encouraged to bring visitors and guests. If the church has a mission, participation by the mission is usually beneficial.

The **Physical Preparation** for the Weekend Events centers around the work of nine preparation groups under the leadership of a Local Church Coordinator (a lay person or couple). The Local Coordinator is a member of the local church and is selected by the pastor and staff. The weekend is lay-led with the pastor and staff always serve in an advisory and support capacity.

The nine preparation groups are as follows:

- Group 1 - Prayer and Follow-up
- Group 2 - Welcome, Transportation, and Facilities
- Group 3 - Correspondence and Materials
- Group 4 - Attendance and Publicity
- Group 5 - Food
- Group 6 - Housing
- Group 7 - Youth
- Group 8 - Children
- Group 9 - Nursery

Responsibilities of each group are detailed on pages 12-17.

The Local Coordinator, with the guidance of the pastor and staff, prays and then selects the group leaders. The pastor should be particularly interested in the selection of the Prayer and Follow-up Group. The Pastor will be working closely with them to determine how to follow-up the weekend event and to develop and train small group leaders involved in follow-up.

Group leaders are responsible for recruiting their own group members. Sometimes the group will be very large; sometimes it may only have a few members. Each group should have an associate group leader in case the leader is unavailable. Each group is free to organize as it deems best to carry out its assignment. Sometimes this may result in the formation of subgroups. In general, the more people involved in preparation, the better. There is one note of caution: do not ask people to work in a group and then not give them anything to do. That is counterproductive.

Communication within each group and between groups is very important. This avoids confusion, duplication of effort, and any lapse due to inefficient planning. Things should be done as far in advance of the weekend as reasonable so that the weekend can be devoted to spiritual matters. If there is sufficient staff, the church may wish to assign a staff member to certain groups as a resource person. For example, the pastor would probably be a resource person to the Prayer and Follow-up Group.

Guidelines in this manual are generic in nature and are given for a typical church. Since each church is different, each local church should feel free to customize the guidelines. Do what works best in your local situation. In smaller churches combination of groups may be desirable.

Discuss any changes with your Weekend Coordinator for further help and suggestions.

Periodic meetings should be planned for all the groups to meet together for a time of prayer and to communicate and coordinate ideas and activities for the upcoming weekend.

The group approach in meetings introduces the group process used during and after the weekend to the preparation group members. Each group involved in the preparation should function as a “share and prayer group” as well as a committee carrying out their responsibilities.

Each group leader should meet with his group regularly. The pastor and Local Coordinator must meet with all the group leaders regularly. Four to six meetings are suggested; they need not be too long. A meeting format for each group meeting, and the group leaders’ meetings, could follow a generic schedule, allowing about one-fourth of the time for each area:

- Bible or inspirational study of material related to the weekend event.
- Sharing of expectations, concerns, needs, and victories.
- Reporting on progress, planning and making assignments based on weekend needs.
- Prayer for God’s guidance and for all the needs shared.

Sometimes the pastor may wish to lead the entire church through *What the Spirit is Saying to the Churches*. This is good spiritual preparation and we strongly recommend this. If so, the pastor’s teachings could be reviewed in group meetings. (It would be appropriate for the Pastor to develop a handout on personal applications of the material used.)

Sharing should focus on anticipation of the weekend, personal needs within the group, and on other concerns related to the weekend.

Prayer time should focus on the work assigned to the group, needs of the group, the presence of the Holy Spirit in the planning and preparation for the weekend, and personal burdens related to the weekend. The Weekend Coordinator will usually provide a weekend prayer list early in the preparation phase. Also, a list of unsaved people or inactive members should be made available to each preparation group. Prayer should include individuals on the list. Do not make this “around-the-circle prayers.” These prayer times should be times when people pray spontaneously and conversationally. (Explore *How To Develop A Powerful Prayer Life* and *Biblical Patterns For Powerful Church Prayer Meetings* by Dr. Gregory R. Frizzell, available from Henry Blackaby Ministries.)

Many significant spiritual experiences have come from these group meetings. Groups gain a vision that God’s Spirit will awaken the church to spiritual vitality and new life. Excitement about the weekend grows as the groups experience unity through sharing and seeing the answers to prayer about needs for housing, food, hosts, etc.

The Pastor's Role In Preparation

The pastor is the key leader in preparing and motivating the church to look forward to a significant work of the Lord in the life of the church and to the extension of that work into the community. (NB: This is a must for the Pastor.)

The pastor should be committed to following the overall spiritual process as outlined by the seven realities in *Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God*.

The pastor will select the Local Coordinator from the active membership of the church. Together they will select the nine Group Leaders. The pastor and other staff members should be very involved in making the major decisions that affect the Weekend Event. They need to communicate regularly with the group leaders to help make decisions and give support.

The pastor will prepare the church to receive what God desires for the church through his ministry of the Word, through his correspondence to the church, and through his obvious support and desire for God to work through the Weekend Event.

Pastor's Responsibilities

- Select and recruit the Local Coordinator.
- Advise and cooperate with the Local Coordinator in assuring that all preparation responsibilities are completed as planned and involve the church staff in preparations for the weekend.
- Prior to the weekend, devote time to teaching and preaching on spiritual renewal, incorporating the concepts from *Experiencing God*, the books *What the Spirit is Saying to the Churches* or *How God Speaks* by Henry and Richard Blackaby.
- Work closely with the Prayer and Follow-up Group to develop follow-up plans to the Weekend Event. This would normally include setting up leadership and small groups to study the full course relating to the Weekend Event.
- Provide motivation and leadership to the church for the follow-up study course or other plans.
- Plan other group study opportunities for those who cannot participate in the study related to the Weekend Event.
- Select Preparation Group Leaders to give short (three to five minute) testimonies in worship services for in the weeks prior to the weekend.

WEEKEND COORDINATOR'S ROLE

The Weekend Coordinator (visiting team leader) will be assigned to the church by Henry Blackaby Ministries or in some cases by the state convention office. He is responsible for equipping the church to prepare for the Weekend Event. He will usually meet with the church staff and key leaders about four months before the weekend. At this time a number of decisions will be made. These include the date of the Preview Weekend, the date of the Weekend Event

and how the church will prepare for the weekend. Options for follow-up to the weekend will also be discussed.

The Weekend Coordinator will conduct the Preview Weekend, which is usually about eight weeks before the weekend event. There are several options for conducting the Preview Weekend, which will be discussed later. The Weekend Coordinator will provide general guidance and training for the group leaders, church staff and other key leaders during the Preview Weekend.

The Weekend Team Coordinator is responsible for recruiting the visiting team for the Weekend Event and being a general consultant to the church on planning, organizing and conducting the Weekend Event. The Weekend Coordinator will serve as the overall leader for the weekend and will moderate all services during the weekend except the Sunday evening service. He will work closely with the Resource (teaching) Person on overall content of the weekend. In some cases the Weekend Coordinator may also fulfill the role of Resource Person.

RESOURCE TEACHERS ROLE

The Resource Person, who will be chosen by the Weekend Coordinator, will teach the material covered during the large group sessions. (In some cases the Weekend Coordinator may assume the role of the resource person or he may split the sessions between a team of teachers.) He will teach on Friday evening, Saturday morning, Saturday evening, during the Sunday School hour, and in the Sunday morning worship time. He will work closely with the Weekend Coordinator on the weekend schedule and content and is a key leader during the weekend.

LOCAL COORDINATOR'S ROLE

The primary responsibility of the Local Coordinator for the Weekend Event is to coordinate all the planning and preparation at the local level needed for a successful weekend. The Local Coordinator works closely with the pastor, other staff members and the nine preparation groups. He is the planning liaison between the weekend coordinator, the youth coordinator, and the children's coordinator.

This person should be deeply committed to the Lord and His church. The person should be an effective administrator and be able to lead others. The membership should know this person as one who easily recognizes the voice of God and follows His direction. Ideally this person should have completed the study course associated with the Weekend Event and participated in the Weekend Event at another church as a team member or observer.

The Local Coordinator is responsible, with the assistance of the Prayer and Follow-up Group leader, for conducting the Sunday evening praise and evaluation service. They will consult with the pastor on how the service is to be conducted. Usually the Local Coordinator moderates the service.

The Local Coordinator should introduce the group approach to the nine group leaders. He should have regular meetings with the group leaders and use the small-group format to help

them become comfortable using it in their group meetings.

This person is responsible for assuring good communication among the nine groups and between the groups, the staff, and the church body. Therefore, it is important that this person have good communication skills.

PREPARATION GROUPS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The nine groups and their respective responsibilities for the weekend are discussed below.

Group 1-Prayer and Follow-up

The Prayer and Follow-up Group has two primary responsibilities: (a) to saturate the Weekend in prayer and (b) to work with the pastor to assure that the church is ready to begin its follow-up plans immediately after the weekend. Unless the entire effort is based on a foundation of prayer, the results will be shallow and temporary. Unless the follow-up planning is completed and preparations are made to begin immediately after the weekend, much of the positive impact of the weekend may be lost.

Members of the Prayer and Follow-up Group should be people who can lead others by example to spend time in prayer, seeking a fresh breath of Holy Spirit in their lives and in the life of their church.

The prayer preparation for the weekend requires specific tasks that focus on giving prayer support to the Weekend Event. These are to:

1. Encourage the church to have a prayer seminar or event five to eight weeks before the weekend.
2. Encourage church-wide prayer groups and home prayer meetings before the weekend.
3. Develop a current prayer list with specific needs and burdens of the church family, unsaved people, etc., to share with the other preparation groups and with the church.
4. Encourage the church to use a Prayer Guide the week prior to the weekend. If necessary, develop a specific prayer guide addressing local church needs and concerns. Utilize any prayer preparation materials supplied by the Weekend Coordinator in these efforts.
5. Make plans for the 24-hour prayer vigil that takes place at the church on Thursday before the weekend begins on Friday. One hour prayer slots are suggested with more than one person involved in each time slot. Materials should be provided.

The follow-up preparations for the weekend require specific tasks in order to be ready to begin follow-up promptly after the weekend. These should include the following:

1. Pray with the pastor about how God wants to use this weekend in the local church and what type of follow-up that will entail.

2. Work out details with the pastor and determine what is needed for follow-up.
3. With the pastor's guidance and help, recruit and train any leadership that might be required.
4. Obtain any necessary materials that are needed for follow-up and have enough on hand to get started after the weekend. (Please consider ordering all follow-up materials through Henry Blackaby Ministries.)
5. If required, help the pastor and staff with organization of follow-up groups, cells, etc. This group will work with the Local Coordinator in preparing for and leading the Sunday evening praise and evaluation service.

Group 2-Welcome, Transportation, and Facilities

As the name implies, this group is responsible for greeting and welcoming everyone who is a part of the Weekend. The group is responsible for helping to blend the team and church members into a friendly, relaxed fellowship for the weekend.

The Welcome and Transportation Group will make arrangements to meet and transport any team members who arrive by plane or other public transportation. Most often, team members will arrive in their own cars. Sometimes members who share rides have different hosts and youth team members often do not have cars. Usually the host families can provide transportation to the church, but when this is not possible or an imposition, this group should provide transportation. The group should publicize a telephone number to call if transportation is needed by either a team member or a local church member. This number should also be on the bottom of the Weekend Event schedule that is provided to all church members.

This group should provide for welcoming and registration of arriving team members and a private room for the team to meet. If the church has the facilities, refreshments and a lounge area are helpful for team members who may arrive several hours early. Permanent name tags that will last throughout the weekend should be provided for the team members.

The group should provide registration tables for local membership arriving on Friday night, Saturday morning, and Saturday night. Name tags should be provided for each local church member, including youth and children. New name tags should be provided on Saturday morning and Saturday night.

This group is also responsible for making sure that all the required physical arrangements have been made for the meetings. The Resource Person may require a good overhead projector with an extra bulb and a very large screen (8 x 10-foot minimum) in the large group meeting room. Power Point facilities, if available, may also be requested.

Small group meeting rooms should be set up with a circle of about 10 chairs. The meeting rooms should be in convenient locations and logically and sequentially numbered. Signs directing people to the small group rooms should be prominently displayed. Children and Youth groups should have meeting areas separate from adults. Children's coordinators will often require some special equipment, such as a VCR and TV. The group should work with the Local Coordinator on specific needs during the weekend.

For many who will be attending the Weekend Event, a member from this group will be their first exposure to the weekend. A friendly, warm welcome will get the weekend off to a good start for everyone.

Group 3-Correspondence and Materials

The Correspondence and Materials Group will work with the church staff to prepare, duplicate, collate and mail the necessary correspondence items and materials required for the Weekend Event. The responsibilities involve the following:

1. Assist the pastor in preparation of the team invitation letters and other items required for inviting the prospective team members. The Weekend Coordinator will supply a list of prospective team members to invite. The invitation will come from the church.
2. Receive and compile the team member reply cards and advise the Housing Group and the Welcome and Transportation Group of the acceptances and requirements for the team members.
3. Duplicate and mail letters from the pastor and the Local Coordinator to the congregation about the weekend. The last mail-outs should include a schedule for the weekend and instructions about meals and children.
4. Print required materials for the weekend as requested by the Weekend Coordinator. Duplicate other materials as needed for the weekend by Youth Coordinator, Children's Coordinators and others.
5. Provide copies of *Team Member's Journal* and *Participant's Workbook* (if used) for the weekend. Also order the workbooks, and leader's guides needed for the studies that follow the weekend. It is often helpful to have materials available for purchase or distribution as members enroll at the praise service Sunday evening or at other times during the weekend. The pastor and Local Coordinator can provide guidance on quantities required.
6. About 10 days before the weekend mail a welcome letter to team members with directions to the church and a weekend schedule.
7. Assist the pastor in preparation and mailing of a "thank you" letter to the team members reporting the results of the weekend and expressing appreciation for their participation.

Group 4-Attendance and Publicity

The task of this group is to obtain maximum participation from the church membership during the Weekend Event. This group will be involved in encouraging every member of the church and every person on the current list of prospects to participate. Every member should be contacted several times through one or more of the following means:

- Letters from the pastor
- A letter from the Local Coordinator to the membership that includes a schedule for

- the weekend and instructions about meals and children
- Publicity in other church mail-outs, hand-outs and bulletins.

Note that the “You All Come” invitation will usually not result in good attendance. Much prayer and thought needs to be given to the best way to communicate with and motivate the church.

This group is responsible for providing the church membership with the maximum exposure to the upcoming Weekend. The goal is to make sure that the entire church family (adults, youth, and children) is encouraged to participate in the weekend. Other groups should be involved in personally inviting church members to the weekend. The upcoming Weekend should be kept constantly before the church with posters, banners, and reminders of all types. This group should be involved in creative design of publicity and other materials used in the weekend. Remember that this weekend is designed to bring glory to God and publicity should be conducted with that in mind.

Group 5-Food

The Food Group has the responsibility for coordinating and arranging all the meals provided at or by the church during the Weekend Event. Team members’ meals (six in all) are provided by the church during the weekend. These meals are provided either in the homes, at the church, or by other arrangements. The entire church membership is usually included in two or more of these meals. Local church families who invite team members to stay in their homes are responsible for meals not provided by the church. This is usually only two breakfast meals. Normally the food group would be responsible for the following meals:

- Friday evening meal for whole church
- Saturday morning coffee, juice, etc., before morning session
- Light lunch for whole church on Saturday (optional, but encouraged)
- Saturday evening meal for the whole church (optional, but encouraged)
- Light lunch on Sunday for departing team members

In some cases the church may choose to have meals catered and either have individuals share the cost or include the meals in the cost of the weekend.

The Food Group should expect to participate in each session of the Weekend Event. They should plan with this priority in mind. They should have informal meals, making maximum use of paper plates, cups, and napkins and disposable utensils. They should enlist sufficient help for quick cleanup so that everyone involved can go immediately to the large group sessions.

The Food Group should also make plans for the children’s meals. Parents should be instructed to bring food for infants. Children should eat all meals with their parents. Snacks and fruit drinks should be arranged for children during the day Saturday. This is very important for the children. Talk with the Children’s Coordinator on Friday if this has not already been discussed. Sometimes refreshments are also provided for children on Friday and Saturday nights.

Group 6-Housing

The Housing Group is responsible for providing housing for the visiting team members. Team members normally include couples alone, couples with children, youth, unmarried singles, and married without spouse. This group should meet as soon as possible and begin to pray for God's direction in the selection of homes in which the visiting team members are to stay. The Lord often works through the team members as they stay in the homes of local church members during the weekend. The Housing Group will want to pray earnestly about the houses chosen. Team members often stay in homes of the less active church members. A family keeping a team member in their home will be more likely to participate in the weekend themselves.

Adult couples and married adults without their spouses usually stay with families of the same marital status. Singles, where possible, are placed with singles. Youth don't have to stay with their parents. Place them with families that have youth. Younger children should, of course, stay with their parents. If housing assignments are known early enough, the host family should contact their guest before the weekend and give them contact names, phone numbers, etc.

An extra home or two should be available in case of illness in one of the local families or if some other unforeseen circumstance happens that makes it impossible for them to keep guests. The extra homes should also be available in case of some oversight in replying to the invitations.

Group 7-Youth

The Youth Group is made up of adults and youth who will be involved in the preparation and promotion phase of the Weekend Event. Adult group members should attend the adult sessions during the weekend, not the youth sessions. The Weekend Coordinator will recruit an experienced Youth Coordinator who will lead the activities for the youth all weekend, often with the help of visiting youth team members.

The Youth Group's responsibilities include involving young people in preparation for the weekend and encouraging young people to participate in the weekend. They should stress (if youth team members are invited) that other young people who are facing similar situations in their lives will be on the team. For some of the young people, this will be the first time they meet peers who are fully committed to Jesus. Encourage some of the local youth to request a team member to stay in their home. Special spiritual preparation should be included before the weekend to help them realize the weekend's importance.

Group 8-Children

The Weekend Event should be exciting for the participant's children. If the children are happy and satisfied, the parents will be encouraged to attend all the sessions. The Weekend Coordinator will enlist a Children's Coordinator to lead children in grades 1 through 6. Special material for the children is provided so they, too, will experience some of the basics of the weekend material. The Children's Group should obtain the name, address, and phone number of the Children's Coordinator from the Weekend Coordinator and establish direct contact as soon as possible. The Children's Coordinator will inform the group about needs for materials and equipment during the weekend. Most churches will find that the supplies that are normally in children's Sunday School departments are satisfactory for the weekend. Some photocopying and

a VCR and TV are usually required.

The discipline of the local children can sometimes be a problem for the visiting children's coordinator. Some children do not adjust well to new authority figures. If this becomes a problem, the visiting Children's Coordinator will request some local assistance from the parents of the children. The children's group should be prepared to help in any way necessary. Parents who know that their children may be a problem should speak to their children about the weekend and be available to assist the Children's Coordinator if required.

It is possible that a Children's Coordinator will not be available to work with the team on the weekend. In this event, the Weekend Coordinator will help the Children's Group prepare for the weekend and with arrangements for children's activities during the weekend.

Group 9-Nursery and Preschool

This group is responsible for providing child care for children below the first grade. Provision should be made for child care for all Weekend Event sessions. If possible workers for child care should be secured from outside sources. It is preferable not to use local church members. One objective is for all of the local church membership to be free to attend each session of the Weekend Event.

If the church has regular paid nursery workers, in many cases they will wish to care for the children during the weekend and this is also very satisfactory.

PREVIEW WEEKEND

A good way to introduce the church to the Weekend Event is through a Preview Weekend about eight weeks prior to the weekend event. This should be a time of inspiration, challenge, and dedication. It is not a substitute for the overall spiritual preparation that takes place later.

The Preview Weekend can follow one of two generic formats: (a) a six-hour spiritual preparation and training session on Saturday followed by the Weekend Coordinator speaking in the Sunday morning worship service or (b) the Weekend Coordinator speaking in the Sunday morning worship followed by a light lunch at church and several hours of training on Sunday afternoon. In either case, the objective is to begin the church preparation and to alert and inspire the local church members about the upcoming Weekend Event. Preparation and training of key church leaders is the most important objective of the weekend. Therefore the pastor, church staff and key weekend leadership and their spouses should be involved.

Regardless of which format is used, the Weekend Coordinator should be given some time in the pulpit on Sunday morning. There are two options for Sunday morning worship. The choice will depend on the Weekend Coordinator, the pastor, and the local church situation. One option is for the Weekend Coordinator to fill the pulpit on Sunday morning as a visiting speaker. He would usually give an overview of the weekend and his personal testimony. The other option is to allow him ten minutes or so to give a quick word of testimony and a challenge to the people about the upcoming Weekend Event.

The Weekend Coordinator will conduct the Preview Weekend training sessions regardless of which format is used. He may be accompanied by one or more lay people who can testify to the way that the Weekend Events and associated studies have changed their lives and the lives of many in their churches. This training session is for the Local Coordinator, Group Leaders, church staff and any other key church leaders such as deacons, Sunday School General Superintendent that the local pastor and church leaders deem appropriate. Spouses should accompany these leaders if possible.

A typical schedule for the first format is given below:

900 - 950	Visiting Team Meeting.
1000 - 1015	Opening Thoughts. Introduction of Visiting Team members.
1015 - 1030	Discussion about God's activity in the world and Weekend Events
by	
	Weekend Coordinator.
1030 - 1130	Time Alone With God. Each person spends an hour going through personal prayer and meditation materials.
1130 -1230	Small group share and prayer time led by visiting team members.
1230 - 130	Fellowship time. Covered dish meal or whatever church chooses.
130 - 200	Testimonies by visiting team members.
200 - 215	Quick discussion - "What Is God Saying To You?"
215 - 230	Coffee Break
230 - 430	Overview of Weekend. Discuss schedule, Group responsibilities and Preparation Guidelines. Question and Answer session.

This schedule may be shifted to start earlier or later, depending on local preferences.

The church should provide child care as necessary for the Preview Weekend.

Typical schedule for the second (Sunday only) format is given below.

Morning Worship Weekend Coordinator and/or one or more of the visiting lay people give their testimonies as part of the morning worship.

Noon Luncheon at church for staff, local leaders, etc.

1:00 p.m. Opening Remarks by pastor and Weekend Coordinator
Overview of the weekend.
Discussion of duties and responsibilities of each group.
Questions and answers.

4:00 p.m. Adjourn

Other schedules or options may be worked out with local leadership to fit local church situations.

Special Note:

In some churches that are very serious about spiritual development, it may be necessary to use another process in place of the Preview Weekend. There may exist in the local church an attitude of complacency or of “we’re just doing church” where a sort of spiritual lethargy or deadness has set in and there is little real spiritual motivation. In such situations the church’s real spiritual leaders have “settled in” and are, for the most part, functioning without the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. The book *Spiritual Leadership* by Henry and Richard Blackaby was written to deal with such situations from a biblical perspective.

Henry Blackaby Ministries has developed an effective way to teach this book and the truths involved to local church leaders. The book, along with the inexpensive Leader’s Kit, can be ordered from Henry Blackaby Ministries. Teaching this material can help create a new openness to God and to a weekend event. In some cases, a trained consultant from Henry Blackaby Ministries can come to the local church and lead the local leaders and others in an eight hour training session. If this would be a better option for your church, please contact Henry Blackaby Ministries for further help and information.

WEEKEND TEAM COORDINATOR'S GUIDE

The Weekend Event will require a team of small group leaders, a Resource Teacher, a Weekend Coordinator, a Youth Coordinator, and a Children's Coordinator. The small group leader's team size will depend on the needs of the local church. Every team member must have personally completed the study related to the Weekend Event and also the *Experiencing God* study. Each team member should be enthusiastic about the positive impact that the studies have had in their personal lives.

The Weekend Coordinator should carefully read this entire *Preparation Manual*. He should be familiar with the steps that the church will need to take before his initial visit with the church pastor and staff.

The Weekend Coordinator should have an exploratory meeting with the pastor and staff to clarify the motivation of the church and to discuss how they will follow up the weekend. After discussion and prayer, if the church decides to have a weekend event, a date should be agreed. This date would normally be about four months or more after the exploratory meeting.

The church calendar should be free of other major events for six weeks before the weekend. The church calendar should also be free for eight to twelve weeks after the weekend for the follow-up process. The pastor and staff should understand the importance of intensive prayer preparation. (Share information about "**A Walk With the Master**" by Don Miller. Brochures and materials are available from the Texas Baptist Men. 214-828-5100 or www.baptistmen.org). The date, time, and format of the Preview Weekend should be agreed. Enlist others to accompany you on the Preview Weekend to give testimonies about what God taught them through the weekend. Begin to fill in the dates on the planning calendar at the initial meeting.

The Weekend Coordinator should secure a Resource Teacher who can share from personal experience the truths that will be taught during the weekend. Henry Blackaby Ministries should be able to supply you with names of suitable Resource Teachers.

The Weekend Coordinator should compile a list of potential small group leader team members based on the size of the church. The state Baptist Men's organization and Henry Blackaby Ministries should be able to provide you with a list of potential team members. Other Weekend Coordinators may also be of help. Also churches that have completed the weekend event. The team should be composed of people who are actively practicing what they have learned from the study. The list must be submitted to the church in time for invitations to be mailed by the scheduled time, which is usually six to eight weeks before the weekend event.

Most coordinators will want to secure a music leader for the weekend. This person should be also be able to lead a small group and assist in other ways as needed. Occasionally a local church music leader is used to lead the music.

The Weekend Coordinator should secure an adequate number of Children's Coordinators.

Make sure that they understand that they will have children's activities during the teaching sessions. A Children's Coordinator section with teaching materials is included in each specific Weekend Event guide.

A Youth Coordinator is essential and is recruited by the Weekend Coordinator. He or she must understand the purpose of the Weekend Event and be able to lead the youth team and local youth in a meaningful weekend.

The Weekend Coordinator should study the specific Weekend Event generic schedule and the schedule in the manual for the specific weekend being conducted. He should make any necessary adjustments based on local church situation and needs.

The Weekend Coordinator should be sure to provide suitable instructions to the Correspondence and Materials Group to allow them ample time to prepare required materials before the weekend.

During the Weekend (Generic Schedule)

At the first team meeting, clarify the purpose of the Weekend Event. The weekend's purpose is stated in each specific Weekend Manual. In general, the purpose of each Weekend Event is to provide the local church and its members with a meaningful experience with God through an overview of the course specific to the Weekend Event. If team members have not already filled out a team information card, have them do so at the first team meeting. This will help you make testimony assignments. At each team meeting explain what material will be covered during that session. Give the Resource Teacher time to make comments about the material and any special emphasis for that session. Each team member should understand the objectives of each session so that the team will become unified in purpose and spirit.

At each team meeting, explain the schedule for the period until the next team meeting. Go over the team member's instructions for the session. Clarify any changes and give any special instructions that are necessary. If there are enough small group leaders, assign both a group leader and a prayer partner to work together for the coming session.

Suggest that small group leaders review the materials regarding the role of a small group leader in the *Team Member's Handbook*. If you have first-time leaders, highlight some of the major points at the team meeting.

Emphasize the importance of maintaining schedule during the weekend. Make sure that the team sets the example by being in the worship center ahead of time.

Allow time in each team meeting for prayer. This is usually best at the beginning of the meeting. Seek the Holy Spirit's leadership during each of the teaching sessions and small group times.

Determine which team members could give meaningful testimonies on each topic. Use

the team member information sheets for help. Pray for wisdom in these decisions. Team members may have a specific testimony that they would like to give. Remind those giving testimonies of the importance of being relevant, clear, and concise (five minutes per individual testimony).

Friday Evening

Remind the Local Coordinator (local church layperson) that the church family should begin the meal on time. He/she should start them moving to the worship center 10 minutes before the service begins. During the meal have the pastor or general chairperson announce the need for moving to the worship center 10 minutes before the time of service begins. Check to see how the team members will be matched with their hosts for the weekend. For a 7:00 PM start, the time might go something like this:

6:45 p.m. Move to worship center. Pass out *Participant Workbooks* (if used) as people enter. Have a time of singing or special music to help people move in and get prepared to begin.

6:55 p.m. Pastor gives welcome to the team and introduces the weekend.

7:00 p.m. Introduce self; briefly explain the weekend; Why are we here? What are we going to do? What will the weekend be like? Give an overview of the weekend schedule.

Have an opening prayer. Introduce the team; emphasize that you are all lay people; there are no spiritual giants among you; you want to share what God has and is doing among His people.

Introduce the resource teacher.

7:20 p. m. Team member testimonies

7:30 p.m. Dismiss the children at this time.

Resource teacher shares material.

8:15 p.m. Instructions and break for small groups. Numbering of people for small groups may be required.

9:15 p.m. Small groups reconvene in worship center. Report time or praise time. Make necessary announcements, pair team members with hosts and adjourn.

Saturday Morning

At the team meeting, have a feedback session and a time of prayer. Give an overview of the Saturday schedule. Emphasize the importance of being on time and the sequence of events during the day. Give the Resource Teacher an opportunity to discuss the teaching material with the team. Make assignments for the small group sessions and for testimonies in the morning teaching session. Remind the team of the next team meeting time. The generic schedule for the

morning is as follows:

- 9:00 a.m. Give *Participant Workbooks* (if used) to newcomers.
Have a very short praise/worship time or congregational music.
Remind children that they should be in their departments at this time.
Have an opening prayer.
- 9:10 a.m. Resource teacher leads session. Introduces testimonies at appropriate times.
- 10:15 a.m. Break. Usually just a comfort break. If light refreshments are served, it is almost impossible to limit the break to 15 minutes and the schedule must be adjusted accordingly.
- 10:30 a.m. Resource teacher leads teaching. Introducing testimonies at appropriate times.
- 11:30 a.m. Dismiss for small group time.
- 12:30 p.m. End of morning session. Lunch at church if provided or everyone is on their own.

Saturday Evening

At the team meeting have feedback session and prayer. Give an overview of the Saturday evening schedule. Discuss the closing and commitment opportunity. Discuss the commitment time and where to have it — at the altar or in the small group room. Give resource teacher time to discuss the teaching material with the team. Make assignments for the small groups. Remind team of meeting time on Sunday morning. Generic schedule is as follows:

- 6:45 p.m. Praise/worship time.
- 7:00 p.m. Introduction; thank food group for excellent meals, etc.
Lead in opening prayer.
Congregational music, special music, testimonies.
- 7:30 p.m. Dismiss children.

Resource teacher leads teaching. Introducing testimonies at appropriate times.
- 8:15 p.m. Break for small groups.
- 9:00 p.m. Small groups return to worship center for commitment time or close out in small group meeting rooms.

Adjourn.

Sunday Morning

All adults meet together for Sunday School as a large group in the worship center. All adults some assemble in the worship center. Ask the church to limit record taking to a head count and collection of offering envelopes **IN THE WORSHIP CENTER**. Children will meet as a group with the Children's Coordinator and should go directly to those groups. Youth will either meet with adults or meet as youth group, depending on Youth Coordinator's recommendation.

At the team meeting, have a short feedback session on the weekend as a whole and a time of prayer. Thank team members for their participation. Give an overview of the morning schedule. Emphasize the importance of keeping on time and making testimonies short, concise, and relevant in Sunday School. Discuss morning worship. Give the Resource Teacher an opportunity to discuss the teaching material with the team and outline how they want to handle Sunday School. Make assignments for testimonies in Sunday School. Announce lunch arrangements.

Sunday School

The objective during Sunday School is to build a bridge between those who attended the weekend and those who did not and to review the weekend material for the whole church in preparation for the morning worship service. Sunday School will often be led by both the Resource Teacher and the Weekend Coordinator.

The Weekend Coordinator, pastor or Local Coordinator should open Sunday School, welcome people, make announcements, take up offering envelopes and turn the meeting over to the Resource Teacher. The Resource Teacher will give a few of the key concepts from the weekend and emphasize them with very short, three minute testimonies from team members. The Resource Teacher may want to complete his part 15 minutes before Sunday School is over and turn the session over to the Weekend Coordinator. The Weekend Coordinator might then ask local church members (three in all) to give a brief testimony about what happened and what they learned Friday night, Saturday morning and Saturday night. He should then ask one church member to tell what difference the weekend will make on Monday. The Weekend Coordinator should conclude with appropriate encouraging comments, lead in prayer and dismiss Sunday School.

Worship Service

There are two main objectives in the worship service. The Resource Teacher or Weekend Coordinator will speak on the general theme of the Weekend Event and the people will be given the opportunity during the invitation to make a commitment to the Lord. As far as possible time restraints should be observed so that the invitation can begin about the usual time. The invitation itself should **not** be constrained by time. It should continue as long as the Lord is working in and among His people. If known, also announce the local church's plans to follow-up the weekend.

A commitment card (sample provided) is usually used at the invitation time. The card is

designed for individual use. Each individual is asked to complete the card and come forward and place it on the altar as a commitment to the Lord to do the suggested weekend follow-up. This also provides the Follow-up Group with the information needed to organize small groups, etc.

Sunday Evening Praise and Evaluation Service

The Sunday evening praise and evaluation service should be the only activity scheduled on the Sunday evening of the Weekend Event. All other church activities should be canceled for this one Sunday. We strongly suggest that the service start at 6:00 p.m. with NO predetermined closing time. The service will normally be opened by the pastor and then turned over to the Local Coordinator and/or the Prayer and Follow-up group leader. The pastor will consult with them about the format of the service. Usually the pastor will be asked to close this service at the Holy Spirit leads. If appropriate, an invitation may be given by the pastor.

The service usually starts with praise choruses, prayer, and welcome of guests by the pastor, along with an explanation that the service will not be the usual Sunday evening service. After necessary announcements, etc., the Local Coordinator gives his personal testimony of what God did in his life through the weekend. The local church members are then asked to share what the Lord taught them during the weekend. It should be stressed that testimonies be limited to three or four minutes and deal only with what the Lord has done during the weekend in individual lives. No preaching. This can be a very moving time and an attitude of respect and reverence needs to be assumed. As prayer requests are mentioned, stop and pray for them. Allow about one hour for the initial sharing time.

After about an hour, stand for praise songs. At this time, pass out the weekend evaluation forms. Take time to fill them out and collect them that evening. Then continue with the sharing time, which in some churches can last until 10 p.m. and later.

These services are often quite lengthy and the leader should be sensitive to the need of parents with small children, the elderly and others to leave as necessary. The leader should make it clear that it is all right to leave if one must, but that the service will continue until the Lord ends it.

Sometimes it is OK to close if the hour is late or if it is necessary to close at a specific time. If this is necessary, then arrangements could be made to continue on Wednesday evening or the following Sunday as appropriate for as long as the Lord wants to speak through His people. The Pastor and his staff should allow the sharing to continue as long as necessary and not bridle what God has started.

Have registration tables staffed before and after the praise service at which members can sign up for the follow-up study. Ask members to register for one of the groups. Have copies of any study materials available at the tables for purchase or distribution. Announce when first follow-up meeting will start.

During the Weekend Event the Weekend Coordinator should provide information and guidelines to the Local Coordinator and pastor on conducting the Sunday evening service.

As part of the follow-up process we strongly suggest that the local church let the follow-up groups meet as needed and wanted. Showing the weekly video to everyone on Sunday evening is a very effective way to make this a part of your worship experience. It also allows the Pastor to emphasize specific spiritual points to the church and keeps everyone focused on the material. Pastors are asked to seriously consider this option.

RESOURCE TEACHER'S GUIDE

The Resource Teacher is a key leader on the Weekend Event. This person must have personally completed the course related to the Weekend Event and should have led at least two small groups through the course. He should have also completed the *Experiencing God* course for all Weekend Events.

The Resource Teacher must be a person with broad experience and be able to teach with credibility. Personal illustrations from the work life of the Resource Teacher are a “must”, not only to provide a good learning experience, but also to document the relevance of the material in real life. Testimonies from Team Members will normally be used to add emphasis and application to the material taught, but they will not substitute for the personal examples of the Resource Teacher. The Resource Teacher must be able to both teach the material and make it very real and personal.

There is a great temptation to want to cover too much teaching material on a Weekend Event such as this. The Resource Teacher must keep in mind that this is not a “Mini-Course”, but rather only a smattering of important concepts and ideas from the course. The full material will be covered later. The specific weekend manuals organize the material to fit the time available. The *Weekend Participant's Workbook* and the *Team Member's Handbook* were developed to match the teaching materials. Therefore the Resource Teacher should stay close to the content of the specific weekend manual when teaching.

The use of overhead cells or Power Point usually enhances the presentation. Care should be given to make sure that the screen is large enough for the audience and that the projector is strong enough for the cells to be clear in both the day and the night sessions. It may be better to speak with minimal visual aids rather than have people frustrated and distracted trying to read illegible cells.

Sunday morning worship has not been outlined in detail. There is considerable latitude and the Resource Teacher should seek the Lord's guidance on how to present the material to the local church. In some cases the Weekend Coordinator may lead the Sunday morning worship rather than the Resource Teacher.

Finally, during many weekends the Lord will make it obvious that there are certain issues that need to be addressed in the local church. The Resource Teacher should be sensitive to this and very carefully add emphasis in the teaching sessions to address these local issues from a biblical perspective, being careful to stay within the context of the weekend material. Should the Lord so lead, Sunday morning worship is a very good time to specifically address these issues. It can not be stressed too much that the Lord's guidance and sensitivity to local circumstances and situations are absolute “musts” should the Resource Teacher decide to address local issues on Sunday morning.