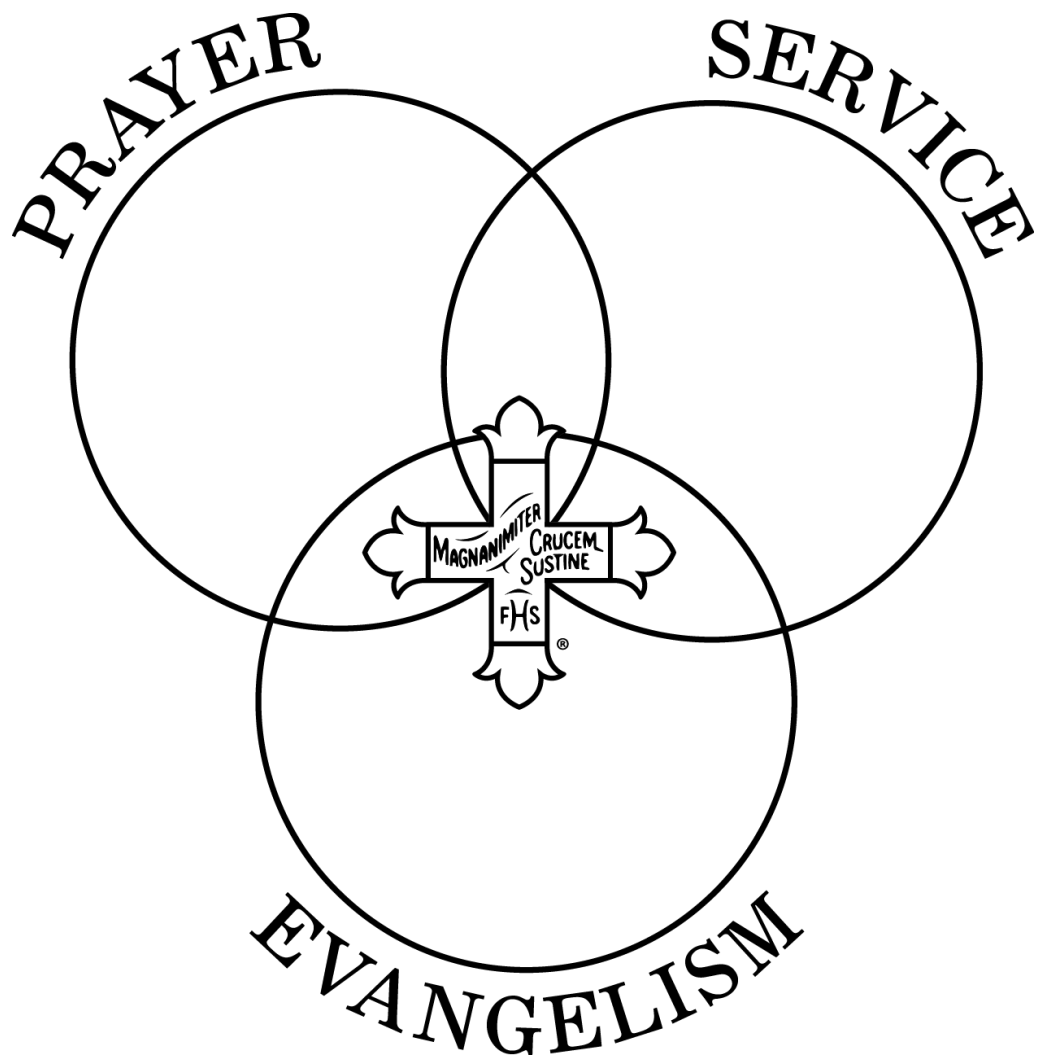


# Leader's Guide to the International Study Guide

Preparation for Admission to  
The Order of the Daughters of the King™



2022 Edition

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**Resources are taken from the Episcopal “Book of Common Prayer” (1979) for the purpose of standardization. Your denominational equivalents can be used as appropriate.**

# Foreword

This guide was designed to be used by the leader(s) of a discernment group in preparation for membership in The Order of the Daughters of the King™. It contains information about what is expected of you and the prospective members. It includes helpful teaching aids, a checklist for completing the study and application process, and various other forms of The Order. In addition to prospective members, the study may include Daughters who wish to review what it means to be a member prior to a Service of Rededication.

It is helpful to hold an information meeting to bring interested women together and invite them to sign up for the study. The meeting should give information about the Order, explain how becoming a Daughter will grow the members' prayer and spiritual life, and explain the study and time frame. If this is a new chapter, the role of the chapter in the parish should be explained. Examples from other chapters of their prayer, service, and evangelism may be helpful.

Please remember that all prospective members must be women communicants of the U.S. Episcopal Church, or of other churches in communion with it, or of churches with the Historic Episcopate (in the line of apostolic succession) but not in communion with it. The approval of the bishop must be obtained to introduce The Order in a diocese. Our Bylaws state, "Upon approval of the priest in charge, any woman communicant of a parish or mission who accepts the two Rules of The Order: the Rule of Prayer and the Rule of Service, shall be eligible for membership after a three-month preparation period of concentrated study, training, prayer and service."

The preparation period is a time for prospective members to discern their call to The Order. *Discern* means to understand, distinguish, or differentiate something. What is it that distinguishes The Order of the Daughters of the King from other Christian women's organizations? What makes us a unique community? This is what the preparation period is all about helping women understand what it means to be a member of our beloved Order and then finding out if God is calling them to make this commitment.

Encourage the prospective members to use these weeks as a time of reflection and discernment. Let it be an opportunity for growth in their commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ and in their awareness of how essential prayer and service are for the spread of Christ's kingdom. It is very important that they take the full three months to prepare for membership in The Order and learn:

1. Who we are
2. What we do
3. What is expected of us as members, and
4. Whether God is calling each of us to make this commitment.

The *International Study Guide* is designed to help women prayerfully discern a call to become a member of The Order of the Daughters of the King. It serves as the official preparation for prospective members, introduces The Order's Rule of Prayer and Rule of Service and establishes an understanding of The Order. Through the three-month preparation period, we hope prospective members prayerfully decide to become members of The Order and realize the importance of the commitment they are about to make. Most important, we hope it will develop and strengthen their relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Thank you for serving The Order in this special way and for your desire to lead women in a closer walk with our Lord Jesus. May He bless you and may this time of study bring you closer to our Lord.

*For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10*

# Overview of the Study

As a leader you are responsible for encouraging and guiding prospective members during this time of reflection and discernment. Seek to nurture their growth in commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ and help them learn how essential prayer and service are for the spread of Christ's kingdom.

Preparation for membership should provide not only information about The Order but also an opportunity for spiritual development and discernment. This is accomplished through personal quiet time with our Lord Jesus and through fellowship and sharing within the small group.

Be attentive to the prospective members' engagement with the discernment process. If they do not seem to be engaging faithfully, you may want to refer them to the chaplain or clergy for further spiritual direction.

## Recommended Sequence of Events for Study and Discernment

- Hold an information meeting at your church (see page 8).
- After the information meeting, set a date and time for the orientation meeting and invite interested women. (see page 8).
- ✚ Seek prayer support for potential candidates.
- ✚ Conduct the orientation meeting (see page 9).
  - Hand out all materials
  - Complete Class Registration form found in the appendix.
- ✚ Conduct Studies 1 – 10.
  - Review the leader's instructions on page 11 before each study.
  - Encourage questions. Use the study guide as a starting point for discussion. Provide an opportunity to share written answers.
  - Remind the participants that the group honors confidentiality.
  - Prospective members are expected to come to every session, do their homework, and participate. Facilitate the discussions to build trust within the group and enable each class member to participate in the discussions.
  - Do not allow individuals to dominate the discussions or lead the class away from the topic.

## Scheduling the Study Sessions

One study a week for 10 weeks is recommended; however, scheduling the sessions so that everyone can participate in each can be a challenge. Many chapters find it difficult to schedule 10 separate sessions over a three-month or even six-month period.

Another approach is to cover several studies during a weekend retreat. This has the advantage of building deeper trust and community among participants. Or you may choose to schedule more than one study per meeting. Be sure to schedule longer meetings so you have enough time for each study discussion.

You will also need to schedule make-up sessions for those individuals who were unable to attend a regularly scheduled class. It is important to note that any individual who misses several sessions may not be ready to make the kind of commitment it takes to become a Daughter.

No matter how the sessions are scheduled, it is important to allow the minimum three months of discernment so that prospective members can live into the practice of daily prayer and service before making the commitment to become a member of The Order.

## **Preparing for the Service of Admission**

Plan for the Service of Admission (and Institution, if this is a new chapter) at least one month before the end of the discernment period. Coordinate the date for the Service of Institution with the clergy, the chapter president, the national or diocesan president, and each new member. All services can be found in the *U.S. National Handbook* or in *A Daughter's Book of Services*, found on the U.S. national website ([www.doknational.org/resources](http://www.doknational.org/resources)).

### **Assembled and unassembled countries**

International Daughters are admitted to a chapter in either an assembled or an unassembled country. An assembled country has its own leadership and bylaws, and may have its own crosses. (Countries with only one diocese may be assembled when they have at least six chapters and countries with multiple dioceses must have at least three chapters in each.)

### **In an unassembled country**

For a new chapter the leader should fill in the International Charter Application (available from the International Chair) have it approved by the priest in charge, and email it to the U.S. National Office at [dok1885@doknational.org](mailto:dok1885@doknational.org). The date for the institution of the chapter should be arranged with the International Chair. If this is the first chapter in a country, the International Chair will arrange to present the charter or to send a representative. The Order will send the charter and crosses for the Daughters listed on the application. The charter should be blessed by the priest at the institution of the chapter.

If crosses are needed for new members in a current chapter, please send the total number and the new member names to the U.S. National Office at [dok1885@doknational.org](mailto:dok1885@doknational.org).

### **In an assembled country**

For a new chapter, work with the diocesan or national president to plan the Service of Admission, or Institution, at least one month before the end of the discernment period. Invite the president and the national chaplain and other chapter or diocesan presidents as appropriate. Enquire whether the president has crosses for the new members (Brazil, Haiti, and Malawi all provide their own crosses). If international crosses are needed in other assembled countries, the president will contact the U.S. National Office.

For new members in a current chapter contact the assembly president.

# PART ONE: TAKING THE FIRST STEP



*“Faith is taking the first  
step even when you can’t see  
the whole staircase.”  
Martin Luther King Jr.*

# Instructions

## The Information Meeting

As Daughters of the King, we take lifelong vows to pray, serve, and evangelize. This is a solemn commitment and one for which we need to discern whether God is calling us. Many women in the church know about Daughters but are not sure they are “suitable” to be one. Other women may have heard things about Daughters which are not true. It is important to arrange a time for enquiring women to ask their questions and to hear what becoming and living as a Daughter involves. A meeting also provides a time for members to give witness as to how becoming a Daughter has grown their spiritual life and how their prayer time is so precious.

Personal invitations are the best way to invite interested women to come but it can be publicized in whatever way is normal in your church. If the priest in charge can announce the meeting to the congregation, this adds weight to the importance of the meeting.

Although any introductory meeting is beneficial, a meeting where some refreshments are served is a good way to gather those who may be interested in becoming Daughters or just want to know more. Make sure to ask the chaplain and other Daughters. Select some members to speak about their experience and spiritual growth since becoming a Daughter. If this will be a new chapter, then invite some Daughters from a local chapter to help you.

During the meeting explain a little of the history of The Order and of the chapter. Showing the video “A Closer Walk with God” (found on the U.S. National website) will give a wonderful introduction to The Order. Give information on the study (for instance how many sessions it will be and an approximate timetable). Have a sign-up sheet for those interested where they can provide their contact information.

Begin and end the meeting in prayer, and during the meeting say the prayer and the motto of the Order. A short biblical teaching could be added, especially if the chapter chaplain is present. Above all, be excited about the spiritual growth that being a Daughter can bring.

## The Orientation Meeting

After several women have shown interest in The Order at an information meeting, an orientation meeting needs to be scheduled. Orientation is not considered part of the three months of discernment. It should be held at least one week prior to the start of the study.

At the orientation meeting you will need to explain what the discernment process is and what the expectations are. Invite current chapter members to the meeting and ask one or two of them to briefly share a little about themselves and their experience as a Daughter. If not previously viewed at the information meeting, show the video “A Closer Walk with God”, found on the U.S. National website. Try to keep the meeting to no more than an hour.

### Preparing for the Orientation Meeting

- ✠ Set a date for the orientation meeting.
- ✠ Invite prospective members and existing members.
- ✠ In a church with an existing chapter, the Daughters of that chapter and their chaplain should be invited to the orientation meeting to meet and greet the interested women.
- ✠ The chapter or church may want to provide some refreshments.

- † Have these materials on hand for each class member:
  - *The International Study Guide*
  - A suggestion for the Study Sessions Schedule
  - *The U.S. National Handbook and Bylaws of The Order* (optional)
  - A notebook or journal (optional)
  - A copy of *The Royal Cross* (optional)

### **Conducting the Orientation Meeting**

Please take the time to familiarize yourself with all the information you will be presenting during the orientation meeting to ensure that the meeting starts on time, runs smoothly, and ends on time.

- † Open and close the meeting with prayer.
- † Provide plenty of time for questions.
- † Invite prospective members to any upcoming Daughters activities such as service projects and assembly meetings.

### **Agenda for the Orientation Meeting:**

- † Open in prayer.
- † Introduce yourself, your chaplain, and the chapter president (if an existing chapter).
- † Have each prospective member introduce themselves.
- † Briefly explain what the discernment process is all about and what the expectations are.
- † Have two or three current Daughters briefly share what being a member of The Order has meant to them. If the video “A Closer Walk with God” was not played at the information meeting, this would be an appropriate time to play all or parts of it.
- † Allow a question-and-answer period for prospective members.
- † Distribute and explain the study materials.
- † Read and discuss Part One (Taking the First Step) of *The International Study Guide*.
- † Provide attendees with a copy of the Service of Preparation for Membership (or the service may be held at the first or second study at the leader’s discretion).
- † Fill out the Class Registration Form.
- † Give instructions for the homework assignment for Study One: What is a Christian?
- † Invite prayer requests.
- † Close in prayer.

**PART TWO:  
DAUGHTERS ON A JOURNEY**



*Your word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light to my path.  
Psalm 119:105*

# Instructions for Study

Pray for each member and for guidance as you prepare to lead each study.

Below is a format for study 1; it is also appropriate for successive studies. Of course, feel free to move as the Holy Spirit leads you. Please encourage full participation from all members of the study as this helps build community.

1. Open with the Prayer of the Order and the Collect for Guidance.
2. Conduct the Service of Preparation during session 1 or 2, if not held during the orientation meeting.
3. Ask if there are any questions from the previous session.
4. Review the current session's material.
5. Encourage questions and facilitate thoughtful discussion.
6. Go over the study questions giving each person a chance to respond to each question.
7. Discuss the next week's assignment.
8. Provide time for sharing.
9. Ask for prayer requests.
10. Close with corporate prayer and the motto.

**The themes of the following study chapters are listed below.**

**#2:** An order is different from other church organizations (see Appendix). Discuss what The Order of the Daughters of the King is, how we are structured, and who is called to The Order. The Service of Preparation may be held as part of this session if it did not yet take place during session 1.

**#3:** Understand the duties of a Christian and the responsibilities of a member of The Order of the Daughters of the King.

**#4:** Understand the Mission of The Order is "*The extension of Christ's Kingdom through prayer, service, and evangelism*" and the Great Commission. "*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.*" Matthew 28: 19-20

**#5:** Understand the purpose of the chapter, the purpose of chapter meetings, and how to develop the chapter as a spiritual community.

**#6:** Understand The Order's Rule of Prayer and the importance of study to undergird their prayer life. The brochure "Prayer Changes Me" may be helpful (see Appendix).

**#7:** Understand how evangelism is part of The Order's Rule of Service.

**#8:** Understand what a Rule of Life is and how to write one.

**#9:** Recognize the seven-fold gifts of the Spirit, use the spiritual gifts God gives you to His glory, and continuously cultivate the fruits of the Spirit as you grow in Christ.

**#10:** Become a member.

# Instructions for Close of Study

## Checklist for Completing the Study and Application Process

Please use the following checklist to complete the study and application process:

- ✦ Ensure that each new prospective member is comfortable with her decision to become a Daughter and is aware of the duties and responsibilities of membership. See Duties and Responsibilities of Membership in *The U.S. National Handbook and Bylaws*. (Please note that *International Chapters do not pay dues to the U.S. office. International chapters and/or assemblies may charge their own dues if they choose.*)
- ✦ Coordinate the date for the Service of Admission (or date for the Service of Institution if a new chapter) with the clergy, each new member, and the chapter president. If the chapter is the first in your country, the International Chair should be notified so that she, or her representative, can present the charter and crosses.
- ✦ If this is a new chapter in an unassembled country, complete the Application for an International Charter signed by the chapter president, chapter secretary, and clergy and send it to the U.S. National office.
- ✦ If this is a new chapter in an assembled country, follow the directions for applying for a charter provided by the national leaders of The Order in your country.
- ✦ Send a general invitation or announcement to chapters in your area.
- ✦ The International Committee would appreciate your comments about the study. Please send them to your country coordinator or the International Chair.

# Appendix

- † Additional Prayers
- † Additional Resources
- † Relating to Other Church Organizations for Women
- † Schedule of Study Sessions
- † Class Registration Form
- † Leader's Guide Evaluation Form

## Additional Prayers

### † Mother Teresa's Daily Prayer

Dear Jesus, help me to spread your fragrance everywhere I go. Flood my soul with your spirit and love. Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly that all my life may only be a radiance of yours. Shine through me and be so in me that every soul I come in contact with may feel your presence in my soul. Let them look up and see no longer me but only Jesus. Stay with me and then I shall begin to shine as you shine, so to shine as to be a light to others. Amen.

### † St. Therese of Lisieux – For Peace Within

May today there be peace within. May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be. May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith. May you use those gifts that you have received and pass on the love that has been given to you. May you be confident knowing you are a child of God. Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise, and love. It is there for each and every one of us.

## Additional Resources

- Prayer Changes Me
- The Order's website: [www.doknational.org](http://www.doknational.org).  
Under **Membership > Become A Member**, there is a great deal of information regarding the discernment process, our Rule of Life, and our cross.  
You will also find on the website the materials needed for the study including:

*The U.S. National Handbook and Bylaws of the Order*, and  
*The International Study Guide*.

These materials may be downloaded for free, or you may purchase them from the online store or with the National Order Form found on the website.

Also available for purchase is the "Senior DOK Information" brochure.

The promotional video "A Closer Walk with God" can be found on The Order's YouTube channel at [The Order of the Daughters of the King® - YouTube](#).

## Relating to Other Church Organizations

While all Christian women are called to follow Jesus, the way we do that differs according to our gifts and circumstances. Women across the Anglican Communion and other Christian denominations have formed many orders, guilds, and societies. Each group has a unique vision and mission.

Often a Daughter of the King finds she can best live out her faith and calling by being a member of more than one group. For example, the Mothers Union states that they “work towards stopping poverty, stopping inequality, and stopping injustice.” (<https://www.mothersunion.org/what-we-do>) Their mission statement reads, “We aim to show our Christian faith by helping the sustainable transformation of communities worldwide. We do this by helping to nurture strong relationships at all levels, promoting peace and reconciliation locally, nationally and globally” (<https://www.mothersunion.org/our-vision>).

Daughters of the King can say “Amen” to those purposes and seek peace, cooperation, and membership with the Mothers Union and other groups. Yet, The Order has a distinctive vision that puts spiritual life and relationships first: “Empowered by the Holy Spirit, our vision as Daughters of the King is to know Jesus Christ, to make Him known to others, and to become reflections of God’s love throughout the world.” The mission of the Daughters is “The extension of Christ’s Kingdom through Prayer, Service, and Evangelism” (<https://www.doknational.org>). As members of The *Order* of the Daughters of the King, we proclaim vows to God and each other, and enter into a life-long commitment to this mission.

In our relationships with other church groups, we remember that we are first of all Daughters of the King. Our lives, symbolized by the cross we wear, produce fruit for Christ’s kingdom as we joyously fulfill our vows to pray, serve, and evangelize.

# Schedule of Study Sessions



Leader's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Leader's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Study Session 1:** (date) \_\_\_\_\_ (time) \_\_\_\_\_

**Assignment for next session:** Read Study Two beginning on page \_\_\_\_ and answer questions on page \_\_\_\_

Make a note of any questions you may have regarding the study.

**Study Session 2:** (date) \_\_\_\_\_ (time) \_\_\_\_\_

**Assignment for next session:** Read Study Three beginning on page \_\_\_\_ and answer questions on page \_\_\_\_

**Study Session 3:** (date) \_\_\_\_\_ (time) \_\_\_\_\_

**Assignment for next session:** Read Study Four beginning on page \_\_\_\_ and answer questions on page \_\_\_\_

**Study Session 4:** (date) \_\_\_\_\_ (time) \_\_\_\_\_

**Assignment for next session:** Read Study Five beginning on page \_\_\_\_ and answer questions on page \_\_\_\_

**Study Session 5:** (date) \_\_\_\_\_ (time) \_\_\_\_\_

**Assignment for next session:** Read Study Six beginning on page \_\_\_\_ and answer questions on page \_\_\_\_

**Study Session 6:** (date) \_\_\_\_\_ (time) \_\_\_\_\_

**Assignment for next session:** Read Study Seven beginning on page \_\_\_\_ and answer questions on page \_\_\_\_

**Study Session 7:** (date) \_\_\_\_\_ (time) \_\_\_\_\_

**Assignment for next session:** Read Study Eight beginning on page \_\_\_\_ and answer questions on page \_\_\_\_

**Study Session 8:** (date) \_\_\_\_\_ (time) \_\_\_\_\_

**Assignment for next session:** Read Study Nine beginning on page \_\_\_\_ and answer questions on page \_\_\_\_

**Study Session 9:** (date) \_\_\_\_\_ (time) \_\_\_\_\_

**Assignment for next session:** Read Study Ten beginning on page \_\_\_\_ and answer questions on page \_\_\_\_



# Class Registration Form

Class Registration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of this Church? \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of this Church? \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of this Church? \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of this Church? \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of this Church? \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of this Church? \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of this Church? \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of this Church? \_\_\_\_\_

## International Study Guide Leader's Evaluation Form

Please complete this Evaluation Form as soon as you complete the-International Study Guide and send it to the U.S. National Office along with the evaluation forms from the members. Your feedback will help determine how effective the International Study Guide is in content and ease of use.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_

Church Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Name \_\_\_\_\_

Charter Number \_\_\_\_\_

Date Study Began \_\_\_\_\_ Date Study Completed \_\_\_\_\_

Number of prospective members who participated in the study program \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Sr. Daughters taking the study program as a review \_\_\_\_\_

Overall evaluation of the International Study Guide: (please circle one)

Excellent   Good   Fair   Poor

How would you rate the format? Excellent   Good   Fair   Poor

*(Please use additional sheets of paper if additional space is needed for comment)*

1. Suggestions for additional materials that would help you as the Study Guide Leader:
  
2. List additional material you would like included in the Study Guide:
  
3. Other suggestions or general comments you would like to share: