

LEADER GUIDE



KELLY MINTER

**The Story of the Church, the Power of the Gospel,
and the Mission That Continues Today**

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LEADER GUIDE



Welcome! Before you read any further, we want to say how thankful we are for you, the leader. Thank you for your willingness to dive into Scripture, brew the coffee, place the chairs, and set aside the time regularly to meet with other women.

Acts: The Story of the Church, the Power of the Gospel, and the Mission That Continues Today is an 8-session video- and discussion-based Bible study from Kelly Minter. The teaching videos were filmed in front of a live audience at Rolling Hills Community Church in Franklin, Tennessee.

Our goal is for this leader guide to help you feel equipped to facilitate and guide your Bible study group gatherings in a way that fosters deep conversation, in depth study, and intentional times of prayer. In this leader guide you'll find suggested schedules for the standard 8-week study and an expanded 16-week study option.

We want to encourage you to use this study however it works best for you and your group. If you want to follow this leader guide to the letter, do that! If you want to do your own thing, feel free! Our aim is to give you all the tools you might need, but we are certain God has ordained your time with your specific group in your specific setting.

We are grateful for you and praying for you as you lead this study.

Lifeway Women

8-WEEK STUDY

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE #1

8 Group Meetings • Meeting Length: 1–1.5 hours

This schedule accounts for eight weeks of group meetings, completing one session of the study per week. With this schedule, groups may choose to watch the videos together or on their own, depending on how much time is intended for fellowship and discussion.

SESSION ONE—INTRODUCTION

Distribute Bible study books, get to know one another, and watch the Session One video.

SESSION TWO—THE CHURCH IS BORN (ACTS 1–4)

Watch the Session Two video and discuss the Session Two personal Bible study.

SESSION THREE—THE CHURCH ON THE MOVE (ACTS 5–8)

Watch the Session Three video and discuss the Session Three personal Bible study.

SESSION FOUR—THE CALL OF THE APOSTLE PAUL (ACTS 9–12)

Watch the Session Four video and discuss the Session Four personal Bible study.

SESSION FIVE—PAUL'S FIRST MISSION (ACTS 13–16)

Watch the Session Five video and discuss the Session Five personal Bible study.

SESSION SIX—THE GOSPEL GOES WEST (ACTS 17–20)

Watch the Session Six video and discuss the Session Six personal Bible study.

SESSION SEVEN—A FAITH TESTED (ACTS 21–24)

Watch the Session Seven video and discuss the Session Seven personal Bible study.

SESSION EIGHT—TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH (25–28)

Watch the Session Eight video and discuss the Session Eight personal Bible study.

16-WEEK STUDY

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE #2

16 Group Meetings • Meeting Length: 1–1.5 hours

This schedule accounts for sixteen weeks of group meetings. Groups will take two weeks to cover a single session of the study. With this schedule, we recommend covering Days 1–3 one week and then Days 4–5 plus the video the next week.

WEEK 1

Distribute Bible study books, get to know one another, and discuss the questions provided. Then, watch the Session One video.

WEEK 2

Discuss the Session Two personal Bible study, Days 1–3.

WEEK 3

Continue discussing the Session Two personal Bible study, Days 4–5, and watch and discuss the Session Two video.

WEEK 4

Discuss the Session Three personal Bible study, Days 1–3.

WEEK 5

Continue discussing the Session Three personal Bible study, Days 4–5, and watch and discuss the Session Three video.

WEEK 6

Discuss the Session Four personal Bible study, Days 1–3.

WEEK 7

Continue discussing the Session Four personal Bible study, Days 4–5, and watch and discuss the Session Four video.

WEEK 8

Discuss the Session Five personal Bible study, Days 1–3.

WEEK 9

Continue discussing the Session Five personal Bible study, Days 4–5, and watch and discuss the Session Five video.

WEEK 10

Discuss the Session Six personal Bible study, Days 1–3.

WEEK 11

Continue discussing the Session Six personal Bible study, Days 4–5, and watch and discuss the Session Six video.

WEEK 12

Discuss the Session Seven personal Bible study, Days 1–3.

WEEK 13

Continue discussing the Session Seven personal Bible study, Days 4–5, and watch and discuss the Session Seven video.

WEEK 14

Discuss the Session Eight personal Bible study, Days 1–3.

WEEK 15

Continue discussing the Session Eight personal Bible study, Days 4–5, and watch and discuss the Session Eight video.

WEEK 16

Wrap-up and celebration day!

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS

Does your number of group meetings fall somewhere in between 8 and 16 weeks? Here are a couple of other options to consider:

ADD IN WEEKS FOR REVIEW. Complete two or three weeks of the Bible study on a normal schedule and then add in a week for review and catch up. This helps to reinforce the content they've learned or gives the learners extra time to complete some of the personal study they've missed. Think of it as including a mid-term exam or little reviews along the way.

BUILD IN WEEKS FOR PRAYER AND FELLOWSHIP. This is much like adding in review weeks except the group spends additional time in prayer and an extra activity to help the group to get to know one another better. You might invite women in advance on these weeks to share a testimony or enlist someone to lead in a time of worship.



HOW TO STRUCTURE YOUR GROUP TIME

Each group session contains the following elements. We've included a suggested amount of time based on a 1.5 hour group meeting. Adjust as you need to for the time you have together!

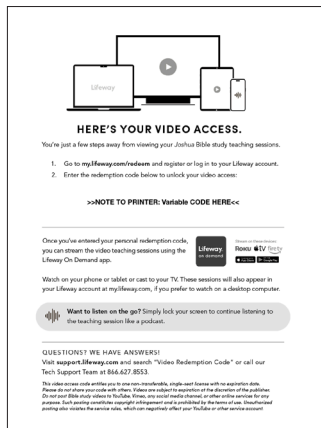
GATHER (20 MINUTES) This is a time to greet and welcome everyone and to get them talking. In the first session, you're provided with some general icebreaker questions. In the subsequent sessions, you'll notice a list of questions to help participants review the previous week's personal study. Feel free to adapt, skip, or add questions based on the needs of your group.

WATCH (30 MINUTES) Play the teaching video during this time, encouraging the women to take notes on the Viewer Guide page for that specific session.

DISCUSS (30 MINUTES) You'll find a suggestion of questions for each week in this Leader Guide. Pick and choose the ones you want to discuss with your group. These questions are designed to help you facilitate conversation around the week's Bible study and personal reflection. As you go through your own study during the week, put a star by any questions or statements you might want to discuss with your group.

CLOSE (10 MINUTES) Brief closing activity ideas and/or prayer prompts have been provided. You can use these however you wish to enhance or close the session.

HERE ARE A FEW TIPS TO HELP YOU LEAD.



HOW TO WATCH YOUR VIDEOS. The videos for this study are available for streaming through the digital access code on the last page of your Bible study book. Look for the cardstock page labeled “**Here’s Your Video Access**” and follow the two steps that prompt you to enter your unique redemption code to gain your video streaming access.

If your group doesn’t have adequate Internet connection for video streaming, DVD sets are available for purchase at lifeway.com/acts.

Each video is intended to be viewed after completing the accompanying week of personal study. We strongly recommend you use the teaching videos as a part of this study, but you can still discover truth from Scripture and grow in your walk with God by simply doing the print portion if your setting doesn’t allow for video.

GET THE WORD OUT. Be sure to advertise the study early and utilize all methods for getting the word out. Post it on your church’s website, send emails to potential attendees, and promote it on all forms of social media. It’s best to start advertising the study four to six weeks before it begins. The study is seven sessions long, which means you will meet seven or eight times. Visit lifeway.com/acts for free promotional materials to help get the word out about your study.

SCHEDULE. Be sure to make everyone aware of the schedule ahead of time and start promptly each week to honor everyone’s time. In your group time, you will watch the teaching video together and discuss what you’re learning. You’ll also be encouraged to spend a good bit of time in prayer.

STAY IN TOUCH. Prepare a sign-up sheet with space for names, email addresses, and phone numbers. You may also include information like birthdays, social media handles, and favorite candy so that you can foster community among group members.

GET COZY. Make an effort to create a comfortable environment for group meetings. Arrange chairs in a circle to encourage conversation. If your group is large, you may want to watch the teaching video together and then split into smaller groups for the discussion time. If you choose to do so, enlist discussion leaders for each group to keep the conversation moving and focused.

CHILDCARE. Be sure to check with participants to see if childcare is needed and organize leaders and space for the children in advance.

BIBLE STUDY BOOKS. Each participant will need a Bible study book. Make sure you leave plenty of time for all the books to be ordered and received between announcing and starting your Bible study. Consider offering a scholarship or buy one-give-one option for those who cannot afford a study book on their own.

EARLY PREP. We encourage you to read through the entire leader guide before the first session and evaluate how this will work best for your group. Highlight specific questions from the leader guide you want to make sure you cover during your group time. We recommend watching the teaching video sessions prior to your meeting, taking note of anything you may want to highlight from the teaching. And be sure you stay on top of your own personal study between each meeting! We've left room in the leader guide for you to write down additional talking points and questions you want to pull in from the personal study.

PERSONAL STUDY. Between each meeting, there are five days of personal study to complete in the Bible study book.

PRAYER. Most importantly, be sure to pray for the women who attend the study. And pray for yourself as you prepare to lead. Ask God to draw the women closer to Him as they learn more about the early church, the spread of the gospel, and the ongoing mission of God.

EVALUATE. At the end of each group session, ask yourself: *What went well? What could be improved? Did you see women's lives transformed? Did your group grow closer to Christ and to one another?* Also, do a final evaluation at the close of the study.

CONNECT. Find ways to interact and stay engaged with each member of your group throughout the study. Make use of social media, email, text messages, and handwritten notes to encourage them. Continue these connections even after the study ends.

Next, we've provided a discussion guide for each session. Remember these are simply suggestions for how to use your time together. We want to empower you as you lead to do what is best for your group!

SESSION ONE

INTRODUCTION

GATHER Welcome participants to the study and distribute Bible study books to each group member. Encourage discussion by asking the following questions:

Invite each woman to introduce herself and share basic get-to-know-you information.

For an icebreaker, ask group members to share about the farthest they've traveled from home, or a dream trip they would like to take.

Before you watch the first video, how familiar are you with where Acts fits in the Bible's story? Discuss what your group members know going into this study about the events in Acts.

WATCH Play the teaching video for Session One. Encourage participants to take notes or jot down questions on the Session One "Watch and Discuss" page (p. 11).

DISCUSS the video teaching, using the following questions and prompts as a guide.

What is one thing Kelly said that stuck with you from the video?

Acts picks up where the Gospel of Luke left off following Jesus's crucifixion and resurrection. Read Luke 24 to your group, or ask a few group members to read through smaller sections of the chapter. Encourage your group to imagine what these moments would have been like for the disciples as they listen. Then discuss what it would have been like to be a witness to the resurrection, to have interacted with the risen Lord, and to be left behind after His ascension.

Now have another group member read Acts 1:1–8 aloud. What one word would you use to describe the book of Acts based on these opening verses?

Share the following background information on the book of Acts:

- *Authorship:* Acts is believed to have been written by Luke, the physician and ministry partner of Paul, around AD 61–62. This is the same Luke who wrote the Gospel of Luke.
- *Date:* The book of Acts provides a glimpse into the first three decades of the early church (about AD 30–63).
- *Main Idea:* Christianity spread from Jerusalem to Rome and from Jews to Gentiles by the power of the Holy Spirit, working especially through Peter and Paul.
- Key Themes from the Old Testament carried into Acts:

God is One (monotheism)

God is Creator of heaven and earth

The Exodus

Idolatry

Temple

Messiah as King of the cosmos

Whole earth restoration

CLOSE Spend a few minutes walking through the structure of the Bible study book with your group. Be sure to point out the special features and different types of study questions listed on page 8. Don't miss the recipes as well!

Ask each group member to think of someone she knows who might benefit from being a part of this Bible study group. Encourage them to reach out to that person and invite her to join for the next group meeting. Then lead the group in a closing prayer.

REMINDE Encourage group members to complete their personal study before the next session.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

SESSION TWO

THE CHURCH IS BORN

GATHER Welcome participants back to the study.

For an icebreaker, encourage group members to describe something they have witnessed that fits in the “you had to see it to believe it” category.

Invite participants to share any questions they have from their personal study, or share one thing that surprised them or stuck with them this week.

WATCH Play the teaching video for Session Two. Encourage participants to take notes or jot down questions on the Session Two “Watch and Discuss” page (p. 39). Here are the viewer guide answers:

Four Phases of Acts 2:

1. *The Coming of the Spirit (2:1-13)*
2. *Peter’s Defense of the Spirit’s Coming (2:14-36)*
3. *A Call to Repentance (2:37-41)*
4. *A New Community (2:42-47)*

DISCUSS the video teaching and personal Bible study, using the following questions and prompts as a guide. Beginning on the next page, you’ll find additional information about the ascension, baptism, and Jewish leadership in New Testament times.

What is one truth you learned about God’s character in this week’s study?

Note one characteristic of being a witness for Jesus that was modeled in Acts 1–4. How can you embody that trait this week?

Share responses to the personal reflection question on page 18: *Based on today’s reading, what is one thing you can connect from the first chapter of Acts to your own story as a follower of Christ?*

Ask a group member to read Acts 2:14–21 and another to read Joel 2:28–32. Briefly describe what the Old Testament prophet Joel said would happen and how you see this prophecy being fulfilled in Acts 2. Then, discuss responses to the personal reflection question on page 21: *If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, then this filling of the Spirit of the living God is true of you. How does this truth encourage and/or convict you today?*

Take a few minutes to discuss anything that stuck with you from the video.

Read Acts 2:42–47. When you think about your Christian community, how do you see these characteristics reflected in it? Share specific examples and use this as a time to encourage and challenge one another to make your lives and homes temples of the Holy Spirit.

EXTRA INFORMATION

The Ascension (Acts 1:1–11): Recorded at the end of Luke and the beginning of Acts, Jesus’s ascension “marks the close of Christ’s earthly ministry, the return of the resurrected body to be with the Father (Acts 7:56) where the eternal Word had been prior to His birth (John 1:1; Rev. 12:5). The ascension gave final confirmation that Jesus was the victorious, eternal Son of God (Heb. 1:1–13). In the ascension God exalted Christ and made possible His continuing ministry of intercession for believers, allowing Him to prepare an eternal place for His followers (John 14:2). The ascension emphatically placed Christ’s last commission to evangelize the world in the minds of the eye-witnesses. With the ascension, Christ prepared the way for the Comforter, the Holy Spirit.”

Baptism in Acts: Baptism is generally defined as “The immersion or dipping of a believer in water symbolizing the complete renewal and change in the believer’s life and testifying to the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ as the way of salvation.” In the Gospels, we read about John’s (the Baptist’s) baptism and Jesus’s own baptism. “John’s baptism—for Jews and Gentiles—involved the same elements later interpreted in Christian baptism: repentance, confession, evidence of changed lives, coming judgment, and the coming of the kingdom of God through the Messiah, who would baptize with the Spirit and with fire (Matt. 3:11). John thus formed a purified community waiting for God’s great salvation.” Then when Jesus came along, John baptized Jesus “to fulfill all righteousness (Matt. 3:15). . . . In this way He was able to identify with sinful mankind and to be a model for others to follow.” From there and into the book of Acts, we see the emergence of Christian (or believer’s) baptism. “When Jesus comes into a life, the Holy Spirit comes with His saturating presence and purifies. He empowers and cleanses the believer in a spiritual baptism. The main differences between John’s baptism and Jesus’ baptism lie in the personal commitment to Christ and the coming of the Holy Spirit in Jesus’ baptism (John 1:33). . . . Baptism shows that a person has died to the old way of life and has been raised to a new kind of life—eternal life in Christ (Matt. 28:19–20; Col. 3:1; 2 Tim. 2:11). The resurrection from the water points to the Christian’s resurrection also (Rom. 6:1–6).”

Jewish Leadership Groups: Throughout Acts we read about several Jewish leadership groups that came to power during the intertestamental period (the time between the end of the prophets in the Old Testament and the birth of Jesus, the Messiah). These groups include the Pharisees, Sadducees, Herodians, Essenes, Zealots, and scribes. The Pharisees were the most influential of these groups and the ones that get the most attention in the Gospels and Acts.

CLOSE your group meeting with a time of prayer. Depending on the size of your group, consider breaking into smaller groups of two or three women and praying for each other. Incorporate into your prayers the truths revealed about God in Acts 4:23-31.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

SESSION THREE

THE CHURCH ON THE MOVE

GATHER Welcome participants back to the study.

For an icebreaker, share one place you would not mind moving to if God called you there, and why.

Invite participants to share any questions they have from their personal study, or share one thing that surprised them or stuck with them this week.

Here are the answers to the timeline exercise:

Acts 7:9 — Joseph sold into slavery

Acts 7:10 — Joseph elevated to power in Egypt

Acts 7:20 — Moses born

Acts 7:30-34 — Moses and the burning bush

Acts 7:36 — the exodus

Acts 7:41 — the golden calf

Acts 7:44 — the tabernacle

Acts 7:45 — Joshua

Acts 7:46 — David

Acts 7:47 — Solomon/the temple

WATCH Play the teaching video for Session Three. Encourage participants to take notes or jot down questions on the Session Three “Watch and Discuss” page (p. 67). Here are the viewer guide answers:

1. *Philip’s Ministry to Samaritans (Acts 8:4-8)*
2. *Philip’s Ministry to an Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:26-39)*
3. *Philip’s Ministry to Widows (Acts 6:1-6)*

DISCUSS the video teaching and personal Bible study, using the following questions and prompts as a guide.

What is one truth you learned about God’s character in this week’s study?

Read the account of Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5:1-11. Then discuss responses to the Thought Question on page 43: *Why was it important for everyone to see how serious sin is, especially in these early stages of the church community?*

Additional commentary on Acts 5:1-11:

1:1-2 *Ananias and his wife Sapphira sold a piece of property but kept back part of the sale price despite claiming otherwise (v. 8).*

5:3-4 *Ananias and Sapphira assumed they were merely lying to men (the apostles), but in reality they had lied to the Holy Spirit who is ever-present in the church. Peter's wording indicates that the Holy Spirit is God. Peter's question (wasn't it at your disposal?) implies that Ananias and Sapphira would have been justified to sell the land and give only a portion to the church. Their sin lay in their deception and their desire to win praise.*

5:5-9 *The deception of Ananias and Sapphira, and in particular Sapphira's lie to Peter, was a test of the Spirit of the Lord. This is a powerful indication of the Spirit's role in the church and church leadership; Peter was a mere man, but he was God's man to lead this fellowship of believers.*

The religious authorities accused Stephen of spreading messages from Jesus that would "destroy this place and change the customs of Moses" (p. 50; Acts 6:14). *Why do you think the religious leaders were so indignant over these two threats?*

Invite group members to share their responses to the Personal Reflection question on page 61: *Where might you, like the religious leaders of Jesus's day, be missing it? What are you putting in front of Jesus Himself?*

On page 64, you were asked to consider: *What marginalized person, or group of people, do you have a heart to share the gospel with? How can you be intentional to share the message of Jesus and also His tangible love by meeting specific needs?* Brainstorm ways your group can do this together.

Note one characteristic of being a witness for Jesus that was modeled in these chapters. How can you embody that trait this week?

Share something Kelly said that stuck with you from the video.

Read James 1:19–27. What do these verses teach you about living out your faith in Jesus?

CLOSE your group meeting with a time of prayer. To provide an opportunity for each woman to be prayed for during the week, lead each member of the group to write a prayer request on a provided note card, then pass that card to the woman on her right. Read Psalm 139 as part of your closing prayer.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

SESSION FOUR

THE CALL OF THE APOSTLE PAUL

GATHER Welcome participants back to the study.

For an icebreaker, share about your first job or a job people may be surprised to know you've done before.

Invite participants to share any questions they have from their personal study, or share one thing that surprised them or stuck with them this week.

WATCH Play the teaching video for Session Four. Encourage participants to take notes or jot down questions on the Session Four "Watch and Discuss" page (p. 95). Here are the viewer guide answers:

Good behavior isn't a substitute for gospel belief.

Obedience doesn't always mean understanding.

DISCUSS the video teaching and personal Bible study, using the following questions and prompts as a guide.

What is one truth you learned about God's character in this week's study?

Read Acts 9:1-9 aloud. Then discuss the Thought Question from page 70: *Sometimes we think of the Christian life as little more than a belief system. But how does the Christian life as "the Way" portray something broader and richer?*

Ask a volunteer to read Acts 12:6-19. Then discuss responses to the Personal Reflection question on page 91: *What impossible situation are you or a loved one going through that you need the Lord to intervene in?* Reflect on that now and offer it up to the Lord, your Rescuer. Be sure to pray for each woman who shares.

We met a lot of people in this week's study. Spend a few minutes recalling what you learned about them and the role each one played in advancing the gospel.

Note one characteristic of being a witness for Jesus that was modeled in these chapters. How can you embody that trait this week?

Share something Kelly said that stuck with you from the video.

Read Luke 4:16-21. Use these words Jesus spoke about His purpose, together with what Peter learned about the gospel in Acts 10, to paraphrase the mission you have as a follower of Jesus.

CLOSE your group meeting with a time of prayer. Share prayer requests and lead your group to record them at the top of the first page of each day of study for the coming week. When they open their books each day, this will prompt them to begin that day of study by praying for the needs of others in their group.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

SESSION FIVE

PAUL'S FIRST MISSION

GATHER Welcome participants back to the study.

For an icebreaker, share what your dream trip would be if barriers like money, health, and time didn't matter.

Invite participants to share any questions they have from their personal study, or share one thing that surprised them or stuck with them this week.

WATCH Play the teaching video for Session Five. Encourage participants to take notes or jot down questions on the Session Five "Watch and Discuss" page (p. 125). Here are the viewer guide answers:

Four Things That Changed for Paul:

1. *His Christology*
2. *His Soteriology*
3. *His Ecclesiology*
4. *His Missiology*

DISCUSS the video teaching and personal Bible study, using the following questions and prompts as a guide.

What is one truth you learned about God's character in this week's study?

Read Acts 11:19–30. Then ask a couple of participants to share their responses to the Personal Reflection question on page 100: *Describe a time when your connection with your church community has felt stronger than family bonds.*

Have three different volunteers read the Old Testament passages about David that Paul connected to Jesus: Psalm 2:7; Isaiah 55:3; Psalm 16:10. Then discuss the Personal Reflection question on page 108: *Which of these references to Jesus is a reminder you needed to hear today, and why?*

Discuss the comparisons chart on page 112, or take time to fill it out together.

Note one characteristic of being a witness for Jesus that was modeled in these chapters. How can you embody that trait this week?

Share something Kelly said that stuck with you from the video.

Read Isaiah 2:2-3. How do you see fulfillment of this prophecy continuing through the work of your church? What part do you sense God calling you to play in it?

CLOSE with a “popcorn prayer.” Encourage group members to say a word or phrase of praise to God. Then lead women to use a word or brief phrases to express specific requests to the Lord. As the leader, close the prayer time.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

SESSION SIX

THE GOSPEL GOES WEST

GATHER Welcome participants back to the study.

For an icebreaker, discuss: Which individual we've learned about from the book of Acts would you would most like to meet and why? What is one question you would ask that person?

Invite participants to share any questions they have from their personal study, or share one thing that surprised them or stuck with them this week.

WATCH Play the teaching video for Session Six. Encourage participants to take notes or jot down questions on the Session Six "Watch and Discuss" page (p. 153). Here are the viewer guide answers:

1. *Creator vs. the Created*
2. *Known vs. the Unknown*
3. *Self-existent vs. the Dependent*

DISCUSS the video teaching and personal Bible study, using the following questions and prompts as a guide.

What is one truth you learned about God's character in this week's study?

Discuss responses to the Personal Reflection question on page 128. Encourage one another as you share: *What kinds of disruptions upset or trouble you and get in the way of what the Lord has called you to do? Can you avoid these disruptions, and if not, what is one way you can be more proactive in your fight against them?*

Read Acts 16:25-34. Then consider together the Thought Question on page 129: *Why do you think they were able to respond this way to suffering and pain that was completely unjustified?*

Read Acts 17:22-34 to your group, and discuss the questions and chart related to this passage on page 137.

How Paul might need to tailor his message for our culture, or idols, if he was speaking to us today?

Share something Kelly said that stuck with you from the video.

Note one characteristic of being a witness for Jesus that was modeled in these chapters. How can you embody that trait this week?

CLOSE by praying Paul's words in Ephesians 1:18-19 over your group.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

SESSION SEVEN

A FAITH TESTED

GATHER Welcome participants back to the study.

For an icebreaker, swap recent embarrassing (but not too embarrassing!) stories.

Invite participants to share any questions they have from their personal study, or share one thing that surprised them or stuck with them this week.

WATCH Play the teaching video for Session Seven. Encourage participants to take notes or jot down questions on the Session Seven “Watch and Discuss” page (p. 177). Here are the viewer guide answers:

Paul’s Ministry of:

1. *Presence*
2. *The Word*
3. *Suffering*
4. *Generosity*

DISCUSS the video teaching and personal Bible study, using the following questions and prompts as a guide.

What is one truth you learned about God’s character in this week’s study?

Have a volunteer read Acts 20:1-12. Discuss these verses together and the Personal Reflection question on page 162: *What compromises spiritual alertness in your life?*

An important part of our Acts study has been learning how God has shaped you to be a witness for Him today. Share responses to the Personal Reflection question on page 167: *What parts of your heritage, background, or experiences help you minister uniquely to others?*

Read Acts 23:12–22 and consider together the Personal Reflection question on page 173: *How does God’s sovereignty in this story minister to you in whatever difficult circumstances you are currently facing?* Encourage one another as you share.

Note one characteristic of being a witness for Jesus that was modeled in these chapters. How can you embody that trait this week?

Share something Kelly said that stuck with you from the video.

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:8. How is your understanding of living on mission for Jesus expanding as you study Acts?

CLOSE your group meeting with a time of prayer. Throughout this week of study, you were challenged to identify people in your life who need to hear the good news of Jesus Christ. Take time now as a large group or in pairs to pray for these individuals by name. Ask God for opportunities to share with them in the coming days.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

SESSION EIGHT

TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

GATHER Welcome participants back to the study.

Begin your discussion time by having participants share words or phrases that sum up their study in Acts. Make a list (on a whiteboard if you have one) of everything that is mentioned, and praise God for everything He has taught you through your time in His Word.

Invite participants to share any questions they have from their personal study, or share one thing that surprised them or stuck with them this week.

WATCH Play the teaching video for Session Eight. Encourage participants to take notes or jot down questions on the Session Eight “Watch and Discuss” page (p. 203). Here are the viewer guide answers:

Sometimes following Jesus on mission will lead you straight into a storm.

There’s no way to be on mission and not confront your fears.

Sometimes God saves us out of the storm. Sometimes He saves us through the storm.

DISCUSS the video teaching and personal Bible study, using the following questions and prompts as a guide.

What is one truth you learned about God’s character in this week’s study?

Ask a few volunteers to read Acts 26:1–32. Discuss these verses and the following question from page 185: *Paul often mentions the theme of hope when he testifies. How does he describe his hope in the following verses?*

Acts 23:6

Acts 24:15

Acts 26:6

Note one characteristic of being a witness for Jesus that was modeled in these chapters. How can you embody that trait this week?

Share something Kelly said that stuck with you from the video.

One of the most important lessons we learn from Acts is how to have conversations about Jesus that meet people where they are. Review together the chart on page 200, and share what you've learned from Peter and Paul's examples.

How is God using you to write the twenty-ninth chapter of Acts? Share the testimony you wrote down on "Your Acts Story" (p. 201) as an example for your group members. Then, depending on the size of your group, split up into pairs or small groups and encourage women to share what they wrote as well. If a majority of group members haven't taken the time to write out their testimonies yet, use the remainder of your group time to do that together.

CLOSE your group meeting with a time of prayer. To provide an opportunity for each woman to be prayed for during the week, lead each member of the group to write a prayer request on a provided note card, then pass that card to the woman on her right.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

FINISHING WELL

NEXT STEPS Even after the study concludes, follow up and challenge women to stay involved through another Bible study, church opportunity, or anything that will continue their spiritual growth and friendships. Provide several options of ministry opportunities the members can participate in individually or as a group to apply what they have learned through this study.

MISSIONS AGENCIES

Looking for ways to get involved in global missions? Here are some of the leading missions sending agencies at work around the globe today.

The International Mission Board imb.org

The North American Mission Board namb.net

Justice & Mercy International justiceandmercy.org

SEND Relief sendrelief.org

Wycliff Bible Translators wycliffe.org

CRU cru.org

MORE RESOURCES

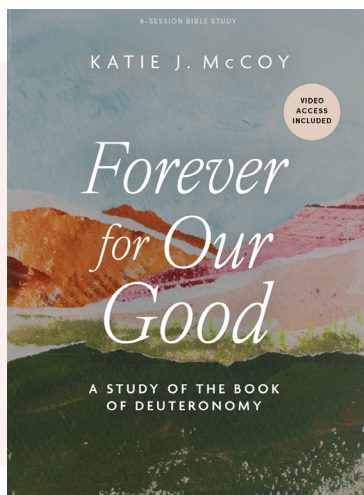


NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY

TAUGHT BY JEN WILKIN, KATIE J. MCCOY, DEEDEE WILLIAMS, AND IRENE SUN

In this 10-session online, on-demand course, you will gain insight into the thirty-nine books that make up the Old Testament. If you are preparing to lead this study on Deuteronomy or simply want to dive deeper into the book, this course is for you! Through lectures, quizzes, notes, and recommended reading, fall more deeply in love with the Creator God as you see His character and works throughout history.

lifeway.com/academy

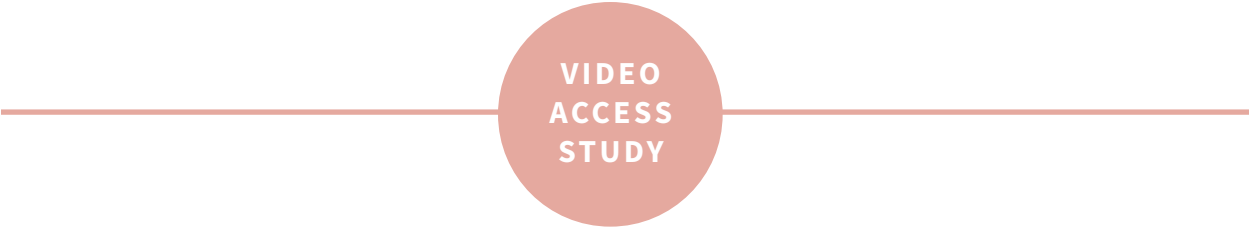


FOREVER FOR OUR GOOD

BY KATIE J. MCCOY

Continue the story of God's relationship with His people and His faithfulness to His promises in this 10-session, verse-by-verse study of the book Joshua.

lifeway.com/foreverforourgood



VIDEO ACCESS STUDY

INTRODUCING BIBLE STUDIES with VIDEO ACCESS INCLUDED!

As trends in media consumption change from DVDs to streaming video, Lifeway made the decision to invest in technology that would allow for Bible studies to be accessed through mobile devices and smart TVs in addition to our website.

The concept of a Bible study book with video access allows us to use the technology to give all participants easier access to teaching videos. This will alleviate a concern we have heard from many group leaders of members who stop coming to their group after they miss a week of study.

How will customers access the videos that come with their Bible study book with video access?

There is a unique access code printed in each Bible study book. They will access their video content at my.lifeway.com or through the Lifeway On Demand app.

How long will they have access to the videos that come with their Bible study book?

There is no expiration date on the video access that comes with their Bible study book. They'll be able to access it as long as it is available through our Lifeway On Demand video apps.

What are the benefits of video access being included in each Bible study book?

- This provides more flexibility for group meeting time. Groups now have the option to have group members watch video sessions outside of group meetings to allow more time for discussion.
- If a group member misses a weekly group meeting due to sickness or travel, they will be able to access the video content on their own and continue in their study.
- Group members can re-watch video sessions that were particularly impactful on their own time.
- This simplifies what a group leader needs to facilitate Bible study. You'll now get everything you need with just the Bible study book.
- Our goal is to provide an affordable option for both individuals and churches who are looking for Bible study options.

What do churches and individuals need to lead a group?

Each group member will need a Bible study book, which will include video access. There is also a DVD option for groups who want a non-streaming viewing option. In addition, select studies provide a Video Streaming - Group option for groups who choose not to use the Bible study books. For the best experience, we recommend each group member have a Bible study book.

When do group leaders need a DVD Set?

Because the Bible study book includes video streaming access, the purchase of the DVD set is optional (not essential) for group leaders. This option is for groups who may not have reliable streaming internet access.