

## ***Beginnings* Presentation**

**NOTE:** This presentation is designed for persons with responsibilities in local churches or geographical ministries (i.e. districts, diocese) who are unfamiliar with the *Beginnings* series. Those who are responsible for the planning small groups in local churches will also find this information helpful.

The series is composed of three individual studies:

- *Beginnings: An Introduction to Christian Faith*
- *Beginnings: The Spiritual Life*
- *Beginnings: Longing to Belong.*

The *Beginnings* series was designed to be used both inside the church and for community outreach.

Before your presentation meeting we recommend ordering the planning kit which includes one copy of each of the resources for the *Beginnings* study you plan to offer or one for each study.

### **PRESENTATION USING THE PROMOTIONAL VIDEO (Less than 15 minutes)**

We all know people who are hungry for a walk with God. We call them seekers, inquirers, explorers. They're looking for a deeper level of meaning, and they aren't finding it in their work or their recreation, and they certainly aren't finding it by shopping.

The Christian faith can provide that meaning, but we don't always do a good job of telling people about it. Abingdon Press has published a series entitled *Beginnings*, which offers help in presenting the basics of Christian faith in a way that's comfortable and inviting. It's designed not only for people outside the church, but for those inside the church who are new or simply want to explore. *Beginnings* doesn't preach—instead, it gives people a place to talk, to discuss, to ask hard questions that don't have easy answers.

The *Beginnings* format is simple. Each week, group members come together to share a meal and view a thought-provoking video. There, in a relaxed setting, they explore some of the questions that are raised—in the video and in the optional companion readings.

The weekly sessions will take anywhere from 45 minutes to two hours a week. Some churches will host groups in their fellowship halls and then move to smaller rooms for the group time; other groups may meet in homes. Depending upon the number of participants and whether a meal or snack is provided, your time will fluctuate. In some settings churches have also chosen to offer *Beginnings* during an expanded Sunday school time or other Christian education programming times and have adjusted the schedule to fit their particular setting.

*Beginnings* includes materials for everyone involved in the planning and implementation for one of the studies or as part of an ongoing church-wide program.

The Director's Manual is the key organizational resource and includes: Scriptural foundation, specific instructions and tips for organization, training session outlines, suggestions and handouts for promoting your group(s) at church or in your community, and meal suggestions. Everything found in the Small-Group Leader's Guides is also included.

The Small-Group Leader's Guide includes everything a first-time leader or experienced leader would want to know about the study, session outlines, and tips on how to lead a small group.

For every person who takes part in *Beginnings*, there are Participant Guides and an optional Participant's Companion.

The Participant Guide is a small workbook with reflection questions and the group discussion questions for the upcoming weekly meeting. This resource will be helpful for people who are new to small groups and like a "no surprises" approach.

The optional Participant Companion is a book that is the foundation of and expands upon the video presentations. It is designed for further reading after the weekly session, for those who want to "read more about the subject."

Let's take a few minutes to look at a video describing the program.  
**[Show *Beginnings* [promotional video from here](#), visit [Beginnings.Cokesbury.com](http://Beginnings.Cokesbury.com), or from your DVD]**

If you'd like to learn more about *Beginnings*, please take some of the materials I've brought. There's a frequently asked questions handout or you can learn more about the series by visiting the website [Beginnings.Cokesbury.com](http://Beginnings.Cokesbury.com). You can order a planning kit for the study you are interested in offering or one of each study in the entire series. Each planning kit includes everything you need to offer *Beginnings* in your church or community.

There are lots of things competing for people's time and attention, but none as rewarding as a relationship with Jesus Christ. With the help of this exciting new series, *Beginnings*, your ministry can present a fresh perspective on the Christian faith.

**Questions and comments about *Beginnings* can be forwarded to Curric-U-Phone at 1-800-251-8591 or [curricuphone@cokebury.com](mailto:curricuphone@cokebury.com)**