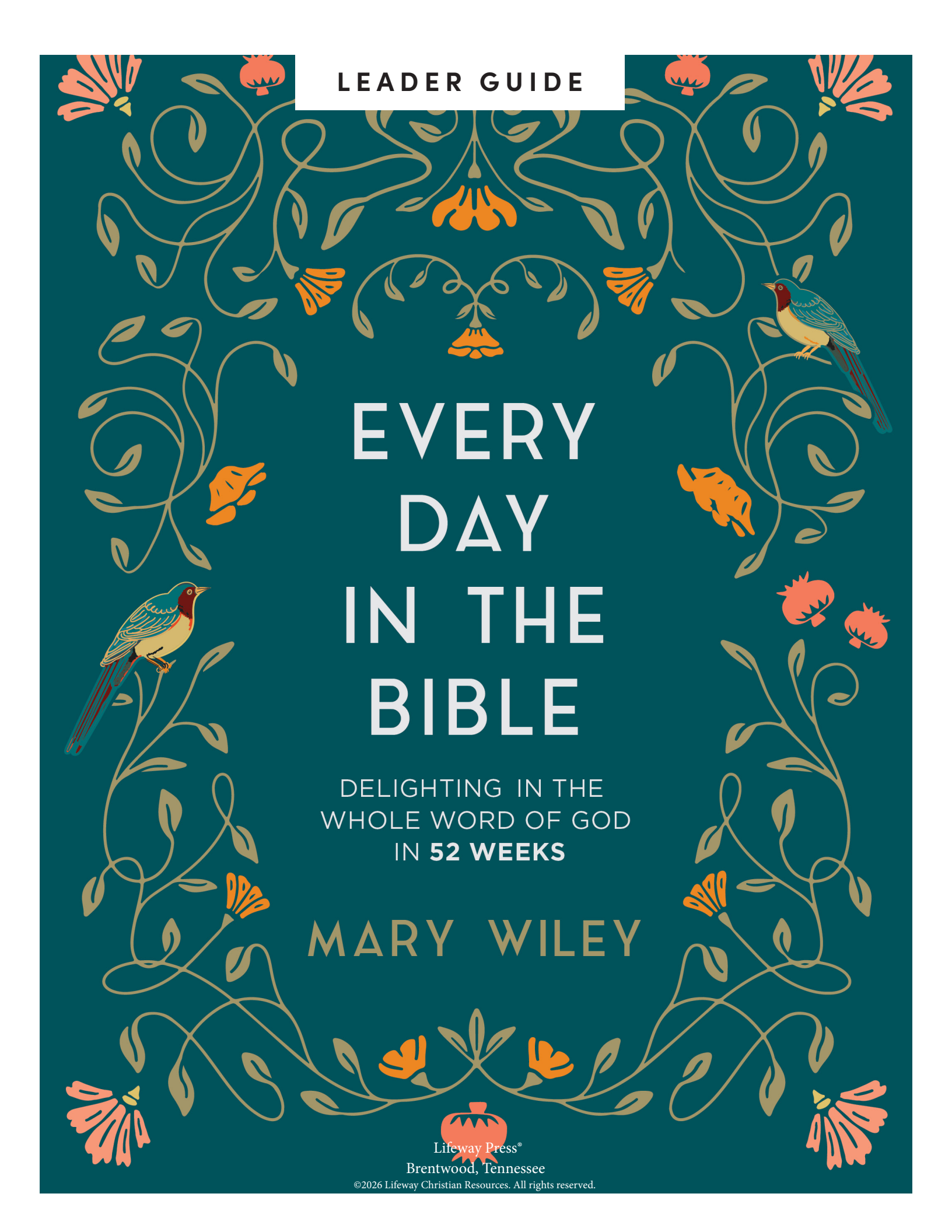


The background is a deep teal color, adorned with a repeating pattern of stylized, light-colored vines and leaves. Interspersed among the foliage are several small, bright orange flowers and two small, colorful birds with blue, yellow, and red plumage. The overall design is elegant and nature-inspired.

LEADER GUIDE

EVERY DAY IN THE BIBLE

DELIGHTING IN THE
WHOLE WORD OF GOD
IN **52 WEEKS**

MARY WILEY

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.

Every Day in the Bible is a year-long Bible reading plan and discussion-based Bible study from Mary Wiley. There is a companion podcast with Mary, called *Every Day in the Bible*, that follows along with daily commentary on the Bible reading outlined in this Bible study book.

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 know this study is for the long haul—365 days. You may choose to meet weekly, monthly, quarterly, or occasionally throughout the year. You may choose to keep in touch through text, email, or social media.

No matter who and how you're leading, this leader guide has tips, tools, and insights to set you up for success for the year ahead. 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

NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

Dear friend,

To open God's Word with you across a year is an absolute honor. I have been deeply changed by God as I've read His Word, and I pray you, too, will be transformed more and more into the image of Christ as the year goes on. May He teach us, convict us, comfort us, and compel us as we meet Him in these pages.

I'm a proponent of having a varied Bible study approach that includes both studying fast and studying slow.

Studying fast by reading through the Bible so that you get a flow of the whole with its themes and connections, and then studying slow by spending extended time in a single book or concept, moving slowly and soaking up every detail.

We don't have time to cover some details as we study fast this year together, and I hope as we go, you'll make a note of those books or concepts in Scripture that you want to study slow later. I cannot wait to hear what you learn this year and how God uses His Word in your life!

Before we jump in, here are a few things you should know:



ABOUT THE READING PLAN

IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS: We'll read a Gospel together at the start of each quarter so that we stay grounded in the gospel story and reminded that all the Bible is about Jesus.

FULL BOOKS, OLD TESTAMENT AND NEW TESTAMENT TOGETHER: The reading plan is arranged to help you read in a way that Jesus discussed on the Road to Emmaus. Luke 24:27 says it this way, "Then beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted for them the things concerning himself in all the Scriptures."

We'll start with John, which is often recommended to new Christians as the first book to read in the Bible, but it's also my very favorite! John sets the stage for how we are to interpret the Old Testament, even from the very beginning as it echoes Genesis 1:1 with "In the beginning," so we'll read Genesis after we read John. Then, we'll explore Exodus and Leviticus alongside Hebrews, which helps us understand what to do with the laws, feasts and festivals, and tabernacle set up in those books. Then, we'll read Numbers and Deuteronomy and then Romans, exploring the themes of law and grace. We'll continue this pattern, reading books sequentially that share similar concepts.

VARIED SPEEDS: The reading plan is designed to keep you reading and to provide some days that are heavier and some days that are lighter. I know life happens, and you may miss a day here or there, so I built a plan that gives you a little breathing room along the way. And if you find that you fall a bit behind and struggle to catch up, just keep reading. Finish in a year or a year and a few days or two years or more. No matter when you finish this plan, you will have read the entirety of God's Word, and His promise is to meet us as we seek Him there. Enjoy His presence and His Word as you read!



FOLLOW THE WEEKLY RHYTHM

Each week will include five pages of interactive content in the Bible study book. Here's how to best use them:

- 1** Every week begins with an overview of what to expect in the reading for the week and a reminder of what to look for in the text. A daily guide and a memory verse or passage for the week are also listed on the first page.
- 2** The second and third pages, titled “As You Read,” will be used throughout the week to summarize your learning each day. Record key insights or questions there so that you can discuss them and reflect on them at the end of the week. Then, consider what truths are present in the Scripture you read. How is God revealing Himself through those truths? What insights do you want to remember? What questions have you answered, and what questions still remain? I’m so thankful God has invited us to ask our questions, big and small, and I believe it is so fruitful to ask as many questions as we can about the text and do our best to answer them—whether that means exploring surrounding texts, asking a trusted friend or pastor, or seeking additional help in commentaries. These would be great questions to discuss with your group!
- 3** On the third page, you’ll see boxes for the main idea and praying Scripture. For the main idea, you’ll sum up all the passages you read in a few sentences. For weeks where the reading spreads across multiple books, you might choose to include a main idea for each book. When finding the main idea, think about how you would answer if a stranger approached you and asked, “What is that book you are reading about?”

And after the main idea, you’ll write a prayer reflecting on the week. You can pray prayers verbatim from the reading (we’ll read many prayers throughout our time together) or you can walk back through what God has revealed about Himself throughout the week’s learning and pray in accordance to those truths. We’ll model this every day on the podcast as well.
- 4** The fourth page may be a short article or a chart that deepens your learning. You may find that reading this at the end of the week is most fruitful, or you may choose to read it before you begin reading. Additional helps for the prophets and letters are found on page 275-277 in the Bible study book to give you additional context. These will explain the intended audience and what was happening around them at the time, both of which will be important as you read.
- 5** Lastly, the fifth page each week has a list of questions for you to review what you’ve read and reflect on the truth found there. When you get together as a group, you can use these questions to guide your discussion.



LISTEN TO THE PODCAST

Every day, there will be a podcast episode to fuel your learning. The *Every Day in the Bible* podcast will include a reading of the day's Scripture passage as well so that we can do as Deuteronomy 6 instructs, thinking and talking about God's Word as we come and go, as we do dishes, and as we drive to work. We'll read the text together, and then I'll walk back through the passages exploring themes and connections to other parts of the Bible. We'll pray and repeat one central part of the reading, giving you something to meditate on throughout the rest of the day.

The podcast and this book are meant to work together, providing you with both a place to reflect and record your own insights as well as hear more in depth commentary on the passages you're reading.

You can find the podcast at lifeway.com/everydayinthebible or by searching "Every Day in the Bible" wherever you enjoy podcasts.

It is an honor to walk this journey with you, learning together and encouraging one another in the faith through spending time in God's Word. I know this is a commitment of time and effort, and I'm asking that God take our meager offerings and multiply them for His kingdom's sake. I'm asking God to change us and to change our continued hunger for the things of God and for His Word as we taste and see that He is good again and again and again. Thank you for joining me and for leading a group to learn together!

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE #1

Weekly Meetings • Meeting Length: 1 hour

This schedule accounts for weekly group meetings, discussing one week of the *Every Day in the Bible* study book and reading plan each meeting.

SESSION ONE—INTRODUCTION

Distribute Bible study books, get to know one another, and read John 1 together.

SESSIONS TWO THROUGH FIFTY-TWO

Use the Review and Reflect questions provided each week in the Bible study book to shape your discussion. Talk through any unanswered questions from the text and/or the commentary in the Bible study book or on the podcast. Pray together.

SESSION FIFTY-THREE

Celebrate together! Use the Review and Reflect questions provided in the Bible study book to shape your discussion, and also look back to the very first week. What questions have been answered after reading the entire Bible? What questions remain? Discuss next steps—a new Bible reading plan, a focused study on one book or aspect of what you've studied, new groups, and so on. Pray together, praising God for His Word, and asking for boldness to live out the truths you've studied this year.

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE #2

Monthly Meetings • Meeting Length: 1.5–2 hours

This schedule accounts for one meeting each month. Groups will complete the reading plan each week but gather only thirteen times to discuss.

SESSION 1

Distribute Bible study books, get to know one another, and read John 1 together.

SESSION 2

Discuss Weeks 1–5 of the Bible reading plan, using selected questions from each week's Review and Reflect pages. Pray together.

SESSION 3

Discuss Weeks 6–9 of the Bible reading plan, using selected questions from each week's Review and Reflect pages. Pray together.

SESSION 4

Discuss Weeks 10–14 of the Bible reading plan, using selected questions from each week's Review and Reflect pages. Pray together.

SESSION 5

Discuss Weeks 15–18 of the Bible reading plan, using selected questions from each week's Review and Reflect pages. Pray together.

SESSION 6

Discuss Weeks 19–22 of the Bible reading plan, using selected questions from each week's Review and Reflect pages. Pray together.

SESSION 7

Discuss Weeks 23–26 of the Bible reading plan, using selected questions from each week's Review and Reflect pages. Pray together.

SESSION 8

Discuss Weeks 27–31 of the Bible reading plan, using selected questions from each week's Review and Reflect pages. Pray together.

SESSION 9

Discuss Weeks 32–35 of the Bible reading plan, using selected questions from each week's Review and Reflect pages. Pray together.

SESSION 10

Discuss Weeks 36–39 of the Bible reading plan, using selected questions from each week's Review and Reflect pages. Pray together.

SESSION 11

Discuss Weeks 40–45 of the Bible reading plan, using selected questions from each week's Review and Reflect pages. Pray together.

SESSION 12

Discuss Weeks 46–49 of the Bible reading plan, using selected questions from each week's Review and Reflect pages. Pray together.

SESSION 13

Celebrate! Discuss Weeks 49–52 of the Bible reading plan, using selected questions from each week's Review and Reflect pages. Look back over the entire year. What questions were answered? What questions remain?

Discuss next steps—a new Bible reading plan, a focused study on one book or aspect of what you've studied, new groups, and so on. Pray together, praising God for His Word, and asking for boldness to live out the truths you've studied this year.

Because this study takes place over the course of an entire year, you may not meet regularly with your group. Consider other ways to stay in touch, to hold one another accountable, to answer questions, and to celebrate a year spent in God's Word!

DAILY OR WEEKLY TEXTS OR EMAILS. Consider a regular cadence of text and/or email reminders to be in God's Word, reading, reflecting, and praying. Ask questions in the group text or email, encourage one another, share insights, or simply serve as a reminder that you're in this together!

Ideas for your group text:

- "Have you read today's passage? What are your thoughts on verse _____?"
- Ask one of the Review & Reflect questions via text.
- "I just listened to the podcast for today. I hadn't thought about _____ before! Was anything Mary said new to you?"
- Send voice memos practicing the memory verse for the week.
- "What questions did you have from this week's reading?"
- Start a chain of reading or listening selfies.
- "What was a verse or passage that you loved this week? Did any of them give you pause?"
- Encourage women to look for attributes of God in their reading. Share which ones you saw as you read through the plan each week.
- Use voice memos to pray for one another.

BUILD IN MEETUPS FOR PRAYER AND FELLOWSHIP. Whether or not you decide to meet on a regular basis for discussion, consider a few times to meet throughout the year. The Bible is full of passages—you'll read all of them!—telling us we are best together. Come up with a few times throughout the year, you can meet to worship, pray, discuss what you're reading and learning, and celebrate. These don't have to be formal meetings. Depending on your group, you might choose to go to dinner, take a walk together, serve together, or meet at your church.



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 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 can ask an icebreaker question to get discussion started. Take a moment to ask how the reading is going, to share about your week, and to get to know one another as sisters in Christ.

DISCUSS (30 MINUTES) You'll find a suggestion of questions in the Bible study book on the Review and Reflect pages. 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 reading and personal reflection. As you do your own reading during the week, put a star by any passages or notes you might want to discuss with your group.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY WORK (10 MINUTES) Use this time to hold one another accountable to memorize the verse(s) found on page one of each week's study. You can test one another, including earlier weeks' verses, so that you will continue to hide God's Word in your heart throughout the year.

CLOSE (10 MINUTES) Take some time to share prayer requests and praises. Ask how you can help one another in the coming week to stay in Scripture. Pray together, thanking God for the time in His Word.

HERE ARE A FEW TIPS TO HELP YOU LEAD.

LISTEN TO THE PODCAST.

The *Every Day in the Bible* podcast is meant to provide both the daily Bible reading, as well as a deeper dive on each daily reading. The information in the podcast will be helpful for you as you lead, and you can encourage the women in your study to listen as well, especially if they have questions about the Bible reading.

You can find the podcast at everydayinthebiblepodcast.com.

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 six weeks before it begins. The study is for an entire year, which means it is a commitment for your women. You can choose how often you'd like to meet. Visit lifeway.com/everydayinthebible for free promotional materials to help get the word out about your study.

SCHEDULE.

Be sure to make everyone aware of the schedule of how often you will meet, as well as what your meeting times will consist of, and start promptly each week to honor everyone's time. In your group time, you will discuss what you're learning. You'll also be encouraged to spend 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. This will be especially important if you choose not to meet every week.

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 Review and Reflect pages you want to make sure you cover during your group time. And be sure you stay on top of your own reading between each meeting!

PERSONAL STUDY.

This study is broken down into daily reading, with articles, space for journaling, and reflection questions each week. Encourage women to do the daily reading each day, listening to the podcast if that is more doable for them to stay in the Word.

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 who He is through His Word.

TRAIN.

With a year-long study, you may not be able to lead every week yourself. Instead, use this as an opportunity to raise up new leaders. Show them how to lead discussion and allow them to lead alongside you and then in your absence when needed.

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.

ICEBREAKER QUESTIONS

To start each session of your group time, consider asking an icebreaker question to get conversation started. Here are a few of our favorites:

When you were 5 years old, what did you want to be when you grew up? Does your current job relate to that in any way?

If you only had ten minutes to prepare a TED Talk, what topic would you speak on?

What's something useless that you still have memorized?

What's a random skill/thing you have that you'd be willing to use to serve the group? (Making bread, assembling furniture, moving friends, doing taxes, painting trim, planning trips, etc.)

If you could move to any city in the world tomorrow, taking all your family and friends, where would you go?

What hobby did you discover recently that you plan to continue?

Which three fictional characters best describe your personality?

If you could bring back any fashion trend, what would it be and why?

If animals could talk, which one would you most want to have a conversation with? (This would be a great one to ask around Week 10!)

What was your childhood nickname?

What are your top three most-used emojis?

What five items do you like to keep in your fridge at all times?

If you could wake up tomorrow and be proficient at any skill, what skill would you choose?

Describe your week in a color.

What's a song you can't stop playing on repeat right now?

What's the most underrated city you've ever visited?

If you were hosting friends in our town, where would you take them?

What's the best piece of advice you've ever received?

Who is the kindest person you've ever known?

Do you have a hidden talent? Show it to us!

How did you meet your best friend?

Other than the Bible, what book has had the biggest impact on your life?

What was your first paid job?

What one small thing is bringing you joy right now?

Who would you want to play you in a movie about your life?

Would you rather always be two hours early or twenty minutes late?

What was your first concert?

What's your favorite cereal?

Do you have any travel hacks to share?

Are you in any named group texts? What's one of the funniest names?

What is something creative you're working on right now?

What's something you've changed your mind about?

If you could only have five apps on your phone, which five would you choose?

When's the last time you laughed so hard you cried/your stomach hurt? What happened?

If you could, would you rather spend a day with your younger self or your older self?

If a museum about you had a gift shop, what would they sell?

Would you rather be able to sleep for one hour per day and be fully rested or be able to eat any food and it be good for you?

What's the worst hair decision you've ever made?

What's a detail about this week that you don't want to forget?

If you could live anywhere in the world for one week, one month, and one year, where would you live for each amount of time?

SCRIPTURE MEMORY TIPS

Each week in the Bible study book, you'll find a Scripture verse or short passage to memorize. It takes a lot of discipline and a lot of work to memorize! But, as Psalm 119:11 says, we treasure God's Word in our hearts so that we may not sin against Him. Paul tells us in Philippians 4:8 to dwell on what is true, honorable, lovely. There is nothing more true or lovely than God's Word.

Here are a few tips for memorizing Scripture, as you work toward encouraging your group to memorize 52+ verses in the Bible this year.

REPETITION. Read, write, repeat each verse many times. Try saying it in every room of your house or repeating it on every street in your neighborhood walk. Read it until you only have to glance down a few times. Write the verse out in a notebook over and over.

MEDITATION. Psalm 1:2 says the happy person is the one who meditates on God's instructions day and night. Pray through the verse, praising God for the truth found in it and asking Him for help to live out the principle taught in that passage. Think about each word and each phrase slowly. Have it on repeat in your mind, so to speak.

VISIBILITY. Write the verse or passage on a sticky note or on a notecard and place it where you'll see it often. Maybe on your computer at work, or on a mirror in your bathroom, or on your dashboard for school pickups. Take a picture of the verse and save it as your phone background. The more you see it, the better!

ACCOUNTABILITY. Hold one another accountable as you study. If you don't meet every week, ask each other for progress reports via text or email or social media. Share what's working for you. Ask for prayers for this challenge. Encourage one another in the progress made.

STAYING MOTIVATED

With a year-long study, it may be difficult for the women in your group to stay motivated and keep reading. There may be weeks or even seasons where they get behind due to life circumstances. How can you balance holding one another accountable and showing grace?

ACKNOWLEDGE that this study will be a challenge. Women are busy! They have demands at home, at work, and in their communities. Setting aside time every day to read the Bible won't be easy. Pray with and for one another, especially in the busier seasons.

DISCUSS how you'd like to be held accountable. Would your group prefer a daily text as a reminder? Maybe they prefer something weekly, especially if you don't meet every week. Consider assigning partners each week to check on each other.

ENCOURAGE one another. Ask how you can pray for motivation or time in someone's schedule. If someone's schedule is busier than usual, celebrate her efforts by buying a favorite treat or honoring her with words at your meeting. Encourage listening to the podcast where the Scripture passages will be read if sitting down and reading isn't working. Share tips and tricks with one another.

CELEBRATE the wins. Come up with ways to celebrate finishing a book of the Bible, maybe a particularly challenging one. Have a celebratory dinner or dessert potluck every time you read through a Gospel (once a quarter). At the end of the study, throw a party!

FINISHING WELL

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.