

LIFEWAY WOMEN

BEHOLD

*the*

SAVIOR

Treasuring the Story  
of Christmas

Lifeway Press®

Brentwood, Tennessee

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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.

*Behold the Savior* is an Advent Bible study for women. A men's version is also available, along with a family devotional guide. All three take you through the first two chapters of the Gospel of Luke.

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 and prayer for you and the women you're leading.

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! We want 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*

## WEEKLY GROUP MEETING: SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

4-5 Group Meetings • Meeting Length: 1.5 hour

Because Advent is a busy season, we recommend distributing the Bible study books before your first group time.

### (OPTIONAL) INTRODUCTORY SESSION

**SESSION ONE**—Discuss the Session One personal Bible study.

**SESSION TWO**— Discuss the Session Two personal Bible study.

**SESSION THREE**—Discuss the Session Three personal Bible study.

**SESSION FOUR**—Discuss the Session Four personal Bible study.



## 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 (10 MINUTES)** This is a time to greet and welcome everyone and to get them talking. You'll see an icebreaker question to get the discussion started. Feel free to customize these conversation starters for your group.

**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.

**INVITE (40 MINUTES)** During this time, do the activity together for the week's invitation for your community, church, family and friends, and yourself. Discuss ways to continue beholding and inviting others to know Jesus throughout the week.

**CLOSE (10 MINUTES)** Weekly prayer ideas and prompts have been provided, and you can use this however you wish to enhance or close the session.

## HERE ARE A FEW TIPS TO HELP YOU LEAD.

**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 four sessions long, which means you will meet four or five times. Visit [lifeway.com/beholdthesavior](http://lifeway.com/beholdthesavior) 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 discuss what you're learning.

**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 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. 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, including one day of reflection and journaling.

**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 birth of the Savior of the world.

**EVALUATE.** At the end of each group session, ask: 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.

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!

## DISCUSSION GUIDE



### (OPTIONAL) INTRODUCTORY SESSION

#### Introduction

**GATHER AND DISCUSS** Welcome participants to the study. Distribute Bible study books. Encourage discussion by asking the following questions:

1. Growing up, what was your favorite holiday and why?
2. Why do you want to be a part of this study and this group?
3. What do you hope to gain from this focused time in God's Word during the Christmas season?
4. The title of this study is *Behold the Savior*. What does it mean to behold something? What do you behold most often in your everyday life?

**CLOSE** Pray for your hearts and minds during this season, asking God to help you prepare room for and behold Him.

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

Consider making this introductory session into an event for all the women in your church with Prepare Him Room: a virtual Christmas event with Kelly Minter. This event is not based on the content of the Behold the Savior Bible study, but we think it would make a great kick-off to treasure the Christmas story this season. You can find more information on page 13 or at [lifeway.com/preparehimroom](http://lifeway.com/preparehimroom).



## SESSION ONE

### Heralds of Christ

**GATHER** Welcome participants to the study.

What is your favorite Christmas preparation (decorations, baking, gift buying, etc.)?

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

1. What does it mean for you personally to know that the Gospel books are “about the events that have been fulfilled among us” (Luke 1:1)?
2. Did you write down any questions about the Christmas narrative on page 19? If so, share a couple with the group. You may have similar questions!
3. Have you ever experienced a season of waiting? What did that look like for you? How did you know God was still working in the midst of the wait?
4. How does the truth that God keeps His promises encourage your faith today?

**INVITE** women to share the good news of Jesus with others. Using the guide on pages 41–44, make stamps together and use them to make cards. Choose one or more of the ideas on page 45 to share with your community throughout the week.

**CLOSE** in prayer, thanking God for always keeping His promises. Pray for endurance and hope in seasons of waiting. Praise Him for His faithfulness in every season.





## SESSION TWO

### Family of God

**GATHER** Welcome participants back to the study. Ask an icebreaker question like the one below to get conversation started.

What is your favorite Christmas carol and why?

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

1. How has God shown Himself faithful to you in the past?  
Share with the group so you can remember together.
2. In Day 2, what did you learn about God when Mary received the news of Jesus's coming?
3. How did you answer the question on page 65: what is your life about? What would you like it to be about?
4. How is God's faithful love demonstrated in Mary's Magnificat?

**INVITE** women to share in the joy of Jesus's birth with your church family. Using the guide on pages 78–81, paint candles together. Choose one or more of the ideas on page 79 to do together or individually throughout the week.

**CLOSE** your group time in prayer. If you're willing, share the Magnificat you wrote with the group. Use those or Mary's in Luke as your prayer together.



## SESSION THREE

### Good News for All

**GATHER** Welcome participants back to the study, asking an icebreaker question like the one below to get the conversation started.

What's your favorite Christmas tradition and how did it start?

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

1. How did Jesus first make Himself known to you?
2. Which name for Jesus on page 96 resonates with you the most? Why?
3. How can you behold the glory of Christ in your daily life?
4. Read Luke 2:10-11 together. What did this mean to the shepherds? What does this news mean to us today?

**INVITE** women to gather with family and friends to pray for those sharing the good news of Jesus around the world. Using the guide on pages 114–119, make ornaments together. Find out the names of specific missionaries you can pray for and learn about; a couple ideas on how to find those names are listed on page 115. Consider bringing in a treat using a recipe from the country or region the missionaries are serving in.

**CLOSE** your group time in prayer, praising God for sending His Son to be the Savior of the world. Ask for boldness to share the good news of Christ with those who don't know it.



## SESSION FOUR

### Treasuring the Savior

**GATHER** Welcome participants back to the study. This is your last time to gather as a group. You may choose to gather right before Christmas or right after, depending on the schedules of your group. You might also choose to make this last gathering a virtual gathering, if your group members are traveling for the holidays. However you meet, be sure to celebrate together!

Ask participants to share if they learned anything new or if anything in the study had an impact on the way they have celebrated and thought about Christmas this year.

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

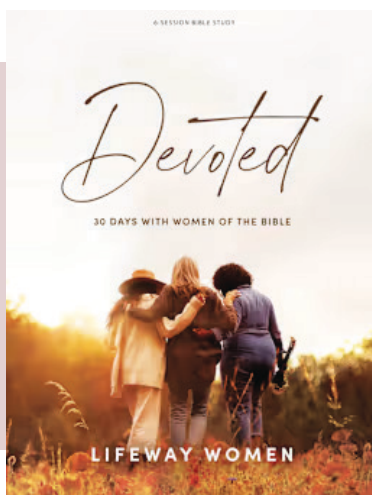
1. Going all the way back to page 19, what questions did you write down about the Christmas story? Do you have answers for them now? Do you have additional questions? Discuss with the group.
2. Why do you think Simeon and Anna are included in the biblical narrative of Jesus's birth story? How do their stories encourage you? How do they challenge you?
3. What does Mary and Joseph's time in the temple tell you about who they are? What does it tell you about how Jesus might have been raised by them?
4. How will you continue to "prepare Him room" in the upcoming weeks and months, anticipating Jesus's second coming?

**INVITE** women to treasure the truth they've learned and studied the past few weeks and to keep celebrating and beholding the Savior of the world. Using the guide on pages 150–155, make prayer journals together. Encourage women to pray for specific people—that they may come to know and behold Jesus, too. Point out the journaling prompts on page 155, and encourage women to keep treasuring the truth learned the last few weeks.

**CLOSE** your group time in prayer, thanking God for sending His Son to be Savior of the world. Ask for help beholding and preparing Him room in the days, weeks, months, and years ahead.

## 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.



## What's Next?

If you enjoyed this study, check out *Devoted* by Lifeway Women.

[lifeway.com/devoted](https://lifeway.com/devoted)

# Prepare Him Room

V I R T U A L   E V E N T



## Prepare Your Heart for the Advent Season

Join Prepare Him Room—a virtual event where we'll look at the lives of Mary and Elizabeth to discover what it means to find joy, peace, and purpose in Jesus Himself. You'll experience teaching from Kelly Minter and worship with Lindsay McCaul.

This is a great event to prepare your heart for the Advent season whether you watch on your own, with your small group, or your women's ministry!



[lifeway.com/preparehimroom](https://lifeway.com/preparehimroom)

Join individually for \$15 or  
host at your church for \$250!

Streaming on November 14, 2025  
with access until December 31, 2025

**Lifeway** women

*Event subject to change without notice.*