

The E-Kit Video Seminar: Engage the Military in Your Midst

Facilitator's Guide



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Introduction

Welcome to Cru Military's E-Kit Video Seminar.

Whether you are located near a military base or nowhere near an obvious military presence, you can demonstrate the love of Christ to those who have sacrificed so much for you. This seminar will reveal the needs of the military community, address your concerns and help launch your ministry as you start where you are, use what you have and do what you can.

This free video seminar can be presented in a small group, Sunday School class, congregation or community-wide setting. Interaction with the contents of the video is crucial. What God calls you to do will be unique to your location, community culture, and all the resources you bring to the table. We are available to coach you, and we encourage you to connect with others with the same heart and passion.

The seminar is interactive. There are "Take Five" pauses throughout where you are asked to pause the video and conduct group discussion. The Take Five questions are listed in the seminar outline below. Review the seminar outline and plan for your group discussion.

Included in this guide is the outline for participants' notes, which you can duplicate for the group. More information and tools are available on the website. We will continue to add more content through the articles/blogs on the site. You can subscribe to the E-Kit blogs to receive the regular updates. We are also looking for your ideas and insights which you can submit online to further enrich the knowledge base.

Technical Details

If you run the video seminar straight through, allow at *least* two and a half hours for your event. Total actual run time is 90 minutes. Discussion breaks (at 5 minutes each) will take the remaining half hour, but we've seen discussions taking off (requiring the facilitator to rein them in). We suggest that you plan for an intermission after Part 1 of the "How" video.

Depending on the technology available, you have the following options for presenting the video:

- Run streaming video directly from the internet, www.crumilitary.org/e-kit
- Download the video to a computer for offline viewing. The video files total **xx** gigabytes. You will be asked to register before you can download the files, but there is no cost. The link for the download is at www.crumilitary.org/e-kit.
- Show the video using a DVD. If you need a DVD format, contact Cru Military to special request a disk copy of the seminar. The price covers the cost of the materials and shipping. Contact us for more information.

Seminar Content Overview

1. “WHY”

Montage of military men and women, spouses, veterans and families sharing their experiences and how others ministered to them, physically, mentally, and spiritually. This segment shows why there is a need and a reason to be involved with the military community – those who have given so much to us. (3 minutes)

2. “WHAT”

Teacher Jeff Struecker introduces the theme: Start where you are, Use what you have, Do what you can, and highlights what you, as believers in Jesus Christ, uniquely bring to the table... your faith in Christ. The video includes two “Take Five” breaks allowing you to pause the video and discuss what you have learned so far. Also included is the story of a wounded warrior, Gabe Garriga, and what one person did to help him find the truth of Christ. A clip from The JESUS Film® tells the story of what happened when one boy made his small resources available and Jesus multiplied them to meet the needs of over 5000 people. (18 minutes)

3. “CAUSE”

Dynamic presentation of facts and figures reveals the causes of the struggles and pain military men and women, veterans and their families and friends are experiencing. The needs are very real, very immediate and are not issues you should run away from but embrace with love, mercy and grace. The statistics in the video are available in the video transcripts (see website).(3 minutes)

“HOW” video set (Videos 4, 5, 6)

Jeff Presnal hosts three segments which begin with man-on-the-street questions from people like you. The answers come as he interviews our group of experts, who are active duty, retired, veterans, wives, wounded warriors and parents of warriors. Each segment ends with a wrap-up by Jeff and a “Take Five” opportunity to discuss your own response to the video.

4) **HOW, Part 1** – “How do I find military people or connect with them?” (9 minutes)

5) **HOW Part 2**- “I don’t know how to relate to them.”(33 minutes)



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The interview portion of the video has seven segments of unique issues.

- Did you know: You have a lot in common with the military community.
- Did you know: Service members and their families face unique challenges.
- Did you know: There are added challenges for National Guard and Reserve members.
- Did you know: The entire family is affected by military service.
- Did you know: There is hope for those who suffer from Combat Trauma and PTSD.
- Did you know: There are things you need to know when talking to military members.
- Did you know: Faith makes an eternal difference in the lives of those in the military community.

6) ***“HOW, Part 3”***- “What can I do to help?” (17 minutes)

In this segment viewers will be encouraged to identify possible areas of ministry for your area. “Cloud-seeding” suggestions for this brainstorming session are included at the end of the participants’ handouts.

7) ***“CONVERSATION WITH THE CLARKS AND PRESNALS”***

A conversation between Scott and Karen Clark, who helped start a community-based ministry to the military in Phoenix, AZ; and Jeff and Sandra Presnal, who launched a church-based ministry to the military in Houston, TX. This clip demonstrates how these two couples began to step out in faith to reach the military around them. (6 minutes)

8) ***“CALL TO ACTION”***

This final video summarizes the seminar and gives you “marching orders” to get started in the area of service where God has called you. The video includes with “If there was one thing I could tell you...” statements from many of the participants in the seminar. (4 ½ minutes)



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Facilitating the Video Seminar

General instructions

First, you need to know that you do not need to be an expert in this area before you can facilitate the seminar.

Second, we do recommend that you preview the videos before presenting it to a group. You should know what is coming. We've noticed that many participants raise questions or make comments addressing issues that are actually covered later in the video. If you know what is coming, then you can more easily control the discussion (e.g., *"That is a great comment! The seminar will address that issue later so we can discuss it further then."*).

As you preview the videos, make notes on your own copy of the Participant's Notes. You know your audience. There may be things that you will want to particularly emphasize.

Third, print sufficient copies of the Participant's Notes for your group. Consider if you would want to additionally print any of the other materials in the E-Kit Library.

Fourth, if the group is larger than 8-10 people, set up the space to facilitate discussion in smaller groups of 6-8.

Fifth, you may consider providing refreshments for your participants.

Specific Suggestions for Facilitating Each Video

The following suggestions will help you to maximize the usefulness of the seminar for your group.

Before launching the videos, give your participants an idea of what to expect, for instance: Explain the "Take Five" breaks. Assure them that there will be an intermission break. Encourage them to check out the website for additional information. Among other things, they will find FAQ's (Frequently Asked Questions), a Glossary of terms used in the videos, and the Video Credits with short bio's of the key people in the videos.

Throughout the videos the theme is *"Start where you are, use what you have and do what you can."* Encourage your participants to be aware of these elements. This theme is taken from the book *The Three Success Secrets of Shamgar*, authored by Dr. Jay Strack and Pat Williams, with Jim Denney, and is used by permission of Dr. Strack.

1) "Why" Video

This video sets the stage for the seminar. You may want to pause the series at the end of it to get impressions from 3 or 4 people on what they just watched. This will encourage people to actively watch the videos.



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2) “What” Video

Jeff Struecker has a lot to share in this video. Some people may feel like they need to write everything down. In such a case, remind them that the transcripts for the videos are available on the website.

The first “Take Five” break offers the questions: *What connection do you have with the military? What prompted you to participate in this seminar?* These questions will get the participants to connect with their own reasons for being at the seminar, and begin to think about “where they are” as they get started.

We’ve frequently seen that many people bring up their pet issue, “Did you think about...?” “Will they address...?” Encourage them to bring up their concerns or questions again at the end, if they were not addressed in the video.

The second “Take Five” break offers the question, “How has faith made a difference in your life?” We want the participants to consider the faith stories brought up in this video and to reflect on their own story.

You may want to direct the discussion to the unique role that the Body of Christ brings to addressing the needs of the military. What does the church have that no one else can offer?

3) “Cause” Video

This fast-paced video is intended to have more of an emotional impact, than to impart specific information. To forestall frustration that they didn’t have time to write it all down, you might want to tell them that the transcripts of the videos are on the website.

If you think it appropriate, ask for general impressions on this video before beginning the next one.

4) “How, Part One” Video

This video focuses on the most common question we are asked, “Where do I find military people to serve? How do I connect with them?” Our military friends are often baffled by these questions, not realizing that it can be and often is difficult to get an entrance into the military community.

Before beginning this video, encourage the participants to listen for ways others connected to these military people, and watch how those without military experience made a difference.

The “Take Five” break offers the questions, “What questions did you have coming into this seminar? What fears or concerns do you have about a ministry to the military in your area?” Your participants may find they have the same questions as our “man on the street” people did. You can use the questions they raise for future discussions and planning.



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Facilitating the Video Seminar, continued.

During the brainstorming part of the break, encourage your participants to dream up their own ideas. You could, as a group, use the suggestions in the back of the notes to “prime the pump,” but you don’t want these to stifle the new and creative ideas your group can generate.

FYI: The easiest way to connect is through those who already have connections: veterans and active-duty military personnel. Ask God to bring those key people.

INTERMISSION

(The next video is the longest — 33 minutes.)

5) “How, Part Two” Video

This video focuses on the issues: “I don’t know how to relate! I don’t understand them!” The seven segments in this section are listed in the Participant’s Notes.

The “Take Five” break offers the questions, “What experiences have you had where a veteran reacted unexpectedly to something you said or did? Why do you think just ‘showing up’ is so important to a veteran? What does it mean to really listen? And to listen without judgment?” Encourage your participants to put themselves in the shoes of our military experts.

You are missionaries to a new culture. What are the ways a missionary would approach the people of a culture foreign to him? How does that apply to ministry to the military?

6) “How, Part Three” Video

This video focuses on the question, “How can I serve the military?” Encourage your participants to watch for the ways others ministered to our military experts and take note of who those ‘others’ were.

The “Take Five” break offers the questions, “What are the ministries your church is known for? How might you use them in serving the military in your area? What practical things can you do for the servicemen and women you already know?” This discussion should lead to further work-sessions as you pray and plan for ministering to the military around you. The suggestions at the end of the Participant’s Notes should be just a starting point for you.

Why do you think prayer is such a critical factor in this ministry?

7) “Conversation with the Clarks and the Presnals” Video

The back-story: As we filmed the seminar material, we saw a great opportunity to have two of the couples, Scott and Karen Clark and Jeff and Sandra Presnal, share with one another what they did and learned as they stepped out in faith.

After this video, ask your participants, as a group, to list key elements they observed in the Clarks’ and Presnals’ stories.



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8) “Call to Action” Video

Jeff Struecker and Jeff Presnal pull all the pieces together and issue a challenge to identify specific action points. Encourage your participants to be make SMART commitments: Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic and Time-specific. What will their *next* step be?

Jeff Presnal reminds us that we should start where we are, use what we have and do what we can... *in the power of the Holy Spirit, leaving the results to God.*

Discuss this with your group. Why are these last two phrases particularly important?

Before you close the time together, set a time and date to meet again to begin praying and seeking the Lord’s direction for what He would have you do in your own community.



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Supporting Document List

These documents contain useful information for ministering to the military. They are on the website (www.crumilitary.org/e-kit) either as articles or in downloadable pdf format. We recommend you review these and consider if you would want to make any of them available to your participants.

1. Suggested Ministry Ideas — Many of these are included in the participants' notes, but additional ideas will be added to the online document.
2. What Others Are Doing — Many individuals and churches have shared what they have learned as they've launched ministries to the military. We will have a link to this on the E-Kit webpage.
3. Leader's Guide for *Combat Trauma Healing Manual* — This guide provides information about leading small groups, an overview of the book and suggestions for guiding and stimulating discussion in your small group.
4. Leader's Guide for *When War Comes Home* — This guide provides information about leading small groups, an overview of the book and suggestions for guiding and stimulating discussion in your small group.
5. What to Say; What Not to Say — This list of Do's and Don'ts comes from one of our military experts, Andi Westfall, and is based on her own experiences.

Note: You will need to download Acrobat Reader to open, read and print these documents. This free program is available at get.adobe.com/reader/



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