

KATIE J. MCCOY

LEADER  
GUIDE

*Forever  
for Our  
Good*

A STUDY OF THE BOOK  
OF DEUTERONOMY

# 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.

*Forever for Our Good* is a video- and discussion-based Bible study of the book of Deuteronomy from Katie J. McCoy. The videos were filmed on the campus of the Lanier Theological Library in Houston, Texas.

With the video teaching, Katie brings her teaching wisdom and expertise to the writings and laws of Deuteronomy, helping you and your group members bring practical application to the study concepts covered in the personal Bible study. We highly encourage women to do the personal study and watch the video teaching sessions. If you don't have time to watch the videos as a group, encourage women to watch them during the week. The videos can also be streamed and listened to, like a podcast. We want to encourage you to use this study however it works best for you and your group.

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 are certain God has ordained your time with your specific group in your specific setting, and we are grateful for you and praying for you as you lead this study.

*Lifeway Women*

# SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

## 8-WEEK STUDY

**8 Group Meetings • Meeting Length: 1–1.5 hours**

This schedule accounts for eight weeks of group meetings, completing one session of *Forever for Our Good* 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.

**WEEK 1**—Distribute Bible study books, get to know one another and discuss the questions provided, and then watch the Session One video.

**WEEK 2**—Discuss the Session Two personal Bible study and watch the Session Two video.

**WEEK 3**—Discuss the Session Three personal Bible study and watch the Session Three video.

**WEEK 4**—Discuss the Session Four personal Bible study and watch the Session Four video.

**WEEK 5**—Discuss the Session Five personal Bible study and watch the Session Five video.

**WEEK 6**—Discuss the Session Six personal Bible study and watch the Session Six video.

**WEEK 7**—Discuss the Session Seven personal Bible study and watch the Session Seven video.

**WEEK 8**—Discuss the Session Eight personal Bible study and watch the Session Eight video.

# SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

## 16-WEEK STUDY

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! If your group follows the 16-week plan, you can double the amount of time spent on fellowship and discussion each gathering.

**GATHER AND DISCUSS (30 MINUTES).** This is a time to greet and welcome everyone and to get them talking. You'll notice a list of questions to help participants review the previous week's personal study. 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. Feel free to adapt, skip, or add questions based on the needs of your group.

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

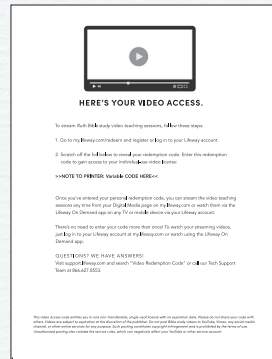
**DISCUSS (20 MINUTES).** You'll find a suggestion of questions for each week in this Leader Guide discussing the video. Feel free to add discussion prompts as it makes sense for your group.

**CLOSE (10 MINUTES).** Share prayer requests or follow the prayer prompts provided to close out your time together.

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

**HOW TO WATCH AND LISTEN TO 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.

Each video is intended to be viewed or listened to after completing the accompanying week of personal study. We strongly recommend you use the teaching videos as a part of this study. If you can’t watch the video together, encourage women to watch or listen before they come to the Bible study meeting.



**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 times. Visit [lifeway.com/foreverfourgood](http://lifeway.com/foreverfourgood) 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 discuss 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. Because this study builds on itself from week to week, it's important for participants to complete each week of personal study. If needed, consider stretching out your study to additional weeks in order for everyone to have time to complete all the personal study.

**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 their identity and purpose in Him.

**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.

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

## 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.**

**Icebreaker: If you had an unexpectedly free afternoon, how would you most enjoy spending it?**

**What is one word that comes to mind when you think about the book of Deuteronomy?**

**Review the “About Deuteronomy” information together on pages 9–12. Help your group form a solid understanding of the background and structure of Deuteronomy before they begin their personal study.**

**WATCH:** Play the teaching video for Session One. Encourage participants to take notes on the Session One “Watch & Discuss” page (p. 13).

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

**Talk through the 5W’s Katie covered in her teaching, important context for the book of Deuteronomy:**

**1. Who wrote Deuteronomy?**

2. When was Deuteronomy written?

3. What is Deuteronomy?

4. Where was Deuteronomy written?

5. Why did the Lord give the “second law”?

**Reflect & Discuss (p. 13):** *What is one detail about Deuteronomy that has already surprised you?*

*What is one question you hope gets resolved as you study?*

**MEMORY VERSE:** The title for this Bible study book comes from Deuteronomy 6:24, “The LORD commanded us to follow all these statutes and to fear the LORD our God for our prosperity always and for our preservation, as it is today.” Read this verse over your group, and make it your memory verse for the study.

**PRAYER:** 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. You might have extra time since this is the introductory week.

**REMINDE** your group to read and complete the Session Two personal Bible study before your next group meeting.

## SESSION TWO

# Remembering God for Our Good

**SHARE:** *What's a small, simple thing that brought you joy this past week?*

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

**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.**

**Pick a few of the verses from the chart on page 28, and ask for volunteers to read them aloud. Then share what God has done/will do and what Israel was to do according to the verses you read.**

**If your group is comfortable with one another, encourage them to share their responses to the following question from page 33:** *Is there an area of your life where your experiences and fears have controlled your perspective of God, His character, and His promises?*

**Have two volunteers read Hebrews 12:1-13 and James 1:2-3. What is your perspective on God's promises compared to your obstacles? Are you seeing your fears through the prism of God's character, or are you viewing God's character through the prism of your fears?**

**WATCH:** Play the teaching video for Session Two. Encourage participants to take notes on the Session Two “Watch & Discuss” page (p. 39).

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

**What is one key takeaway you have from Katie’s teaching?**

**Katie shared three reasons why it is important for us as modern-day Christians to understand how the promises of Deuteronomy relate to the nation of Israel today. Discuss her points and share your thoughts. 1. Just like Israel shed its former identity, we too shed our former identities. 2. Just like Israel was set apart for the Lord as holy, we too have been set apart for the Lord as holy. 3. Just as God called Israel to live holy lives, God calls us to live holy lives.**

**Read Romans 13:8-10 aloud to your group. When you think about God’s laws, is “good” the adjective that comes to mind? Why or why not? In your own words, how do you see God’s love for you reflected through His boundaries and commands?**

**REFLECT & DISCUSS (p. 39):** *What is a lie you have believed about yourself or about God? What is a truth you learned in this session to help combat that lie?*

**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.

**REMIND** your group to read and complete the Session Three personal Bible study before your next group meeting.

## SESSION THREE

# Responding to God for Our Good

**SHARE:** *Do you consider yourself more of a rule follower or a rule bender? Share some insight into your answer and what it reveals about your personality.*

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

**Ask different women to read Deuteronomy 4:24, Deuteronomy 32:21, and Psalm 79:5. One of the attributes of God that came into focus this week is His jealousy. All glory rightfully belongs to God, and He won't share His glory with another. How does it make you feel to read that God is jealous for your affection? What impact does this have on your relationship with Him?**

*Leader Note—God's Glory:* God's glory is challenging to define, perhaps because human language can't capture its full meaning. The glory of God often describes the fullness, wealth, and beauty of God's character, His nature, and His holiness. The Hebrew word for glory is *kabod*, which translates to "weight." God's glory is weighty and heavy, displaying the fullness of everything He is.

**Review and discuss the three spiritual "proofs" from Deuteronomy 4 (pp. 46-50). What are some practical ways we can remember the Lord as we go about our days?**

Read through the Ten Commandments aloud—Deuteronomy 5:6-21—by having a different group member read each of the commandments. Spend a few minutes sharing the ways you summarized each of the Ten Commandments (pp. 56-58).

What new insight stood out to you as you viewed these commandments through the lens of idolatry?

Review the chart on page 61 together. In advance, ask group members to be prepared to read each of the New Testament passages aloud. Then discuss how we are to interact with the Law as those who follow Jesus.

**WATCH:** Play the teaching video for Session Three. Encourage participants to take notes on the Session Three “Watch & Discuss” page (p. 65).

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

What is one key takeaway you have from Katie’s teaching?

When talking about our spiritual substitutes, Katie said, “Idols are any practice, priority, or person that takes God’s rightful place in our hearts. An idol is anything that we love, worship, serve, or desire before the Lord.” As you’ve studied this week, what has the Holy Spirit brought to mind that may be an idol for you? Consider splitting your group into pairs to discuss idols you’re recognizing and what to do about them.

**REFLECT & DISCUSS (p. 65):** *What has been the focus of your attention lately, and how do you see that pulling your affections, attitudes, and actions away from the Lord?*

**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.

**REMIND** your group to read and complete the Session Four personal Bible study before your next group meeting.

## SESSION FOUR

# Remaining in God for Our Good

**SHARE:** *Think of your favorite love song. Is it an example of eternity, exclusivity, or both? If you have a large group, have a few people share their examples. If your group is smaller, make a game out of it!*

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

**Read the Shema, Deuteronomy 6:4-5, aloud together. Invite a couple of group members to share the paraphrase they wrote on page 71.**

**Remember, these commands were given within the context of warnings against idolatry. How would the Shema combat idolatry when Israel possessed the promised land? How does this same principle help you resist idolatry as you seek to expand the kingdom of God today?**

*Leader Note—The Trinity:* What we know from the rest of Scripture is that God has revealed Himself three co-equal Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This understanding of “one” (Deut. 6:4, *ehad*) has been used to deny the Lordship of Jesus. This is also one of the reasons the Jews rejected Jesus as the Messiah. When Jesus said, “I and the Father are one,” He was declaring that He is God. He equated Himself with the Father. Jewish understanding of “One” doesn’t allow that the Lord can be three Persons. That’s why they wanted to kill Jesus right then and there when He called Himself “I AM” (see John 8:31-58). By identifying Himself as “I AM,” Jesus said that He was the same God who appeared to Moses and revealed His personal name—Yahweh—in Exodus 3:14. For more on the doctrine of God, we recommend the Bible study *He’s Where the Joy Is* by Tara-Leigh Cobble.

**In Day 2, we learned that the wilderness experience was a test of faith for the Israelites. Have you experienced a test of your faith? Share a few reflections you have about this season, specifically what God was calling you to trust Him with, and what you believed about Him in the moment.**

**One of the main points Katie made in this week’s study was that Jesus is the true and better Moses and the true and better Israel. Don’t miss this! Ask a few group members to read aloud the underlined statements on pages 73-74.**

*Leader Note—Other “Types” for Christ:* In addition to being the true and better Moses and Israel, Jesus is the true and better Joseph, who was rejected by His brothers, but still forgave and saved them from death. Jesus is the true and better Adam, whose actions apply to and represent all who are in Him. Jesus is the true and better Issac, who obeyed his father by laying down His life as a sacrifice.

**In your study of Deuteronomy 10:12-13, you learned how fear of the Lord is the key to obedience. Ask different women to read these verses about fear of the Lord: Proverbs 8:13, Proverbs 14:27, Proverbs 3:7. Then discuss what it means to fear the Lord.**

**WATCH:** Play the teaching video for Session Four. Encourage participants to take notes on the Session Four “Watch & Discuss” page (p. 87).

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

**What is one key takeaway you have from Katie’s teaching?**

**REFLECT & DISCUSS (p. 87):** *What would loving the Lord with all of your heart, soul, and strength look like in your life today?*

During her teaching, Katie posed this question: “Can you imagine who you would be if the Lord was your highest love?” Give your group members notecards to write this question on and carry it with them into their weeks.

**PRAYER:** Pray together. Take a moment to ask for prayer requests. What are the needs within your community for Jesus to heal and provide for? If your group is large, consider having prayer partners or smaller prayer groups to share those requests. Then, pray, praising Jesus for being God with us, for dwelling among us, and for showing us through Scripture that He cares for us. Make your requests known to Him.

**REMIND** your group to read and complete the Session Five personal Bible study before your next group meeting.

## SESSION FIVE

# Revering God for Our Good

**SHARE:** *What's something you're grateful for right now that you might have taken for granted in the past?*

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

**In Day 1, we learned the dietary laws were meant to set Israel apart as holy unto the Lord. Read Acts 10:1-43, dividing up the passage among women in your group. Then discuss how Peter's vision and the rest of Acts 10 add insight to your understanding of the dietary laws then and our holiness now.**

**Read the New Testament passages on page 97 and discuss their accompanying questions.**

*Leader Note—Prophets, Dreamers, and Signs or Wonders:* Deuteronomy 13:1-5 warns against the false prophet. A prophet in Israel's day was someone who spoke on behalf of a god. The Lord's prophets represented Him and called Israel to worship Him alone. In the context of Deuteronomy 13, a false prophet was anyone who enticed Israel to worship another god. A prophet could receive divine revelations from dreams. The Lord often used dreams to reveal himself to His servants. But in the context of this passage, a dreamer was anyone who called Israel to serve other gods after claiming revelation through a dream. The "sign or wonder" promoted by the false prophet referred to a miraculous occurrence intended to authenticate a prophet's words. They could be in the form of predictions that came true or an extraordinary event that led people to believe the prophet was genuine. Whether a sign or wonder reflected the truth depended upon the prophet's message that accompanied it.

**Now read the New Testament passages on page 101 and discuss responses to this question: *How do these passages connect to the principles we have studied in Deuteronomy 15?***

**One of the hallmarks of Israel's feasts (Day 4) was the rhythm of rest and celebration they established for the people of God. Share ideas that came up as your group processed these application questions (p. 107): *How can we build rhythms of rest and celebration into our calendars? Along with weekly Sabbath rest, what patterns or traditions can you and your family build throughout the year for connection with others and delight in the Lord's gifts?***

**WATCH:** Play the teaching video for Session Five. Encourage participants to take notes on the Session Five "Watch & Discuss" page (p. 111).

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

**What is one key takeaway you have from Katie's teaching?**

**One of the key points Katie made, related to Deuteronomy 12, is that God's people must worship God's way. What are you learning this looks like for us as followers of Jesus today?**

**REFLECT & DISCUSS (p. 111): *Consider one way you have struggled to worship the Lord by living differently from the culture around you. Can you pinpoint the idol informing your actions?***

**PRAYER:** 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.

**REMIND** your group to read and complete the Session Six personal Bible study before your next group meeting. Review together the guidance from Katie's video for what to keep in mind as you study the law codes in Deuteronomy 17–26.

- 1. Remember the purposes of the law: The law reveals our spiritual condition and shows our need for forgiveness. The law constrains the sinfulness of humanity. The law teaches us what is pleasing to God.*
- 2. Recognize the type of laws we see in these chapters.*
- 3. Recall the cultural context in which biblical law was written.*
- 4. Maintain a posture of intellectual curiosity. What was this law trying to achieve? Who benefited from it? What values or principles does this law express? What was it protecting? What was it punishing? What kind of society did this law create?*

## SESSION SIX

# Reflecting God for Our Good, Part I

**SHARE:** *What's a favorite comfort food or treat that always feels like a little gift to yourself?*

**DISCUSS** the personal Bible study, using the following questions and prompts as a guide. Acknowledge at the beginning of your discussion the complex and emotional content covered in this week's study and create a safe space for women in your group to discuss their feelings. Remind them that in the hard things God loves us and is forever for our good.

**If the majority of the women in your group completed their personal study, spend time sharing responses to the daily reflection questions:**

*What did these laws mean for the people of Israel?*

*What do these laws tell you about God and His character?*

*What do these laws tell you about loving God and/or loving one's neighbor?*

**Alternate option: Pick one law passage from each day of study to read and discuss together.**

**Read Ephesians 6:10-18 aloud, then share the following "Leader Note" information with your group.**

*Leader Note—The Armor of God:* Day 3's study looked at law codes related to just punishment and ethics of war. Katie noted how Deuteronomy 20:1-4 "reminds us that

we are not strong enough to defeat our spiritual enemies of the world, the flesh, and the devil, but God is. Our power comes from His favor as He acts on our behalf. And no enemy of our souls can withstand it” (p. 124).

Ephesians 6:10-18 tells us to put on the full armor of God so we can resist Satan’s schemes and stand firm. Our only weapon—the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. The pieces of armor cover and protect our whole being, except for our backs. If our backs needed protection, the armor of God would provide it. But it doesn’t because God doesn’t tell us to run away in retreat. He is our source of power and we stand in His strength.

**Discuss responses to the chart on page 129, comparing the who, where, what, and punishment related to the law codes concerning protection for women.**

**WATCH:** Play the teaching video for Session Six. Encourage participants to take notes on the Session Six “Watch & Discuss” page (p. 135).

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

**What is one key takeaway you have from Katie’s teaching?**

**In this session’s video, Katie explains the three key aspects of ancient Israel’s culture that influenced their way of life and their law codes: collectivist, patricentric, theocratic. What are three words you would use to describe our culture today? How do these differences complicate our reading of Old Testament law?**

**REFLECT & DISCUSS (p. 135):** *What is one way you see the heart of the Lawgiver reflected in the laws you studied this week?*

**PRAYER:** Pray together. Spend time sharing your requests as sisters in Christ. Ask God to help you see one another as true siblings, unified and loving.

**REMIND** your group to read and complete the Session Seven personal Bible study before your next group meeting. Review together the guidance from Katie's Session Five video for what to keep in mind as you study the remaining law codes in Deuteronomy 17–26.

*1. Remember the purposes of the law: The law reveals our spiritual condition and shows our need for forgiveness. The law constrains the sinfulness of humanity. The law teaches us what is pleasing to God.*

*2. Recognize the type of laws we see in these chapters.*

*3. Recall the cultural context in which biblical law was written.*

*4. Maintain a posture of intellectual curiosity. What was this law trying to achieve? Who benefited from it? What values or principles does this law express? What was it protecting? What was it punishing? What kind of society did this law create?*

## SESSION SEVEN

# Reflecting God for Our Good, Part II

**SHARE:** *If you could plan a day just for yourself—no responsibilities—what would be one must-do thing on that day?*

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

**If the majority of the women in your group completed their personal study, spend time sharing responses to the daily reflection questions:**

*What did these laws mean for the people of Israel?*

*What do these laws tell you about God and His character?*

*What do these laws tell you about loving God and/or loving one's neighbor?*

**Alternate option: Pick one law passage from each day of study to read and discuss together.**

**Among the laws that promoted justice was the establishment for cities of refuge (Deut. 19:1-13; Day 1). Read about the cities of refuge in Joshua 20 and discuss what this law and its fulfillment reveals about the heart of the Lawgiver.**

**Invite a volunteer to read Deuteronomy 26:16-19, Israel's response to the law. Then share the paraphrases women wrote down on page 155.**

**WATCH:** Play the teaching video for Session Seven. Encourage participants to take notes on the Session Seven “Watch & Discuss” page (p. 159).

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

**What is one key takeaway you have from Katie’s teaching?**

**In the video Katie said, “We are to be present in the world, surrounded by people who don’t know [the Lord], and radiating the reality of redemption through our good works, so that others will glorify the Father.” How are you being challenged to live in this way through your study of Deuteronomy?**

**Review and discuss Katie’s application points together: 1. We do away with the public/private divide. 2. We condemn what is morally wrong and build up what is morally right. 3. We must always remember that the power of our public witness depends on our personal holiness.**

**REFLECT & DISCUSS (p. 159):** *What is one way you see the heart of the Lawgiver reflected in the laws you studied this week?*

**PRAYER:** Ask your group to share prayer requests. Then invite a woman who is comfortable praying out loud to open the prayer time. Give time for others to pray as they feel led to close the session.

**REMINDE** your group to read and complete the Session Eight personal Bible study before your next group meeting.

## SESSION EIGHT

# Returning to God for Our Good

**SHARE:** *Who has been a woman of faith who influenced or encouraged you, and what did you admire about her?*

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

**Review together your responses to the chart about blessings (p. 167) and the one-word/phrase summaries of the curses (pp. 167-170). What stands out to you?**

*Leader Note—Curses:* In Day 2, we studied the blessings for obedience to the law and the curses for disobedience. The curses are adapted from Assyrian treaty documents. While this section of Scripture is shocking to our modern ears, these terms would have been known and familiar throughout the ancient Near Eastern world. In other words, Israel would have no reason to exact greater leniency or tolerance from a treaty with another ruler or nation.

**Read Deuteronomy 28:47 to your group. The Lord does not want begrudging conformity to rules, but a heart that is “cheerful” to serve Him and will “obey with joy.” How does this resonate with you today?**

**Read all of Deuteronomy 30 aloud, dividing the text among readers. What are some repeated words/phrases you see in these verses?**

Notice how many times the phrase “the LORD your God” shows up in chapter 30. Come up with a list of everything you learn about the Lord from this chapter.

Share responses to the final personal study questions from page 181: *What attribute of God stands out to you from this chapter? How about from Deuteronomy as a whole?*

**WATCH:** Play the teaching video for Session Eight. Encourage participants to take notes on the Session Eight “Watch & Discuss” page (p. 185).

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

**What is one key takeaway you have from Katie’s teaching?**

**REFLECT & DISCUSS (p. 185):** *Based on everything you’ve learned in your study, write a summary statement that expresses why God’s law is forever for our good.*

**Split up into smaller groups and pick one of Katie’s application questions to discuss together:**

*What ideas and beliefs surround us so much that they’re common?  
Who or what will we allow to influence us?*

*Will we acknowledge that God alone has the authority to define sin and righteousness? Or, will we allow our culture, or even our relationships, to alter what we say we believe?*

*Do we allow our culture to define what it means to love God and love our neighbor?*

*Do we love our neighbor enough to speak the truth?*

*Do we love God enough to fear Him rightly, in reverential awe and honor, or will we fear the opinions and disapproval of man?*

*Are we willing to stand out, not to fit in?*

**PRAYER:** Allow each woman to share a prayer request. Then instruct each group member to pray silently and lift up the request of the woman on her right. Close your prayer time by reading Deuteronomy 32:1-4 over your group.

## **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.

# MORE RESOURCES



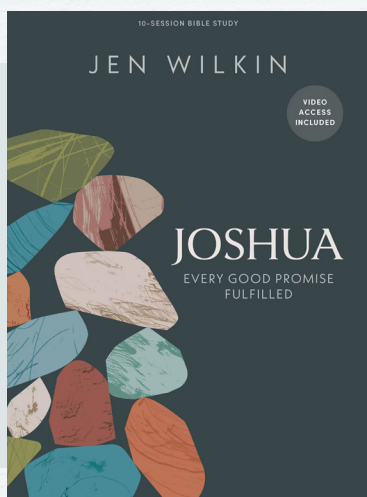
## OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY

**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](https://lifeway.com/academy)



## JOSHUA

**BY JEN WILKIN**

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.

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## **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](http://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 if participants want to listen to instead of watch the videos?**

Want to listen on the go? Play your video through the Lifeway On Demand app, lock your screen, and enjoy the audio teaching like a podcast.

## **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.