

KEY OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Spiritual Advancement Program is to enrich the participant’s sense of peace and wellbeing through their faith. The general approach of the program is practical application of Biblical concepts to advance God’s desire to sanctify His people to progressively reflect inwardly the heart of His Son. The anticipated result of the program for those who authentically engage the study is that their life will feel more peaceful, more hopeful and have more interactive connection to God.

The Spiritual Advancement Small Group Study is a four part series that may be coordinated with the Spiritual Advancement sermon series. Each sermon and small group study will address a common theme each week. The small group study is comprised of home study materials and two videos to be shown when the small group convenes. The study leader’s responsibility is to organize the group, provide participants the study materials a week prior to when the small group convenes, play the videos for the group and lead discussion. There is an opening and closing video each week which provides an opportunity for discussion in between. The opening video is about 15 minutes in length and the concluding video is approximately 5 minutes in length. The time in between is for group discussion.

Each group study is designed to be flexible in terms of length. The videos will be approximately the same length of time each week. The time devoted to discussion between the opening and closing videos can range from 20 to 40 minutes or more, as determined by the time available and the leader’s discretion. The group leader is provided with study objectives and a list of questions intended to encourage conversation. The total class time can run from 45 minutes to as long as needed to fill available class time. The time break down for a typical meeting would be something like this:

Gathering of class and announcements	5 min.
Watch Video 1	15 min.
Class Discussion	20-40 min.
Watch Video 2	5 min.
Hand out the follow week’s material and dismiss	2 min.
Total Time	47-67 min.

The group leader should encourage the members of the study group to focus their group discussion and comments on their own experience with the information, any insights that apply to their life and ways the program impacts them personally. Members should be encouraged not to comment on another person’s experience with the program, attempt to advise others or solve any problems that may be brought up in the group.