



CHURCH BIBLE STUDY USE PLAN

The *Outlive Your Life Church Bible Study* use plan is a way to engage your entire congregation in an effort to change its community, country, and world with the message of Jesus. To fully experience *Outlive Your Life* in the context of your church, consider using the following components:

- A six-week study of Max Lucado's *Outlive Your Life Church Bible Study* for all adults in the church
- A six-week preaching series based on *Outlive Your Life*
- Bible studies in members' homes and other places throughout the community

THIS STUDY WILL:

- Provide the biblical framework, enabling people to seek real change in their communities. Adults will be empowered to see the commitment of God throughout Scripture to spiritual and physical change for the world.
- Motivate adults to engage real issues at work in the world today. The study provides tangible examples and challenges of ordinary people who have sought to spread the gospel in word and deed.
- Cast a vision for what can be done through the power of God. As adults move through the study, they will see everyday people bringing real change to the world. They will begin to see opportunities all around them to be involved in God's plan for the world.
- Help adults isolate what really matters in their lives. Adults will become aware of the immense resources at their disposal and be challenged to give of their resources for the sake of God's kingdom.

WHO

The material is written for adults who would consider thinking seriously about their potential to leave the world different than they found it. Among the groups who may choose to study this book are:

- Sunday School classes or Bible study groups
- Discipleship groups
- Women's or men's groups
- Deacons or lay leaders

WHERE

The material can be studied anywhere, at any time, and by anyone who chooses to study it. Those with the DVD can enhance the study at any place that has electricity and a DVD player. DVD sessions may also be downloaded from www.lifeway.com/downloads.

WHEN

You can study the *Outlive Your Life Church Bible Study* at any time an adult group wants to study it. Possibilities include:

- Sunday morning
- Sunday night
- A weekday or weekday evening
- A weekend retreat

The study can be conducted any time the calendar allows for six weeks in a row to complete the study. You may want to avoid planning the study around times that are already busy on the church calendar and in people's lives, such as the period from Thanksgiving to Christmas.

You may want to plan the six-week study to culminate in a special event such as a major outreach Sunday, the beginning of a new church year, the six weeks prior to Easter, or a revival.

HOW TO IMPLEMENT THE *OUTLIVE YOUR LIFE* CHURCH BIBLE STUDY

Following is a plan for implementing the *Outlive Your Life Church Bible Study*. It is not in any way meant to be prescriptive; rather, it's descriptive of the various components. Feel free to adapt the plan to one that best fits in your own church context.

FOR THE *OUTLIVE YOUR LIFE* CHURCH BIBLE STUDY, YOU WILL NEED:

Outlive Your Life Church Bible Study Kit

The *Outlive Your Life Church Bible Study Kit* contains a copy of the *Outlive Your Life* trade book; a copy of the *Outlive Your Life Workbook*; a DVD

with six weeks of teaching from Max Lucado; and an enhanced CD with various other tools. This kit is designed with the following characteristics:

- Open to anyone who wants to participate—Both Christians and seekers, church members and potential members, will participate together in these sessions.
- Leader as guide and facilitator—The leader guides and facilitates the learning experience instead of teaching the content. Members' contributions are an essential part of the study.
- Video-driven sessions—The video segment for each session features Max Lucado. The videos provide the framework for each week's study through engaging and challenging teaching on how to *Outlive Your Life*.

Outlive Your Life Church Resources

Preaching outlines for your corporate worship experience are available on the enhanced CD on the *Outlive Your Life Church Bible Study Kit*. These outlines will be most helpful if used in conjunction with the audio files from Max Lucado's original sermon series. You can purchase and download these original sermons at maxlucado.com. The outlines following are meant to cover the main points of the *Outlive Your Life* sermon series in order to help you organize your thoughts and modify the existing sermons to fit your own personality and needs of your congregation.

The material from the sermon outlines is designed to introduce the big idea for your congregation. These ideas are then greatly expanded in the *Outlive Your Life Workbook*. Using these outlines in conjunction with the other tools in this kit and workbook will allow your entire fellowship to go on this journey together. You can introduce the subject matter at the beginning of the week during your worship and have it expanded, discussed, and individually applied in small groups throughout the week.

These preaching outlines contain the biblical text, the big idea or major point of emphasis, and guiding preaching points for each sermon. You can listen to how Max Lucado implemented these outlines, along with his illustrations of each point, through the audio files of his sermons (available for purchase at maxlucado.com).

Drama scripts are also included on the enhanced CD in the *Outlive Your Life Church Bible Study Kit*. These six dramas coordinate thematically with each sermon and week of study in the workbook.

Also included on the enhanced are promotional tools including a bulletin template, promotional postcard template, customizable poster, and customizable presentation slide.

Outlive Your Life Workbooks

This workbook should be made available to everyone participating in the small-group discussion time of *Outlive Your Life*. Each workbook contains six weeks of study material, a discussion guide relating to the material each week, a discussion guide to review the material from the previous week, and a listening guide for Max Lucado's DVD teaching.

These workbooks are the means by which the principles of *Outlive Your Life* are most practically implemented among church members. The small-group experience is integral to pursuing the vision of *Outlive Your Life*, and therefore participation in this component of the study should be emphasized at regular intervals.

IMPLEMENTATION

Six–Eight Weeks Before

- Begin customizing sermon outlines to fit your church context and preaching style.
- Order necessary materials.
- Worship planning team begins to plan appropriate songs, videos, dramas, and so forth to fit with each week of the sermon series.

Four Weeks Before

- Begin promotion.
- Distribute materials to leaders.

Two Weeks Before

- Distribute workbooks/make available for purchase.
- Bible study leaders begin enlisting help from members to match their opportunities.
- Consider/decide on refreshments, greeters, attendance keepers, name tags, and so forth.

One Week Before

- Make final preparations for initial *Outlive Your Life* sermon.
- Pastor continues to announce/promote in service.
- Have worship bulletins/inserts printed.

After the Study

- *Outlive Your Life* Bible study groups have their concluding meeting.
- Determine next study steps in your church. The following are undated LifeWay studies that work well as a follow-up to this study:
 - *EKG: The Heartbeat of God* by Ken Hemphill
 - *Compelled by Love: A Journey to Missional Living* by Philip Nation with Ed Stetzer
 - *Eternal Impact: The Passion of Kingdom-Centered Communities* by Ken Hemphill
 - *Sent: Living the Missional Nature of the Church* by Ed Stetzer
 - *More to Life: Engaging Through Story* by Dennis Pethers
 - *On Mission with God: Living God's Purpose for His Glory* by Avery T. Willis, Jr. and Henry T. Blackaby.

You'll find information about all of these adult studies and many more at www.lifeway.com.