**The Prayer Cottage Journey Intro Retreat**

**Concept:**

A way to give a group of people a taste of intimacy with God, using the Prayer Cottage book, which has proved very effective in creating an on-ramp for The Journey. This has been tested in Latin American countries and soon to be tested in the U.S., but it has resulted in 80-90% of those participating signing up for The Journey. It was, at first, thought to be a way to introduce The Journey to pastors and their wives, but has since proven very effective for anyone.

**Format:**

Invite people to a one-day Retreat about “Intimacy with Christ” with very few details. Find a location with room to feed people, to gather people and where they can spread out to find privacy.

8:00-8:30 Breakfast (Feed the people well and make it very welcoming as you serve them.)

8:30-8:45 Praise and Worship

8:45-9:00 Do something fun, like Trivia questions or Riddles with door prizes for men and for women.

 Talk about the MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION- How’s their Soul? Then, explain the first part of the retreat is to simple read a book for the next 3 hours. Hand out copies of *The Prayer Cottage and the Sacred Garden* and instruct them to find a private place and just read the book. Pray for them and release them to come back for lunch at 12:00.

9:00-12:00 Reading of the Prayer Cottage.

12:00-1:00 Lunch

1:00-1:30 Re-gather the group.

 Do a few more Trivia/Riddle questions and prizes.

 Tell them they are now going to process and pray through what they just read, as you hand out the Prayer Retreat pages out of the Journey Manual for them to work through the various rooms in the book.

 Show the group “The Father’s Love Letter” video, which prepares them for the next part.

1:30-4:00 The participants work on the Prayer Retreat pages.

4:00-4:30 Re-gather everyone and put them in breakout groups of about 8-10 per group. Have leaders to facilitate each group. Have them share which room impacted them the most and why.

4:30-4:45 Have the participants write a “Letter from Papa” based on what they experienced with Him that afternoon. Set it up.

4:45-5:00 Have a few participants read their letters out loud.

5:00 Close the Retreat by explaining that we have given them just a taste of intimacy with the Father, but we have a full 9-month process called The Journey which will help them find this intimate relationship that God wants for them more fully. Pass around sign-up sheets

 Gather everyone in a circle and pray for them.