

ABOUT THIS STUDY



LIFE ON THE VINE

The materials in this study guide are designed to accomplish two things: (1) to enhance an individual's reading of the book, *Life On the Vine: Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit in Christian Community*, by Philip Kenneson, and (2) to provide a template for a group's study of the book. The content of the ten participant guides and the ten leader guides follow the sequence and outline of Kenneson's book. The learning approach for the group study is shared inquiry, that is, small group discussion. A meaningful study of the book needs no additional content beyond what is contained in the book or in the leader guide materials. The leader's primary task is to facilitate the group in its reflection and discussion of the assigned readings from Scripture and from *Life On the Vine*.

The Welcome Table

Another responsibility of the leader is to create a hospitable place for all who come to the study. The leader guide material for each session offers suggestions for setting a "welcome table" in the classroom. A low end table is sufficient. Its purpose is three-fold:

- (1) to provide a visual focus for learners, based on the topic of study,
- (2) to act as an informal altar, acknowledging the light of Christ's presence, and
- (3) to serve as a place of fellowship where the group will enjoy eating some kind of fruit together each week.

The Preparation Expectation

It is the expectation of this study guide that participants (as well as the leader) will come to the small group discussion having already read the assigned chapter in *Life On the Vine*, as well as the Scriptures suggested for daily reading. Because the questions included in the leader guide for each session are based on the book and the Bible, the leader should take time to preview with the group the participant guide assignment page (always page 3) for the next week, at the close of each session. The leader should also work through the questions listed in the leader guide pages prior to coming to the small group meeting; usually more questions are provided than can be covered in a sixty-minute time period.