



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

11.05.09

Dear Friends,

Well, I'm off to Nicaragua for 12 days with an opportunity to preach in two churches and teach at three Bible colleges. I hope you'll pray for Cheryl and me – good health, energy for the travel and teaching, and closer relationships with our missionary Rigoberto Reyes and the pastors he shepherds.

While I'm gone, Val will be sending out the Life Group materials each week. I won't be writing a note while I'm away, but I hope you'll shepherd your Life Group members by encouraging them to be faithful in their church attendance and also participating in the many life-giving opportunities we have at this time of year – Operation Christmas Child, Thanksgiving dinners for the homeless, our Blessing Tree project, and our Christmas events and offering to come. We're looking to you for the spiritual leadership of your people.

This week's materials – the questions, the audio study helps, and the coaching tip – are included with this mailing. I hope you'll pay particular attention to the coaching tip this week and next. The focus is on how to guide the discussion in a firm but gentle way, so that everyone in your group gets a chance to share without one person dominating and bogging down your conversation. With this article, I've also included two great icebreakers you can try to see if they help get your discussions started.

Enjoy your meetings and your studies! I'm praying for great joy and fruit in your lives. Pray for us too. We'll be back in contact in two weeks.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Gary and Cheryl