Here are a couple items I have included in a small group leaders guide I am working on for the 1999 50 Day Spiritual Adventure Promises Worth Keeping: Resolving to Live What We Say We Believe.

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When Chuck Swindoll was pastor of First Evangelical Free Church in Fullerton, California he devised a list of seven questions he and his staff asked each other at their weekly staff meeting:

Have you been with a member of the opposite sex this past week that might be seen as compromising?

Have any of your financial dealings lacked integrity?

Have you exposed yourself to any sexually explicit material?

Have you spent adequate time in Bible study and prayer?

Have you given priority time to your family?

Have you fulfilled the mandate of your calling?

Have you just lied to me?

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So Blessed Are We

(tune: Finlandia)

So long ago God whispered in a garden,

It is not good for us to be alone.

We need companionship and affirmation.

Life can be hard, our hearts a heavy stone.

We long to be surrounded with compassion,

encouraged in the values that we own.

So steep, so difficult the trail we’re climbing.

At times we wonder if we can go on.

We slip and fall. At times we’re even bleeding.

Our journey can seem torturous and long.

But when we walk in step with one another

the darkest night becomes a hopeful dawn.

So let us be transparent with each other,

Confessing things we hope for, fear and need.

Without the insight that a friend can offer

We’re often blind to ego, lust and greed.

Temptation’s hold on us is strangely weakened

when, linked in prayer, we boldly intercede.

So blessed are we to be joined to each other

On this adventure that we share as one.

The curse of loneliness has now been broken.

The joy of heaven seems to have begun.

What God intended for His chosen offspring

We know firsthand through friendship with His Son.

by Greg Asimakoupoulos (copyright 1998)