

HOW DO I USE THE LIFE HURTS GOD HEALS MINISTRY KIT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE LIFE HURTS GOD HEALS CURRICULUM?

Glad you asked! Let's walk step by step through all this fun stuff! NOTE: You will also find on most documents an explanation of how to use each piece of this ministry kit as well.

Training Your LHGH Volunteers

- **LHGH Training Workshops** - This is a three-part training I use for Youth Workers who are interested in Life Hurts God Heals (LHGH) and want to find out how to use the curriculum, as well as how to build their own Life Hurts God Heals ministry in their church. I would recommend listening to the audio that we provide you with so that you get a sense of how I teach the material. Add your own jokes, illustrations, and personality, and you've got a full training that you can call your own! We've also included the leader and participant guides that we use, as well as the PowerPoint for each workshop.

Promotion of Life Hurts God Heals

- **LHGH Video Testimonies** - This was one of the first things I tackled because of the influx of questions regarding promotion. This video is your promotion. There are many ways you can use it, but here is what we did at Saddleback Church. We showed one testimony each week for three weeks prior to starting the Life Hurts God Heals small group. Once the Life Hurts God Heals class started, I would show a testimony periodically during the large group teaching time. I am a huge fan of using different tools to teach the same thing. This video can serve as a promotional piece for those *not yet involved* in LHGH and an encouragement piece for your students who *are already* involved in LHGH.
- **LHGH Parent Letter** - You may want to keep this letter handy at every event you have. At Saddleback, parents ask about the program they called, "God Hurts Life Heals", to which I politely corrected them and said, "Oh, you mean, Life Hurts God Heals." It was pretty funny. You may also want to place this letter on your Life Hurts God Heals table when students walk into the group on a weekly basis. It is just good to have handy.
- **LHGH Brochure** – We use this to explain what Life Hurts God Heals is, where it came from and how effective it can be.

What to use DURING your Life Hurts God Heals 13-week class

- **LHGH Parent Consent Form** – Basically, this gives minors permission from their legal guardian to take part in the Life Hurt God Heals 8-step study. Allow a week or two for these to come in while they participate in the group. This is not meant to be legalistic, but rather meant to bridge the gap between the parent(s) and the small group leader.
- **LHGH Leader's Calendar** – This provides your leaders with an understanding of what lesson to work on a specific date, at a specific time. It also let's them know when you will meet together as a team. You will notice that I met with our adult leaders once a month. These were short meetings, just to touch base, pray and answer any questions. I would also encourage you to have them over for dinner in the middle of this curriculum just to have fun! This program is very intense and your leaders will appreciate your encouragement (and a good meal)!

- **First Night of LHGH Small Groups and Me in a Snapshot** – We made these available so you know how we run our first night of Life Hurts God Heals. Basically, we have the large group teaching and then break off into small groups based on gender and grade. Then the leaders follow the instructions on the First Night of Small Group form. We also made plenty of copies of the Me in a Snapshot form for students to fill out and leaders to keep.
 - **WARNING:** the first night will be a bit nutty. You may run out of time and not get through all the students. Don't worry! You can continue the Me in a Snapshot the following week.
- **LHGH Sponsor Guidelines** - The Sponsor is something I realized was missing the first time I went through the curriculum. I found students were typically unable to get healing without daily help. Having a Sponsor, which is basically a built-in accountability partner, helps tremendously. However, *when* you choose to implement this is up to you. Here's how we did it at Saddleback. Around Lesson 3, during the large group teaching time, I promoted it and asked the small group leaders to follow up with their students. For some leaders, the sponsoring worked that week. For others, they began matching student sponsors in week 4. You will need to do this, but be sensitive to your leaders—they know their group better than you!
- **LHGH Welcome Sign** - I made two cardboard-like signs to go on the table when students walked into the room. It just made the room feel more official (which parents liked) and warm (which kids liked).
- **LHGH Postcards** - We gave these to our leaders to send to students. Obviously, follow up is important; just warn your leaders to write generically on these. They are postcards which parents may see! I basically wrote something to the effect of, *"Thanks for showing up to my group this past week. Hope to see you next week. Until then, I'm thinking of you and praying for you." P.S. Kick butt in your soccer game.* – Megan
- **LHGH 8-week Journal** – This is one more way a student can think through the 8-steps apart from the structured small group meeting. You can encourage students to do this devotional in the morning or when they go to bed. When they do it isn't important. The bigger question is, are they reading it daily and taking a few minutes to think through the questions? I encouraged students to use this every chance I got—in conversations, large group teaching, and small group time. This is really what helps them think through the step more than once a week. You will want to have extra copies of this on hand!
- **LHGH 8-Step Wallet Sized Card** – This simple wallet-sized card makes the 8-steps and surrender prayer handy for your adults and students. You may want to laminate them and have them handy at every meeting.
- **LHGH Graduation Certificate** – This is what you will give out to anyone who has completed the Life Hurts God Heals 8-step class. We made a big deal out of this. We had a party with food, music, and certificates. I asked a few students to share their experience in LHGH (and made sure it was good) ☺. Then, I asked each small group leader to write the names of their student(s) and present it to them. Students loved this and it serves as a great reminder of what they accomplished!
 - **WARNING #1:** Don't be legalistic about this. If a student missed a couple classes, it's okay. If they missed half, that's a different story.

- **WARNING #2:** If you started the group with 12 students and only 6 graduate, that's great! A 50% commitment rate is fairly typical for students. They will complete the steps when they are ready. Pray for them in the meantime!

Follow up after the 13-week, 8-step Life Hurts God Heals small group

- **LHGH 8-week Support Group Study** - This support group was written to answer the question, *"What do I do with my kids after LHGH?"* This 8-step support group should be student led, although it doesn't have to be. We recommend that if you have middle school students, that the groups be adult-led. This group study has a very specific step by step agenda—8-step follow up plan, time of discussion and accountability so students will begin to own the 8-steps on their own. You will simply need to make sure an adult has reserved a room for these students to meet. You may have one student from each support group touch base with the adult leader for LHGH.

I have no doubt God will do mighty things in the lives of your students and use YOU in the process. Life Hurts God Heals is being used to change lives. Thank you for having a heart for this. We walk together!

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