

LEADER GUIDE

He Speaks to Me

PREPARING TO HEAR FROM GOD

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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.

He Speaks to Me is a video- and discussion-based Bible study from Priscilla Shirer. Originally released more than 20 years ago, this study was Priscilla's first of many. The special edition you hold today has been updated with a new introduction and a 20th anniversary video message from Priscilla.

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! Our goal 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

WEEKLY GROUP MEETING: SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

7 Group Meetings • Meeting Length: 1–1.5 hours

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

SESSION TWO—Discuss the Session One personal Bible study and watch the Session Two video.

SESSION THREE—Discuss the Session Two personal Bible study and watch the Session Three video.

SESSION FOUR—Discuss the Session Three personal Bible study and watch the Session Four video.

SESSION FIVE—Discuss the Session Four personal Bible study and watch the Session Five video.

SESSION SIX—Discuss the Session Five personal Bible study and watch the Session Six video.

SESSION SEVEN—Discuss the Session Six personal Bible study and watch the Session Seven video.



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. 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). During this time play the teaching video, 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. In each session you will guide participants to understand and apply the concepts and principles they have studied during the week. More ideas have been provided than you will have time to use, so choose the activities that will best meet the needs of your participants. 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 this 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.

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/hespeakstome 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.

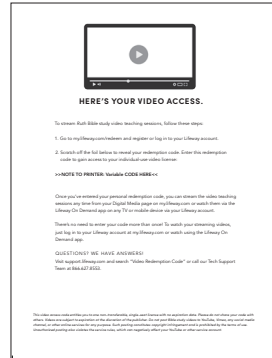
PERSONAL STUDY. Between each meeting, there are five days of personal study to complete in the Bible study book.

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 hearing and obeying His voice.

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!



DISCUSSION GUIDE

SESSION ONE

A SIMPLE RELATIONSHIP

BEFORE THE SESSION

1. Make a name tag for yourself. Provide pens and name tags for participants.
2. Preview video session 1.
3. Read the entire book to understand the purpose, content, and Bible-study method. Review the "About the Session" and "Introduction" sections and be ready to explain to participants what they can expect from the study.
4. Have copies of the Bible study book available.

AFTER THE SESSION participants will be able to: describe the purpose of the study; understand the format of the study.

GATHER. Welcome participants to the study, distribute Bible study books to each group member, and introduce yourself. Explain that this session will overview the content, explain the learning approach, and allow members to get acquainted. Lead an opening prayer.

OVERVIEW THE COURSE. Explain that application is very important to this study. Say: *Your individual, daily study in the book will begin the process of application. However, the learning activities and discussion in each group session will continue that process. Together we will discuss concepts you studied during the week, and through several formats—reading, discussing Scripture, and watching video sessions—we will begin to flesh out the concepts and apply them to our lives.*

WATCH. Play the teaching video for Session One. Encourage participants to take notes on the Session One Video Viewer Guide (page 11).

CLOSE with a prayer that participants will learn to hear God's voice.

SESSION TWO

A SINGLE-MINDED WORSHIP

BEFORE THE SESSION

1. Provide markers and name tags. Be sure to wear your name tag as members arrive.
2. Study Session One and complete the activities.
3. Preview video Session Two.
4. Provide a chalkboard or dry erase board for use during the session.
5. Examine the following suggestions and decide which you will use during the session.

AFTER THE SESSION participants will be able to: describe the sacrifices and rewards that come from walking obediently with God; identify ways to honor God; state steps to becoming dependent on God.

GATHER. Welcome everyone. Begin with prayer, asking God to bless participants during the session.

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

According to Matthew 11:20, how did some adults respond to His miracles? Follow up with a short discussion of how we respond today.

We read about sacrifices biblical characters made to walk obediently with God. What were the sacrifices and rewards of each mentioned in Day One:

- Peter and the apostles (Acts 5:17-29, 40-42)

- Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Dan. 3:14-19, 27)

- Abraham (Gen. 22:1-3, 16-18)

- Joseph (Gen. 39:10-21; 41:41-42)

- Hosea (Hosea 1:2-3; 3:1-3)

According to Deuteronomy 28:1-14, what are the rewards promised to those who obey the Lord? Do we claim those promises today?

What is the difference between knowing Jesus and obeying Him?

Ask several participants to define the phrase "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."

On Day Two we learned that honoring God is key to hearing from God. How can we honor Him? On a chalkboard, write members' responses.

Humility is the ability to think of others, putting their needs before your own. Ask members about people they know who are humble.

Ask several members to read the following verses aloud: Psalm 138:6; Isaiah 57:15; Isaiah 66:2; James 4:6; and James 4:10. After each verse is read, discuss what each teaches about humility.

Several times this week we looked at the different actions, behaviors, and responses we have during various life stages. Discuss some of these differences, especially as they relate to how we respond to God.

Have a member read Numbers 20:8-12. Discuss the story by following the questions on page 28.

Ask members to read Isaiah 7:9; John 3:18; John 8:24; and Hebrews 3:12. According to these verses, what is the importance of faith in our relationship to the Lord?

Read Psalm 131 and Matthew 18:1-4. From Day Five, ask members to contrast statements from David and the disciples.

What three steps must we take to become dependent on God? What is the difference between a calm and a quiet soul? What situations in our lives show times we need to depend on God?

WATCH. Play the teaching video for Session Two. Encourage participants to take notes on the Session Two Video Viewer Guide (page 39).

CLOSE your group time with prayer. Ask the Lord to give participants time and energy to study Session Two.

SESSION THREE

A SET-APART HOLINESS

BEFORE THE SESSION

1. Provide markers and name tags.
2. Study Session Two and complete the activities.
3. Preview video Session Three.
4. Examine the following suggestions and decide which you will use during the session.

AFTER THE SESSION participants will be able to: evaluate how they respond to God's glory; list three attributes of God; assess their motivations for "religious" activities.

GATHER. Welcome everyone. Begin with prayer, asking God to bless participants during the session.

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

Read Exodus 3. What can we learn about God's glory from Moses' encounter with Him?

Assign members to read the following verses: Psalm 95:3; Jeremiah 10:16; Zechariah 4:14; 1 Thessalonians 1:9; Jude 25. Discuss how these verses illustrate God's incomparable power.

How do we respond to God's glory? How did Moses and Isaiah respond?

From Day Two, why did God tell Moses not to get closer and to remove his shoes?

Read Romans 8:15 and Galatians 4:5. How does our relationship with God compare to that of the Israelites?

What kinds of specific details did God give to the Israelites for the temple?

Understanding God's attributes will help us grow to know Him in a deeper, more intimate way. In Day Three we examined three: power, mercy, and justice. Break into three groups. One group will look at power; another, mercy; and another, justice. Have each group report their findings.

We are not made acceptable to God by who we are but by Whose we are. What is the only sacrifice ever needed for us to feel acceptable and adequate in God's sight? Follow up by reading Hebrews 10:1-4.

What is our position once we become Christians? Have a member read Ephesians 2:6.

According to Hebrews 7:22, what guarantees this covenant?

Read Exodus 3:10-16 and 12:14-16. Ask several questions related to these passages:

- What is Moses' main concern?
- How did God redirect Moses' attention?
- How can you relate to this scene?

We read in Day Five some of the things the Pharisees did to get noticed by other people. Ask the following questions:

- What are some of the “religious” things people do today to be noticed?

- To gain acceptance?

- Do these work?

Christ was not impressed by the Pharisees. Would He be impressed by our shallow actions and behavior?

WATCH. Play the teaching video for Session Three. Encourage participants to take notes on the Session Three Video Viewer Guide (page 67).

CLOSE your group time by asking participants if they have specific needs related to this study that they’d like the group to pray for. Divide into groups of two or three and pray together.

SESSION FOUR

A STILL ATTENTIVENESS

BEFORE THE SESSION

1. Study Session Three and complete the activities.
2. Preview video Session Four.
3. Secure a chalkboard or dry erase board.
4. Examine the following suggestions and decide which you will use during the session.

AFTER THE SESSION participants will be able to: identify three elements they receive with spiritual inheritance; relate to their lives the four reasons the children of Israel were to surrender to God; state why they should remember the promises God made—and kept—in the Old Testament.

GATHER. Welcome everyone. Begin with prayer, asking God to bless participants during the session.

Since your salvation, what signs do you see that your desires have changed?

On the chalkboard, write “Worldly Freedom” and “Freedom in Christ.” Ask the group to contrast the two.

Read Romans 6:12-13 to remind the group of God’s challenge.

Ask two members to volunteer to write on the board. Have someone read Colossians 3:8,12-14. Ask the group to tell the volunteer writers what we must put on and take off as Christ’s followers, according to these verses.

Which items would be most difficult to put on? take off?

Ask members to state the three distinct elements we receive with our spiritual inheritance.

Read Joshua 24:14-15 from several Bible translations. What ideas and concepts can you draw from reading the verse several times?

In Day Three we learned Joshua gathered the people at Shechem. What is the significance of this place? Where is your "Shechem"?

What are the four reasons Joshua gave that the children of Israel should surrender to God, found in Days Three and Four? How do these relate to us today?

In Genesis 12:2-3, God made a promise to Abraham. What was that promise? Read Hebrews 11:12. Did God keep that promise? What were some obstacles Abraham had to deal with?

What promises has God given you? What promises do you cling to?

On Day Four, we looked at the relationship between God and His chosen people. Reread Joshua 24:4-12. How has God protected you in order to preserve His calling and promises?

Discuss the difference between obedience from the heart and ritual obedience. Close the discussion by reading Matthew 22:37.

WATCH the teaching video for Session Four. Encourage participants to take notes or jot down questions on the Session Four Video Viewer Guide (page 93).

CLOSE your group time by breaking into groups of three or four. Have each group share any prayer requests they have. Be sure the groups pray over these requests.

SESSION FIVE

A SOLD-OUT HUNGER

BEFORE THE SESSION

1. Study Session Four and complete the activities.
2. Preview video Session Five.
3. Examine the following suggestions and decide which you will use during the session.

AFTER THE SESSION participants will be able to: identify the three questions they must consider for the battle in our minds; affirm Paul's six directives in Philippians 4:8 to fill our minds; assess how to alter their personal schedules to make time to sit before God.

GATHER. Welcome everyone. Open with prayer.

What three questions must we consider for battle? (Make sure members understand how these relate to the mental battle we fight.)

- Who is our enemy?

- What are our weapons?

- What is our battle strategy?

How is our faith like the Roman soldier's shield?

How can putting on the "helmet of salvation" cause you to walk more confidently?

What Scriptures can become daggers for you against Satan's attacks? Use those in Day One as examples to begin this dialogue.

What six directives does Paul give in **Philippians 4:8** to fill our minds?

Read **Ruth 1:5-22**. Ruth put her trust in the God of her mother-in-law. Her faith didn't waver. She was obedient to God, regardless of her circumstances. In what circumstances does your faith waver? How have you been able to seek God in these times?

Read **1 Timothy 1:15-16** and answer the questions from page 103.

Read **Jesus' prescription to Levi in Luke 5:27**. How can you relate this to your life?

Contrast Ruth's reaction to others:

- Hannah—**1 Samuel 1:6-7**

- Jonah—**Jonah 4:1-3**

- King Ahab—**1 Kings 21:4**

In Exodus 14:13, we read that the Israelites were afraid as the Red Sea blocked their dreams of escaping slavery. Through Moses God said not to fear. Moses reminded the people God would fight for them.

Divide the large group into four groups. For each of the following, have the small group give the name of the person who needed encouragement and the situation: Genesis 15:1; Deuteronomy 31:6; 1 Chronicles 28:20; Isaiah 41:13. Ask each small group to share their answers with the large group.

Ask someone to read Ecclesiastes 2:11; Matthew 6:26-34; and John 14:27. Discuss how each speaks to the issue of our ambition.

How might your ambition hurt your ability to hear from God? Contrast with being still before God and letting Him control your ambitions.

Contrast the behavior of the Israelites found in Isaiah 30:1-2 and the resulting action from King Jehoshaphat's leadership in 2 Chronicles 20:6-12. Ask, How did God respond to Jehoshaphat's prayer in 2 Chronicles 20:17? Ask someone to rephrase this response in their own words.

Discuss how your schedule can be altered to make time to sit still before God.

WATCH. Play the teaching video for Session Five. Encourage participants to take notes on the Session Five Video Viewer Guide (page 119).

CLOSE with prayer, asking God to help you be still before Him.

SESSION SIX

A SERVANT SPIRIT

BEFORE THE SESSION

1. Study Session Five and complete the activities.
2. Preview video Session Six.
3. Examine the following suggestions and decide which you will use during the session.

AFTER THE SESSION participants will be able to: see the importance of divine interruption; explain the positive effects of God's Word on a Christian's life; state three indicators to determine if they are living outside God's will.

GATHER. Welcome participants back to the study. Begin with prayer.

Ask members to tell of a time when God interrupted them, redirecting their plans to His.

Read Isaiah 55:8-9. What do these verses reveal about the differences between our plans and the Lord's plans?

Divide into three groups. Have each group review the case studies of Sarah, Claudia, and Tamara and report to the large group what can be learned about interruption from each.

What two characteristics of the Bible do we learn in Day Two? Follow up by asking, What effect does the Bible have on our lives?

Have several members read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 from different Bible translations.

Read John 14:21. According to this verse, to whom will Christ reveal Himself?

Ask someone to read Exodus 33:3-4. Lead discussion by asking the following questions:

- How did the Israelites respond to Moses telling them God would withdraw from them?
- How would you respond?
- What was the reason God gave for possibly leaving them?
- How do we normally respond to a stubborn and rebellious child?
- How does God respond to us when we're stubborn and rebellious?

What difference does having peace in your heart make in your life?
Your decisions?

Contrast Jonah's and Jesus's reaction to being in the middle of a storm. Look at Jonah's example from Jonah 1:1-5. Read Jesus's reaction in Luke 8:23-24. What did Jonah do? What about Jesus? Have you had sleepless nights because of a storm outside? What about a storm in your heart? How did you find peace?

What three indicators help us determine if we are living outside God's will?

We learned in Day Five that the Israelites expected victory as long as God's presence was evident. How do we respond today? What gives us the assurance that God is near even when we can't see Him physically?

Ask volunteers to read: John 14:26; 16:8,13; and 2 Peter 1:3. What can we do without the Spirit's help?

WATCH. Play the teaching video for Session Six. Encourage participants to take notes on the Session Six Video Viewer Guide (page 147).

CLOSE your group time with prayer, asking God to help you to be hungry for His direction, His Word, His presence, His peace, and His power.

SESSION SEVEN

CONCLUSION

BEFORE THE SESSION

1. Study Session Six and complete the activities.
2. Preview video Session Seven.
3. Provide a chalkboard or dry erase board for use during the session.
4. Examine the following suggestions and decide which you will use during the session.

AFTER THE SESSION participants will be able to: recognize emotions they have during trials and willingly submit to God during these times; cite three elements of delighting in God; assess their willingness to wait on God's timing.

GATHER. Welcome everyone. Begin with prayer, asking God to bless your session. Thank Him for the fellowship you've had these past weeks.

Have someone read **2 Timothy 1:8-9**. What do these verses mean in reference to being submissive to the Lord's assignment for us?

Ask the group to read **1 Corinthians 12:4-11**, allowing each person to read at least one verse. Write the gifts mentioned in these verses on a dry erase board or chalkboard.

We all have different gifts, just as we are all unique individuals. We can use these gifts to serve the Lord in what He has specifically for us to do.

John 16:33 reminds us that we will have suffering and trouble in this world. What emotions do you typically have when you're facing trouble? How can you face trials with a Christlike attitude?

Break into three groups. Assign each group two biblical characters from the list in Day Two. Have them summarize the challenges their characters faced and report their findings. After each group has reported, ask, What can we learn from the experiences of these ordinary people?

Ask for volunteers to read 2 Corinthians 4:17 and Philippians 3:20. Ask members to share a Scripture they noted on page 156 that helps them remember to keep an eternal perspective.

Read Psalm 37:4. What are the three elements at the root of delighting in God?

Ask the following questions regarding delighting in the Lord.

- What things do we delight in?

- How would someone recognize that we delight in that object, person, etc.?

- What is the relationship between delighting in the Lord and our desires?

- What is the relationship between delighting in the Lord and being content?

Have someone read 1 Samuel 3:1-10. What does Samuel's response to Eli tell us about his general response to authority? Do we have a similar response?

On a dry erase board or chalkboard, list authority figures in our lives. Solicit answers from the group. Discuss which might be easiest and most difficult to submit to and why.

Ask volunteers to give their summary of **Romans 8:7**.

Our study mentioned viewing submission as a gift for our good rather than a loss of freedom. What other picture describes the benefits of submission? (If they need a reminder, direct them to page 165.)

In Day Five, we learned about being submissive to God's timing. What is the most difficult part of waiting? How willing are we to wait on God?

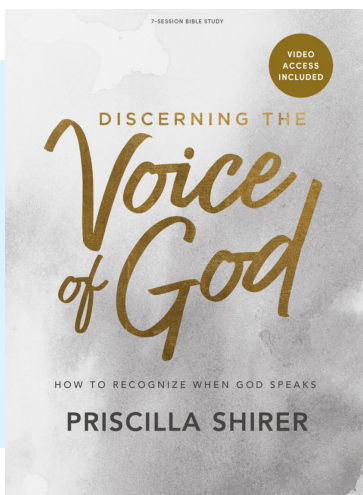
Ask the group for reactions to the following statements from pages 169-170: "Believing is an action we must choose. A direct correlation exists between our level of belief and patience. Whether we believe God will do what He said will determine whether we can wait graciously for Him."

WATCH. Play the video for Session Seven. This last video segment was filmed in Priscilla's home. In it, she reviews what we have learned during the past weeks.

CLOSE your group time with prayer, asking God to bless each participant as she seeks to position herself to hear God's voice.

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 the follow-up study *Discerning the Voice of God*.

lifeway.com/discerning



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.