



## The Beauty of Partnership Small Group Leader Guide

*The Beauty of Partnership* is designed for followers of Jesus Christ who want to learn how to be effective in facilitating healthy cross-cultural partnerships. You may certainly go through this learning journey by yourself, but it will be healthier, more joyful, more powerful if you do this study with others.

Here are the steps for leading a small group using *The Beauty of Partnership Study Guide*:

### A. Before your introductory meeting:

1. Get the study guides. Gather the appropriate number of copies of *The Beauty of Partnership Study Guide*—one for each participant. Books may be ordered from *The Beauty of Partnership* website, [beautyofpartnership.org](http://beautyofpartnership.org). Allow approximately one week for delivery in the Continental United States, more if otherwise.
2. Determine a “start date,” and where you will meet. Invite participants.
3. Optional: Download to your computer *The Beauty of Partnership Intro Video*. This can be shown from your computer using a digital projector or the means of your choice. Go to this website: <http://vimeo.com/album/229520>. (Note: All of the videos used in *The Beauty of Partnership* are available at this site for free download.)
4. Make copies of the second page of this document to give to each participant.

### B. At your introductory meeting:

1. Opening: After praying, ask each person to take two one or two minutes to share “*Why am I here?*”
2. Distribute books to each participant.
3. Give a copy of the second page of this document to each participant. Have everyone read it. Ask if there are any questions. Discuss your schedule for the study. Have each person write in the dates to which you agree you will meet for each set of lessons.
4. Watch *The Beauty of Partnership Intro Video*, accessed at: <http://vimeo.com/album/229520>
5. Explain how the study works:
  - a. Explain that each lesson series begins with an intro video (which you watch online) followed by a reflection of what you already know (see page 11). Then it moves to an inductive Bible study (page 12), followed by readings from the study guide, and some select activities (pages 13–16). Throughout, you are asked to write your reflections on what you are learning.
  - b. Explain how your summary statements written at the end of each lesson are combined at the end of the lesson series into an “executive summary” in the study guide. This also forms the basis of a prayer commitment following the “executive summary” (refer to page 17).

### C. At your “part 1” meeting—or your first meeting to review “Part 1: Servanthood”

1. Pray together.
2. Break into groups of 4 to 6.
3. Have each person turn to page 17, and review their personal “executive summary.” Ask: *What is the biggest thing you’ve learned from this lesson series?* Each one then shares accordingly.
4. Reconvene as a large group.
  - a. Close in prayer. Ask for people to read their personal “prayer of commitment” which follows the “executive summary” in their study guide.
  - b. Ask if anyone has any questions.
  - c. Remind people of next week’s study, time and place.
5. Repeat this process at your next meeting.



## What can we expect from being a part of *The Beauty of Partnership* study series?

*The Beauty of Partnership* as a “missional learning journey.” The goal is not just to gain new knowledge, but also to develop new skills and attitudes vital for healthy cross-cultural partnerships ... and to do this with others.

- There are six sets of learning lessons, two each for ... godly character, cultural intelligence, and organizational competence. See the diagram below.
- Some lessons can be done in as little as 20 minutes. Other lessons will require about an hour.
- Many lessons require reading. All of the readings are in the study guide, and you write short reflections in the study guide based on the reading. These lessons with the readings may require 45 minutes or more, depending on the speed at which you read the material and write your reflections.
- There are also some practices and activities that are part of each lesson series. For example, in the series on Listening, you are asked to listen to the story of a non-Western person or international student (see page 24), and practice *empathic listening*. (What is empathic listening? You’ll find out.)
- Plan for the study to take about 3 to 4 hours for each of the six sets of lessons. So if you do the study across a six-week period, think of 3 to 4 hours per week—for a total of 18 to 24 hours. If you are also gathering as a small group to learn together, the time for this small group meeting is in addition to that.
- In the space below (right), write the dates for when you will gather for the six sets of lessons.

