

LEADER GUIDE

# SEE FOR YOURSELF

HOW TO STUDY YOUR BIBLE  
WITH CONFIDENCE & JOY

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# LEADER GUIDE

**Welcome!** Thank you for leading this study.

*See For Yourself* is a video- and discussion-based Bible study from Jimmy Needham. The teaching videos were filmed at Lifeway Christian Resources studio in Brentwood, Tennessee.

This Bible study is unique because it is study on *how* to study the Bible. This study includes additional resources available to you and your group members that will better equip you to lead this interactive study. We pray this leader guide further equips you to facilitate your group meetings in a way that fosters community, conversation, and transformational learning for you and the men you're leading.

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 need to adapt parts of it, feel free to do so! Our goal is to give you all the tools you might need as you lead your specific group in your specific setting.

We're grateful for you and praying for you as you lead this study.

# WEEKLY GROUP MEETING: SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

10 Group Meetings • Meeting Length: 1.5 hours

## SESSION ONE

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

## SESSION TWO

Review the Week One personal study. Watch the Session Two video and complete the group exercise together.

## SESSION THREE

Review the Week Two personal study. Watch the Session Three video and complete the group exercise together.

## SESSION FOUR

Review the Week Three personal study. Watch the Session Four video and complete the group exercise together.

## SESSION FIVE

Review the Week Four personal study. Watch the Session Five video and complete the group exercise together.

## SESSION SIX

Review the Week Five personal study. Watch the Session Six video and complete the group exercise together.

## SESSION SEVEN

Review the Week Six personal study. Watch the Session Seven video and complete the group exercise together.

## SESSION EIGHT

Review the Week Seven personal study. Watch the Session Eight video and complete the group exercise together.

## SESSION NINE

Review the Week Eight personal study. Watch the Session Nine video and complete the group exercise together.

## SESSION TEN

Review the Week Nine personal study. Watch the Session Ten video and discuss the Wrap-up Reflection questions.



## 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!

### **GET STARTED (5 MINUTES)**

This is a time to get everyone on the same page, introduce anyone who is new, and introduce the session's topic.

### **DISCUSS (30 MINUTES)**

You'll begin each group time by reflecting on the previous week of personal study. A list of discussion questions is provided to help you facilitate conversation on the Viewer Guide pages in the Bible study book and in this Leader Guide. We encourage you to read through the questions in advance and circle the questions you want to discuss with your group. Feel free to adapt, skip, or add questions based on the needs of your group. Also, as you go through your own study during the week, put a star by any questions, exercises, or statements you might want to discuss with your group.

### **WATCH (15 MINUTES)**

Play the coaching video during this time, encouraging men to take notes on the Viewer Guide page for that specific session. Each coaching video will introduce a new skill and why it's needed to study the Bible.

### **GROUP PRACTICE (30 MINUTES)**

Following the video, you'll complete an exercise together as a group. This practice time is a chance for everyone to start working on the skill they just learned about in the video before they practice it on their own throughout the week. While there are no right answers to most of these exercises, Jimmy has provided his answers to several of the group exercises for you to reference.

### **CLOSE (10 MINUTES)**

Brief closing activity ideas and/or prayer prompts have been provided. You can use this time however you wish to 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 card stock page labeled “Here’s Your Video Access” and follow the two steps that prompt you to enter your unique redemption code to gain your video streaming access.

If your group doesn’t have adequate internet connection for video streaming, DVD sets are available for purchase at [lifeway.com/seeformyselfmen](http://lifeway.com/seeformyselfmen).

Each video is intended to be viewed before completing the accompanying week of personal study. We recommend you use the teaching videos as a part of this study.



**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 ten sessions long, which means you will meet ten times. Visit [lifeway.com/seeformyselfmen](http://lifeway.com/seeformyselfmen) for free promotional materials to help get the word out about your study.

**SCHEDULE.** Be sure to make everyone aware of the schedule ahead of time and start promptly each week to honor everyone’s time. In your group time, you will discuss what you’re learning, watch the teaching video together, and do an exercise together.

**STAY CONNECTED.** Prepare a sign-up sheet with space for names, email addresses, and phone numbers. Sometime during the study, plan a time outside of the group meeting to hang out of get dinner.

**CONSIDER THE ENVIRONMENT.** Make an effort to create a comfortable environment for group meetings. If your group is large, you may want to watch the teaching video together, but do the discussion questions and practice exercise in smaller groups. To utilize small groups, you will need to enlist leaders to facilitate the groups.

**BIBLE STUDY BOOKS.** Each participant will need a copy of the *See for Yourself* 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 that 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. Make sure you're completing the weekly personal study. 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.** The Bible study book contains five days of personal study between each meeting.

**PRAYER.** Most importantly, be sure to pray for the men who attend the study. And pray for yourself as you prepare to lead. Ask God to draw the men closer to Him as they learn how to study His Word.

**EVALUATE.** At the end of each group session, ask yourself: *What went well? What could be improved? Did you see men'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. Reach out to encourage them. Continue these connections even after the study ends.

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

## A DIFFERENT KIND OF BIBLE STUDY

*See for Yourself* is a unique Bible study. You won't be studying a particular book of the Bible or a specific theme in the Bible. Instead, the purpose of this study is to equip men with the skills they need to study the Bible for themselves, with confidence and joy. That means each week of study is less focused on answers and more focused on skills. Answers are important, but this study exists to train men in the skills they need to come to those answers on their own. So, as a *See For Yourself* leader, how can you help in that process?

### BE ENCOURAGING

Many men are insecure about their ability to study the Bible for themselves. They're afraid of doing it wrong. They wonder if their questions are too simple or if their observations are incorrect. One of the best gifts you can give as a leader is encouragement. Inspire courage for your group members to keep going with comments like: "That's a great question!" "I've never considered that." "I love that you noticed that."

### REMIND THEM OF THE GOAL

Remind your group each week that this study is focused on gaining skills to help them study their Bibles with confidence and joy. To help men not be discouraged or afraid, point out that new skills don't come easily or automatically. They take work and repeated practice. We often fall a few times before we get it right. This is a normal part of the learning process. The *See for Yourself* study is a safe place to practice and grow, with lots of help and support along the way.

### MODEL HONESTY AND VULNERABILITY

Many men feel embarrassed about how little they know the Bible, especially if they've been in church a long time. Some may come to group time feeling shame about how hard the exercises were for them to complete or their lack of Bible knowledge. They may be battling lies like "I should be further along than this." Or "I'm an imposter. I don't know as much as everyone thinks I do."

As a leader, you set the tone for honesty and vulnerability. If all your answers are put together and polished, group members will feel the need to do the same. So, each week find ways to share openly and honestly. Say things like, "Guys, this week was hard for me! I felt frustrated when I couldn't even think of ten questions to ask." Or, "I never knew the Bible was arranged that way, and I've been in church my whole life! I felt kinda embarrassed I never knew that." Sharing your authentic struggles will give men freedom to do the same and will allow fears and insecurities to come to the surface so they can be addressed.

## STUDY RESOURCES

*See for Yourself* is full of helpful tools to support you and your group members. Make sure your group knows about these things and takes advantage of them.

### SHOW ME HOW VIDEOS

Don't miss out on this unique part of *See for Yourself*! Throughout the study, you can start many of the exercises with Kelly. She'll talk you through it and help get you going. While these videos aren't required to complete the study, encourage men to make the time for them so that they can take advantage of all the extra coaching.

These videos can be accessed by QR codes next to the exercises, but they are also available in the Lifeway On Demand app.

### ADDITIONAL TOOLS

You can find information about additional Bible study tools, a "Bible Study Bookmark," and a page filled with Scripture memory techniques in the appendix at the back of the Bible study book. Other resources in the form of downloadable PDFs can be found at [lifeway.com/seeformyselfmen](https://www.lifeway.com/seeformyselfmen), including an "at-a-glance" overview of the study, and a document where you can keep track of your favorite skills as you go.

### BONUSES

At the end of each week of study you'll find additional material—articles, exercises, or deep dives into the content from the week. Encourage group members to do the bonus material each week, but point out they can skip it and come back to it later if their time is limited. Also, assure them that skipping the bonus won't impact their experience with this study. The bonus exercises and tools are simply extra help in continuing to develop their Bible reading skills.

### CLEARLY PODCASTS

Jimmy cohosts the *Clearly* podcast with his wife, Kelly (author of the women's *See for Yourself* study!), where they tackle the complex, confusing, and controversial parts of the Bible and life. There are several linked episodes throughout the study that address related questions or topics. Make sure you note these and point group members to them as needed.

## SESSION ONE

# THE PURPOSE OF THE BIBLE

**GATHER.** Welcome men to the introductory session of *See for Yourself*. Provide name tags and distribute Bible study books if participants don't have them yet. Ensure everyone knows each other and set the course for your time together.

- Invite each person to introduce himself and share basic get-to-know-you information—family, job, hobbies, etc.

**DISCUSS.** Use the following questions to kick off the study. These opening questions are meant to encourage men to share where they are in their Bible study journey and set the tone for open, honest conversation. You can also find these questions on page 15 in the Bible study book.

- 1 Why did you decide to participate in this study? What are you hoping to get out of it?
- 2 What are your thoughts and emotions when you hear the claim that the Bible is the very Word of the living God, the Creator of the Universe? Do you agree or disagree? Explain.
- 3 What are the biggest hurdles you face when it comes to reading the Bible? Are they practical hurdles like time and energy, emotional hurdles like fear or disbelief, or mental hurdles like confusion or lack of understanding? Explain.
- 4 Where are you in your Bible reading journey? Are you reading through it for the first time or the tenth time? Have you ever read through the whole Bible? If so, what was that experience like? If not, what has kept you from it?
- 5 Do you enjoy reading the Bible or do you dread it? Does it feel like fun or like work? Explain.
- 6 What feelings come up when you think about reading the Bible? Do you feel excited? Overwhelmed? Scared? Curious? Hopeful? Why do you feel this way?
- 7 The Bible has often been misquoted and misused. Even Satan quoted the Bible to Jesus, misusing it and taking it out of context. Have you ever experienced someone misquoting or misusing the Scriptures? How has that affected your desire to read the Bible for yourself?
- 8 Do you have any concerns about the trustworthiness of the Bible? If so, what are your concerns? If not, why are you certain of its trustworthiness?

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

**WATCH** Play the coaching video for Session One: The Purpose of the Bible. (See “How to Watch Your Videos” on page 5 of this Leader Guide.)

**PRACTICE** Complete the group exercise together. If group members seem hesitant to share, speak up first but then pull back and leave space for others to share. Encourage everyone to participate but don't embarrass or put someone on the spot to answer. As you move through the weeks of study and get to know group members and gain their trust, you could occasionally call on men who are quiet by asking something like, “What do you think?”

While there are no right answers to this exercise, Jimmy has provided answers to help you and your group if you get stuck.

1. <i>What did the “formless and empty” earth look like?</i>	11. <i>How many of each creature did You make at the beginning?</i>
2. <i>Was the earth covered in water?</i>	12. <i>Do You have any favorite animals?</i>
3. <i>How is there light in verse three when the sun is created later?</i>	13. <i>Did You recreate the animals one at a time?</i>
4. <i>Why is evening mentioned first in verse 5?</i>	14. <i>Which animal did You create first?</i>
5. <i>What is the expanse?</i>	15. <i>Did the animals understand Your blessing in verse 22?</i>
6. <i>What is the water above the expanse?</i>	16. <i>Why do You speak in plural language in verse 26?</i>
7. <i>Why is water mentioned so much in the first ten verses?</i>	17. <i>Why did You speak to Yourself in verse 26?</i>
8. <i>Why were plants and trees made before the sun?</i>	18. <i>How long did it take You to create man?</i>
9. <i>Did the plants begin as seeds or full grown?</i>	19. <i>What language did You speak to the first man and woman?</i>
10. <i>Did You intentionally create constellations?</i>	20. <i>Could the first man and woman see You?</i>

See for Yourself

**CLOSE** Provide a few moments for group members to ask questions or share other thoughts about this session.

- **Take time** to do a quick walk through the Bible study book. Share about the weekly structure and the five days of personal study to complete each week. Point out that some exercises require another person to complete, and they are free to ask anyone to do that exercise with them. If they can't find anyone, they should text the group.
- **Encourage men** to do as much of each week's study as they can. If they are unable to finish all five days of personal study, they can still learn and contribute to the group time each week. Brainstorm specific times when they might try to complete their personal study each day.
- **Set the commitment** and time expectations you have for your group and take the opportunity to cover any important housekeeping notes.
- **Remind your group** to complete Week One of the Bible study book before your next group gathering. Also, encourage them to use the Show Me How videos during this week of study.
- **Close with prayer.** Ask how the group can be praying for each other over the coming week, and then pray together.

## SESSION TWO: THE STRUCTURE OF THE BIBLE

**GATHER.** Welcome participants back to the study. Allow a time of introductions for newcomers.

**DISCUSS.** Use the following questions to reflect on the previous week of personal study. You can also find these questions on page 37 in the Bible study book.

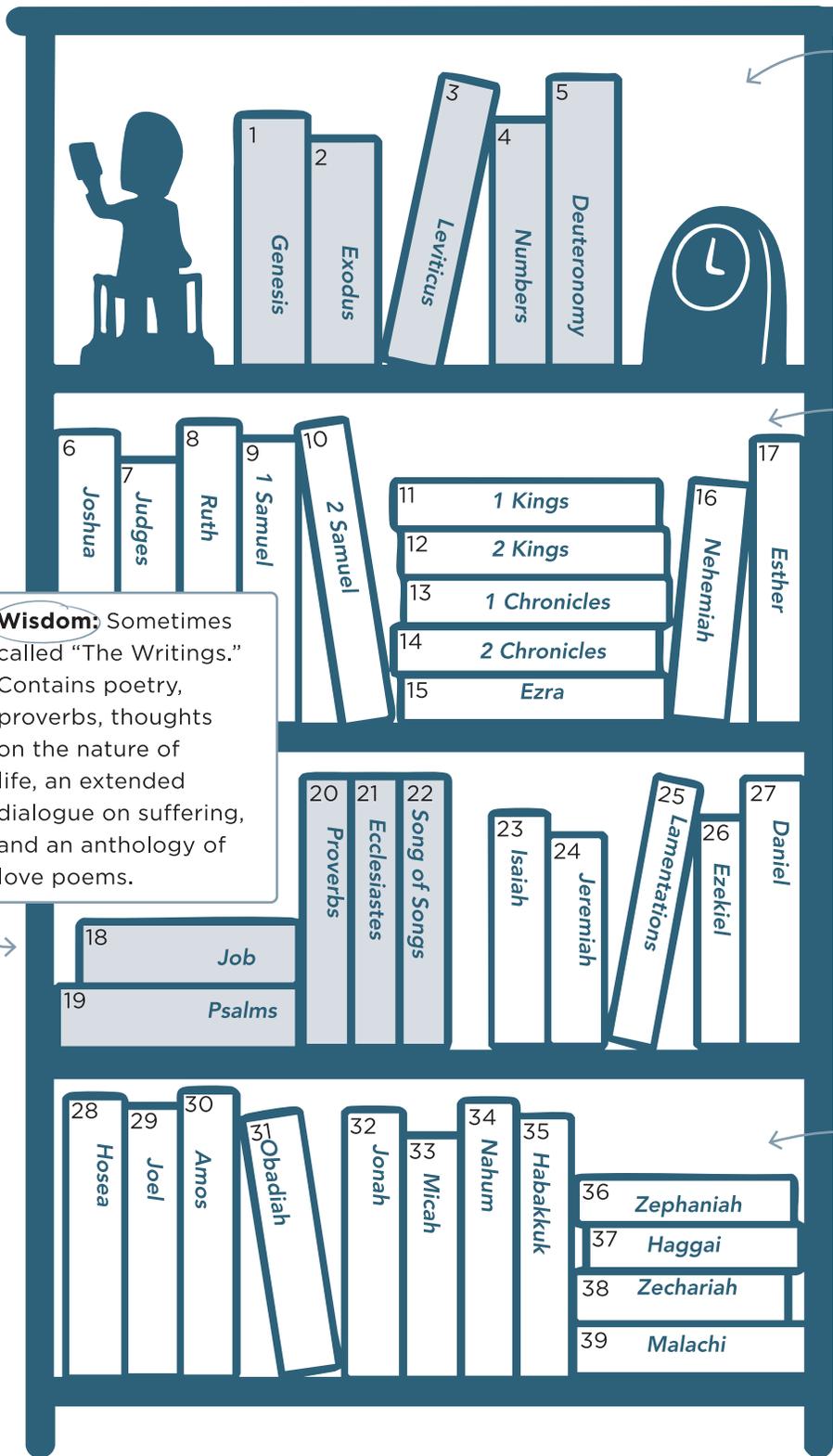
- 1 What was your favorite day from last week? Why?
- 2 What was the hardest day from last week? Why?
- 3 In your own words, describe what it means to read the Bible relationally. Why would you say this is an essential practice?
- 4 Let's discuss the "How's Your Relationship with God?" exercise. Did anything surprise you? What did you learn about yourself?
- 5 Do you have any questions about what it means to have a relationship with God? If so, what are they?
- 6 Let's discuss the "How's Your Relationship with God's People?" exercise. Did anything surprise you? What did you learn about yourself?
- 7 What activity did you choose to do with your reading of John 1 on Day 5? How did it affect your reading experience?
- 8 Let's talk about the bonus section. Does anyone use a journal to study the Bible? If not, why not? If so, how do you find it helpful in your Bible reading and study experience?

**WATCH.** Play the teaching video for Session Two: The Structure of the Bible. Encourage participants to take notes or jot down questions on page 37 in their Bible study books.

**PRACTICE.** Complete the group exercise together. Since this exercise is pretty simple, encourage conversation and discussion as you go. Here are some suggested questions:

- Share something new you learned from the exercise.
- Does the placement of any book surprise you? Or confuse you?
- Are there books of the Bible you've never read before?
- Which books are you most familiar with?
- Why do you think it matters to know where the books are and why they're there?

OLD TESTAMENT



**Law:** Written by Moses and containing the laws God gave the Jewish people. Don't be fooled by the label on this shelf though. These books are chock full of stories too!

**History:** The history of Israel from the end of Moses's life until about 400 years before Jesus's birth. Quite a long time!

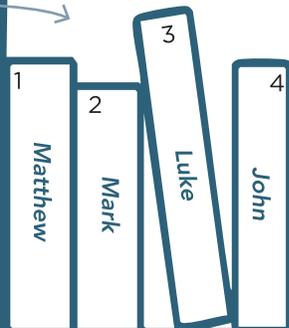
**Wisdom:** Sometimes called "The Writings." Contains poetry, proverbs, thoughts on the nature of life, an extended dialogue on suffering, and an anthology of love poems.

**Major prophets:** *Major* just means "longer." That's why these are grouped together. Lamentations makes the cut because it's also written by Jeremiah and belongs next to Jeremiah's other writings.

**Minor prophets:** These are called "minor" because the authors are all under age eighteen. Just kidding! They are simply a shorter length than the other four prophet's writings.

NEW TESTAMENT

**Gospels:** Four different accounts of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Each author was writing to a different audience with a different goal in mind.

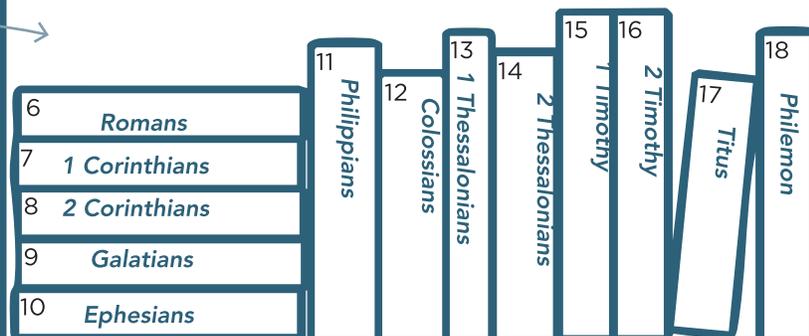


**Church History:**

A record of the birth of Jesus's church. The gospel moves from Jewish believers in Jerusalem to people all over the world.

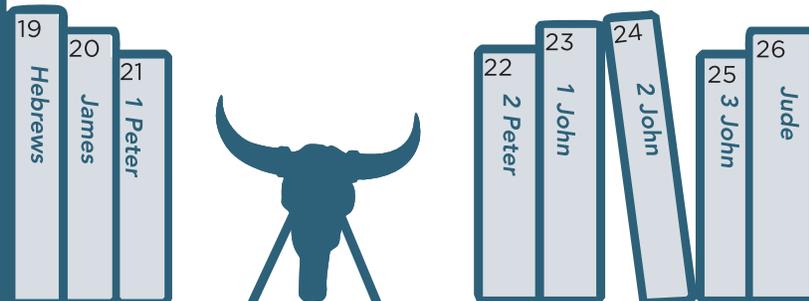
5 Acts

**Paul's Letters:** The writings of the apostle Paul to a number of churches as well as individuals. The letters to churches come first; letters to individuals follow.



**General Letters:**

Letters written to God's people by someone other than Paul.



**Prophecy:** Written by the apostle John, it describes events surrounding Jesus's second coming.

27 Revelation



**CLOSE.** Provide a few moments for group members to share any final comments or ask questions. Encourage group members to complete their personal study for Week Two before the next group meeting. Remind them about using the Show Me How video during their week of study. Point out the *Clearly* podcast episodes referenced this week: The first is on the biblical canon on Day 3, and the second is on Bible translations in the Bonus exercise.

Close in prayer.

## SESSION THREE: THE FOCUS OF THE BIBLE

**GATHER.** Welcome participants to Session 3 group time. Provide a few minutes for men to settle in for the group session.

**DISCUSS.** Use the following questions to reflect on the previous week of personal study. You can also find these questions on page 59 in the Bible study book.

- 1 Share something new you learned about the Bible this past week.
- 2 What was your favorite day from last week? Why?
- 3 What was the hardest day for you last week? Why?
- 4 In your own words, share the big story of the Bible.
- 5 Why is it important to understand the genres and literary forms of the Bible? How does knowing this help your understanding of Scripture?
- 6 How does understanding the timeline of the Bible help your Bible reading?
- 7 What activity did you choose to do with your reading of John 2? How did it affect your reading experience?
- 8 Let's talk about the bonus section. What are some things you learned about the translation of your Bible from the preface or introduction? How will that knowledge help you be a better Bible reader?

**WATCH.** Play the teaching video for Session Three. Encourage participants to take notes or jot down questions on page 59.

**PRACTICE.** Complete the group exercise together. Encourage everyone to participate but don't embarrass or put someone on the spot to answer. There may be some men in your group you know well and are comfortable calling on to get the discussion started.

While there are no right answers to this exercise, Kelly has provided answers to help you and your group if you get stuck.

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. *God rests (v. 2).*

11. *God is aware of what is not good (v. 18).*

2. *God does work (v. 2).*

12. *God can cause deep sleep (v. 21).*

3. *God completes things (v. 1).*

13. *God performed the first surgery to give a gift (v. 21).*

4. *God makes it rain (v. 5).*

14. *God gave a prohibition and a consequence (v. 17).*

5. *God breathes (v. 7).*

15. *God created gold and jewels (v. 12).*

6. *God planted a garden (v. 8).*

16. *God presented Eve to Adam (v. 22).*

7. *God causes things to grow (v. 9).*

17. *God accepts the names Adam gives the animals (v. 19).*

8. *God made the trees attractive (v. 9).*

18. *God gives people work to do (v. 15).*

9. *God's work of creation is recorded (v. 4).*

19. *God values help (vv. 18,20).*

10. *God gave clear instructions (vv. 16-17).*

20. *God interacts with His creation (vv. 15-22).*

See for Yourself

**CLOSE** Provide a few moments for group members to share any final comments or ask questions. Encourage group members to complete their personal study for Week Three before the next group meeting. Remind them about using the Show Me How videos during their week of study. Also point out the *Clearly* podcast on the Trinity referenced in Day 3 of this week's study.

Close in prayer, thanking God for who He is.

**SESSION FOUR:  
OBSERVE**

**GATHER** Welcome participants to Session 4 group time. Provide a few minutes for men to settle in for the group session.

**DISCUSS** Use the following questions to reflect on the previous week of personal study. You can also find these questions on page 79 in the Bible study book.

- 1 What was your favorite day from last week? Why?
- 2 Which exercise was the most challenging for you? Why?
- 3 Describe the difference between reading the Bible like a mirror and reading the Bible like a window. Which way have you traditionally read the Bible?
- 4 Share one or two of your favorite things about God you noted from the activities on Day 2.
- 5 Share one way Day 3 impacted you. How does knowing God is personal, relational, and has feelings affect the way you relate to Him?
- 6 What activity did you choose to do as you read John 3? How did that affect your reading experience?
- 7 Let's talk about the bonus activity. If you worked on it, what did you learn? How did studying God's attributes affect your relationship with Him?

**WATCH** Play the teaching video for Session Four. Encourage participants to take notes or jot down questions on page 79 in their Bible study books.

**PRACTICE** Complete the group exercise together. Encourage everyone to participate, but you may need to go first to help others feel comfortable about sharing. As you get to know your group, you may feel more comfortable calling on some of the quieter members. Just be sensitive in taking this action.

While there are no right answers to this exercise, Kelly has provided answers to help you and your group if you get stuck.

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. *The word "bless" is used three times in the first two verses.*
2. *"My soul" is who David is speaking to.*
3. *"All" is used four times in the first five verses.*
4. *This psalm opens with a command: bless (v. 1).*
5. *David commands himself to bless God (vv. 1-2).*
6. *The Lord's name is holy (v. 1).*
7. *David commands himself not to forget (v. 2).*
8. *David doesn't want to forget God's goodness ("all his benefits") (v. 2).*
9. *Actions attributed to God are: forgives, heals, redeems, crowns, satisfies (vv. 3-5).*
10. *God's actions are in the present tense (e.g., "He forgives" instead of "He forgave.")*
11. *God's first three actions are solving problems (iniquity, diseases, the Pit) (vv. 3-4).*
12. *Iniquity and diseases are present in David's life (v. 3).*
13. *The word "renewed" is compared to an eagle (v. 5).*
14. *"Like" is a word of comparison (v. 5).*
15. *The Lord acts on behalf of the oppressed (v. 6).*
16. *The word "all" is used in verse 6 to describe the oppressed.*
17. *His acts for the oppressed are described as righteous and just (v. 6).*
18. *"And" is a connecting word of comparison in verse 6.*
19. *"Revealed" is the first past tense verb used in this psalm (v. 7).*
20. *What God revealed were "his ways" and "his deeds" (v. 7).*

See for Yourself

**CLOSE** Provide a few moments for group members to share any final comments or ask questions. Encourage group members to complete their personal study for Week Four before the next group meeting. Remind them about using the Show Me How videos during their week of study.

Close in prayer. Encourage a volunteer to pray this week.

## SESSION FIVE: INTERPRET

**GATHER.** Welcome participants to Session 5 group time. Provide a few minutes for men to settle in for the group session.

**DISCUSS.** Use the following questions to reflect on the previous week of personal study. You can also find these questions on page 101 in the Bible study book.

- 1 What was your favorite day from last week? Why?
- 2 Which day was most challenging for you? Why?
- 3 Let's talk about Day 1. Were you surprised by how much you missed on your first reading? Explain. Which did you enjoy the most: reading, listening, or writing the text? Why? Which one helped you best understand what you were reading? Explain.
- 4 Which of the four observation skills—rereading, marking it up, writing observations, and illustrating—were new to you? Which one was most helpful? In what way? Which one was most challenging? Why?
- 5 Think back to everything you noticed this past week from these passages: 1 John 1, Ephesians 2, Luke 18, and Psalm 1. Share one thing you observed this week that piqued your interest. What skill helped you see it?
- 6 How have you experienced the benefits of slowing down to notice the text in your own personal study? Share an example.
- 7 What activity did you choose to do as you read John 4? How did that affect your reading experience?
- 8 Let's talk about the bonus material. What in the list of "Other Things to Notice" do you think will be most helpful to you in Bible study? Why?

**WATCH.** Play the teaching video for Session Five. Encourage participants to take notes or jot down questions on page 101 in their Bible study books.

**PRACTICE.** Complete the group exercise together. Encourage everyone to participate. Again, being sensitive to the makeup of your group, you could occasionally call on men who are quiet by asking something simple like, "What do you think?"

While there are no right answers to this exercise, Kelly has provided answers to help you and your group if you get stuck.

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. *When was this psalm written?*
2. *Who is the Lord (v. 1)?*
3. *Why is "the LORD" the name used for God in this psalm (v. 1)?*
4. *What does it mean that His name is holy (v. 1)?*
5. *What diseases is David referring to (v. 3)?*
6. *What is "the Pit" (v. 4)?*
7. *What are the "good things" in verse 5?*
8. *What are acts of righteousness (v. 6)?*
9. *How are righteousness and justice related ideas (v. 6)?*
10. *Are "the oppressed" the only recipients of this action (v. 6)?*
11. *How did He reveal His ways to Moses? Is there a specific event in mind (v. 7)?*
12. *What is the meaning of the word compassion/compassionate (vv. 4,8)?*
13. *How are compassionate and gracious different (v. 8)?*
14. *What is "faithful love?" Is it different than regular love (v. 8)?*
15. *How do our sins deserve to be treated (v. 10)?*
16. *Why will He not deal with us as we deserve (v. 10)?*
17. *Are we (people of today) included in the word "us" in verse 10?*
18. *Why is the word "repaid" used here (v. 10)?*
19. *What is the main point of the third paragraph (vv. 6-10)?*
20. *How does this psalm relate to the New Testament?*

**CLOSE.** Provide a few moments for group members to share any final comments or ask questions. Encourage group members to complete their personal study for Week Five before the next group meeting. Remind them about using the Show Me How video during their week of study and point out the Bible study bookmark found on page 215 of their study books. Also encourage them to listen to the *Clearly* podcast on commentaries referenced on Day 3 in this week of study.

Close in prayer. Instruct group members to pair up and share at least one way each of them needs prayer this week. Encourage partners to pray for each another.

**SESSION SIX:  
APPLY**

**GATHER.** Welcome participants to Session 6 group time. Provide a few minutes for men to settle in for the group session.?

**DISCUSS.** Use the following questions to reflect on the previous week of personal study. You can also find these questions on page 125 in the Bible study book.

- 1 What was your favorite day from last week? Why?
- 2 Which day was most challenging for you? Why?
- 3 Why is asking questions important as we study the Bible?
- 4 Share about a time your words were taken out of context. What happened and how did you feel about it?
- 5 How will the skill of considering the context change how you read the Bible?
- 6 Why is using cross references so important to good Bible study? What was your favorite cross-reference connection on Day 3? Why?
- 7 What was your favorite way to look for Jesus on Day 4: problems, promises, or pictures? Why?
- 8 On Day 5, you had six activities to do as part of your reading. Share some thoughts about that exercise and how doing all six contributed to your Bible reading experience.
- 9 Let's talk about the bonus. What did you learn from the summarizing exercise? How was it helpful to you?

**WATCH** Play the teaching video for Session Six. Encourage participants to take notes or jot down questions on page 125 in their Bible study books.

**PRACTICE** Complete the group exercise together. Encourage everyone to participate. Remember, you may need to go first to get the discussion started.

While there are no right answers to this exercise, Kelly has provided answers to help you and your group if you get stuck.



## APPLY TO THE HEAD (THOUGHTS)

- Do I have any incorrect thoughts about God or myself that need to change?
- Is this passage revealing a truth about God or His ways that I need to believe?
- Is there a false belief I need to turn from?
- Is there a verse I want to memorize or meditate on?
- Where is my thinking not in line with this passage? What would it look like to change?

### HOW CAN I APPLY THIS PASSAGE TO MY HEAD TODAY?

- *Stop replaying my sins and failures in my head (v. 12).*
- *Memorize verses 1-5 and recite them once a day.*
- *Circle all the verses that I have a hard time believing and ask God to forgive my unbelief and help me trust Him.*



## APPLY TO THE HEART (FEELINGS)

- Is there something to worship God for or thank Him for?
- Is this passage exposing any self-trust or self-worship that I need to confess?
- Is this passage bringing up any strong feelings I need to investigate and pray through?
- What parts of this passage am I emotionally keeping my distance from that I need to talk to God about?
- Is there something in this passage I'm too afraid to believe? Who could I process that with?

### HOW CAN I APPLY THIS PASSAGE TO MY HEART TODAY?

- *When I feel guilty before God, I will pray through verses 8-12.*
- *Investigate any anger or fear I feel as I read this psalm, journal my thoughts, and then share with a friend.*
- *Set aside ten minutes to sit outside and look at the sky and worship God for His faithful love (v. 11).*



## APPLY TO THE HANDS (ACTIONS)

- What action steps do I need to take today, empowered by the Holy Spirit?
- What would my life look like if I believed this text? How different is that from my life now?
- Is there someone to pray for or something to pray about?
- Is there someone I can share this with?

### HOW CAN I APPLY THIS PASSAGE TO MY HANDS TODAY?

- *I am going to stop bringing up my former sins to myself and others (v. 12).*
- *I will list out the good things God has done in my life in a journal (v. 5).*
- *I will verbally bless God out loud throughout the day (v. 1).*

**This week, I will apply this passage to:**  My head     My heart     My hands

**CLOSE.** Provide a few moments for group members to share any final comments or ask questions. Encourage group members to complete their personal study for Week Six before the next group meeting. There are no Show Me How videos during this week of study, but encourage them to use the Bible study bookmark found on page 215 of their study books. Also, point out the *Clearly* podcast episode on spiritual disciplines referenced on Day 5 of this week of study.

Close in prayer. Instruct group members to pair up and share something they've learned from Scripture in this study but are struggling to apply. Encourage partners to pray for each other.

## SESSION SEVEN: WHEN I DON'T UNDERSTAND

**GATHER.** Welcome participants to Session 7 group time. Provide a few minutes for men to settle in for the group session.

**DISCUSS.** Use the following questions to reflect on the previous week of personal study. You can also find these questions on page 149 in the Bible study book.

- 1 What was your favorite day of study from last week? Why?
- 2 Which day was most challenging for you? Why?
- 3 How have you seen the Bible transform the way you live? Did this happen quickly or slowly over time? Explain.
- 4 Last week introduced us to the following gospel response to the Bible: I can't. Jesus did. With Him, I can. Is this different from how you currently try to apply the Bible? If so, in what way? What do you think will be challenging about living out this response?
- 5 On Day 4, you worked through four expressions of applying God's Word in community: confession, encouragement, prayer, and accountability. Which one did you say you would most likely participate in? Least likely participate in? Why? Which of the four did you choose to practice? What did you learn from that experience?
- 6 What activity did you choose as you read John 4? How did that activity affect your reading experience?
- 7 Let's talk about the bonus. How did putting together the three skills of observation, interpretation, and application help you better understand Romans 12:2?

**WATCH.** Play the teaching video for Session Seven. Encourage participants to take notes or jot down questions on page 149 in their Bible study books.

**PRACTICE.** Complete the group exercise together. Encourage everyone to participate. By this time, you should know your group well and feel comfortable calling on some members to help generate discussion.

While there are no right answers to this exercise, Kelly has provided answers to help you and your group if you get stuck.

<sup>1</sup> In the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, on the fifth day of the month, while I was among the exiles by the Chebar Canal, the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God.

<sup>2</sup> On the fifth day of the month — it was the fifth year of King Jehoiachin's exile —  
<sup>3</sup> the word of the LORD came directly to the priest Ezekiel son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the Chebar Canal. The Lord's hand was on him there.

<sup>4</sup> I looked, and there was a whirlwind coming from the north, a huge cloud with fire flashing back and forth and brilliant light all around it. In the center of the fire, there was a gleam like amber. <sup>5</sup> The likeness of four living creatures came from it, and this was their appearance: They looked something like a human, <sup>6</sup> but each of them had four faces and four wings. <sup>7</sup> Their legs were straight, and the soles of their feet were like the hooves of a calf, sparkling like the gleam of polished bronze. <sup>8</sup> They had human hands under their wings on their four sides. All four of them had faces and wings. <sup>9</sup> Their wings were touching. The creatures did not turn as they moved; each one went straight ahead. <sup>10</sup> Their faces looked something like the face of a human, and each of the four had the face of a lion on the right, the face of an ox on the left, and the face of an eagle. <sup>11</sup> That is what their faces were like. Their wings were spread upward; each had two wings touching that of another and two wings covering its body. <sup>12</sup> Each creature went straight ahead. Wherever the Spirit wanted to go, they went without turning as they moved.

<sup>13</sup> The likeness of the living creatures was like the appearance of blazing coals of fire or like torches. Fire was moving back and forth between the living creatures; it was bright, with lightning coming out of it. <sup>14</sup> The creatures were darting back and forth like flashes of lightning.

*The Four  
Living  
Creatures*

**The Wheels**

<sup>15</sup> When I looked at the living creatures, there was one wheel on the ground beside each of the four-faced creatures. <sup>16</sup> The appearance of the wheels and their craftsmanship was like the gleam of beryl, and all four had the same likeness. Their appearance and craftsmanship was like a wheel within a wheel. <sup>17</sup> When they moved, they went in any of the four directions, without turning as they moved. <sup>18</sup> Their four rims were tall and awe-inspiring, completely covered with eyes. <sup>19</sup> When the living creatures moved, the living creatures moved, the wheels moved beside them, and when the creatures rose from the earth, the wheels also rose. <sup>20</sup> Wherever the Spirit wanted to go, the creatures went in the direction the Spirit was moving. The wheels rose alongside them, for the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels. <sup>21</sup> When the creatures moved, the wheels moved; when the creatures stopped, the wheels stopped; and when the creatures rose from the earth, the wheels rose alongside them, for the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels.

<sup>22</sup> Over the heads of the living creatures the likeness of an expanse was spread out. It gleamed like awe-inspiring crystal, <sup>23</sup> and under the expanse their wings extended one toward another. They each also had two wings covering their bodies. <sup>24</sup> When they moved, I heard the sound of their wings like the roar of a huge torrent, like the voice of the Almighty, and a sound of tumult like the noise of an army. When they stopped, they lowered their wings.

**The Human on the Throne**

<sup>25</sup> A voice came from above the expanse over their heads; when they stopped, they lowered their wings. <sup>26</sup> Something like a throne with the appearance of lapis lazuli was above the expanse over their heads. On the throne, high above, was someone who looked like a human. <sup>27</sup> From what seemed to be his waist up, I saw a gleam like amber, with what looked like fire enclosing it all around. From what seemed to be his waist down, I also saw what looked like fire. There was a brilliant light all around him. <sup>28</sup> The appearance of the brilliant light all around was like that of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day. This was the appearance of the likeness of the LORD's glory. When I saw it, I fell facedown and heard a voice speaking.

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

TOPIC: The Four Living Creatures

- THERE ARE FOUR CREATURES
- THEIR APPEARANCE IS BOTH HUMAN-LIKE AND ANIMAL-LIKE
- EACH CREATURE WENT STRAIGHT AHEAD (WHATEVER THAT MEANS!)
- THE CREATURES LOOKED LIKE FIRE
- THEY WERE DARTING FAST LIKE FLASHES OF LIGHTNING

TOPIC: The Wheels

- They are wheels within wheels
- They are covered in eyes
- The spirit of the creatures is in the wheels
- The wheels move
- They are all the same

TOPIC: The Human on the Throne

- He gleamed like amber from the waist up
- He's covered in fire from the waist down
- There is brilliant rainbow-like light around him

TOPIC: The Expanse

- It's above the creatures (v. 22)
- It's like crystal (v. 22)
- The voice comes from above the expanse (v. 25)
- It separates things
- There's a throne above it (v. 26)

**CLOSE.** Provide a few moments for group members to share any final comments or ask questions. Encourage group members to complete their personal study for Week Seven before the next group meeting. Remind them about using the Show Me How video during this week of study. Also, point out the *Clearly* podcast episode on boring parts of the Bible referenced on Day 3.

Break the group into smaller groups and ask group members to share how they are being challenged by this study. Encourage them to pray for one another.

## SESSION EIGHT: WHEN I DON'T LIKE WHAT IT SAYS

**GATHER.** Welcome participants to Session 8 group time. Provide a few minutes for men to settle in for the group session.

**DISCUSS.** Use the following questions to reflect on the previous week of personal study. You can also find these questions on page 171 in the Bible study book.

- 1 What was your favorite day of study from last week? Why?
- 2 Which skill was most challenging for you? Why?
- 3 Confusion and unanswered questions are normal as we walk the terrain of the Bible. Does that feel discouraging or encouraging? Why?
- 4 The study this week encouraged you to be a lifelong Bible reader, committed to reading and rereading God's Word on a continual basis. Do you have any hesitancy about making this commitment? If so, why?
- 5 What skill was most helpful for you in dealing with confusing passages: read relationally, look for God, read with others, learn the structure, or identify what you can know for sure? Explain.
- 6 On Day 4, which book did you choose to study and how did it go? What skills did you choose and how did they help you understand the message of the book?
- 7 What reading option did you choose on Day 5? How did it help you sort out some of the confusing portions of John 5?
- 8 Let's talk about the bonus! What did you learn about your level of biblical literacy from this activity? How did the activity challenge you?

**WATCH.** Play the teaching video for Session Eight. Encourage participants to take notes or jot down questions on page 171 in their Bible study books.

**PRACTICE.** Complete the group exercise together. Encourage everyone to participate.

While there are no right answers to this exercise, Kelly has provided answers to help you and your group if you get stuck.

Encourage discussion during and after this exercise. Here are some suggested questions:

- Which of these three truths is hardest for you to believe? Why?
- How do you see these truths challenged by our culture?
- If you really believed these truths, how would you live differently?
- Why do you think these truths are important to know? What are the consequences of not believing them?

### **TRUTH 1: GOD IS GOOD.**

God is the sum of all that is right and good and just. He does not sin or make mistakes. He is good to all, including us. The Bible is full of verses that prove this, showing various ways we can be assured of God's goodness. But there's one ultimate way God's goodness is displayed to us. Read about it in the following verses: **ROMANS 8:31-32; 1 JOHN 3:16; 4:9-10**. According to these passages, how can we know for sure that God is good?

*We can know for sure that God is good because He died for us. There is no greater act of love than to give your life for another. And God willingly chose to send his son, Jesus, to suffer and die for sinners. He laid down His life to pay the death penalty we deserved so that we could live. If He hasn't withheld His very life, then He won't withhold any other good thing from us.*

### **TRUTH 2: WE AREN'T GOOD.**

Contrary to what culture tells us, we aren't innately good. We aren't innocent. We are deeply flawed creatures. **READ ABOUT IT IN PSALM 51:5; ROMANS 3:10-12,23; 6:23**. According to these verses, what do we deserve from God and why do we deserve it? How do you see the effects of sin in your own life?

*According to these verses, we are born in sin and deeply flawed. There is not one human being who seeks or desires God on our own. And because of this rejection of our Creator and Sustainer, we deserve to die. I see this daily in my tendency to prefer myself over others.*

### **TRUTH 3: SATAN WANTS US TO BE SUSPICIOUS OF GOD'S GOODNESS.**

**READ GENESIS 3:1-5**. Because we're the flawed ones, we should be suspicious of our thoughts and motives, but instead we're often suspicious of God. The temptation to view God in this way is satanic and as old as Eden. Describe how the serpent implied that God isn't good in the Genesis passage. What lies has Satan whispered in your ear tempting you to look suspiciously at God?

*The serpent questioned God's words (v. 1) and suggested that God's prohibition wasn't to protect Adam and Eve, but to keep something good from them (v. 5). I experience these same lies when I wonder, "Is that verse really true?" Or when I think, "He isn't providing for me like He's providing for my friend. Maybe He loves her more."*

**CLOSE.** Provide a few moments for group members to share any final comments or ask questions. Encourage group members to complete their personal study for Week Eight before the next group meeting. There are no Show Me How videos during this week of study, but point out the following *Clearly* podcast episodes referenced this week: 1) Day 3 on why the Bible should bother you, and 2) Day 5 on struggling with a God-centered worldview.

Call on a couple of volunteers to close in prayer, praying that the group would finish strong in these last two weeks.

## SESSION NINE: WHEN I DON'T HAVE TIME

**GATHER.** Welcome participants to Session 9 group time. Provide a few minutes for men to settle in for the group session.

**DISCUSS.** Use the following questions to reflect on the previous week of personal study. You can also find these questions on page 191 in the Bible study book.

- 1 What was your favorite day of study from last week? Why?
- 2 Which skill was most challenging for you? Why?
- 3 The Bible is uncomfortable at times because it's revealing God, who is not like us. How does this change how you view difficult passages in the Bible?
- 4 Which psalm did you resonate with most in Day 2? Why?
- 5 What does it mean to rewire your worldview? Why is it necessary to rewire your worldview to better understand Scripture—especially the difficult passages?
- 6 On Day 4, what statements and comments about God's wisdom and God's love were most meaningful to you and why?
- 7 Did this week stir up any painful feelings? Did it bring up any past wounds or situations in your life that are still raw? If so, what are some next steps you can take to get help and healing?
- 8 What reading option did you choose on Day 5? How did it help you better understand John 6?
- 9 Let's talk about the bonus! Did anyone watch/listen to the podcast episodes on the three difficult passages? If so, what did you learn, and how did it help you understand the passage and see it with more clarity?

**WATCH.** Play the teaching video for Session Nine. Encourage participants to take notes or jot down questions on page 191 in their Bible study books.

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

**PRACTICE.** Complete the group exercise together. Encourage everyone to participate. Feel free to call on group members who regularly share to get the discussion started.

Encourage discussion during and after this exercise. Here are some suggested questions:

- How have you seen distractions pose a threat to your relationship with God? Give a recent example.
- When are you most distracted in your day? Most focused? Are any days of the week more distracting than others?
- Share a time when a friend or family member was distracted when they were with you. How did you feel? How do distractions harm relationships?
- How are you feeling about dealing with these distractions in your life? Excited? Hopeful? Nervous?

**IN THE SPACE BELOW, LIST ANY POTENTIAL DISTRACTIONS IN YOUR LIFE.** Remember, these aren't necessarily bad things. They just have the potential to distract you from the most important thing. How can you tell if an activity is a potential distraction? Here are three clues:

1. **IF IT'S NOT REQUIRED BUT YOU ACT AS THOUGH IT IS.**
2. **IF IT TENDS TO TAKE MORE AND MORE OF YOUR TIME.**
3. **IF IT'S DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO STOP DOING IT.**

• Checking email 10x a day

• Checking Amazon® for deals

• Scrolling social media

• Researching solutions for an issue in my life

• Playing Candy Crush®

• Clearing my to-do list

• Constant tidying and cleaning

**REVIEW YOUR LIST.** Are there any distractions that simply need to be eliminated? Draw a line through those. For the other activities on your list that you can't, or don't want to, completely get rid of, you still need a plan to make sure they don't eat up too much of your time. So, for each potential distraction you're allowing to stay in your life, make a plan to keep it in check.

**DISTRACTION #1:** Scrolling Social Media

How I will guard my time: *I will block social media until after lunch. Or I will delete social media on my phone and only use it on a computer.*

**DISTRACTION #2:** Checking for Amazon deals

How I will guard my time: *I will only check for deals on Tuesdays. When tempted to check other days, I'll talk to God and ask Him to provide for our family and help us live in our budget.*

**DISTRACTION #3:** Researching solutions for issues in my life

How I will guard my time: *I will allow myself thirty minutes every other day to research. I'll first pray and ask God to help me find what I need and then set a timer for twenty-five minutes reminding me to finish up and close things down.*

**CLOSE.** Provide a few moments for group members to share any final comments or ask questions. Encourage group members to complete their personal study for Week Nine before the next group meeting. There are no Show Me How videos during this week of study, but point out the *Clearly* podcast episode referenced this week on Day 3 on not being legalistic about applying the Bible.

Close in prayer, praying group members would not be distracted this week as they focus on their study of God's Word.

## SESSION TEN: JUST KEEP READING

**GATHER.** Welcome participants to Session 10 group time. Provide a few minutes for men to settle in for the group session.

**DISCUSS.** Use the following questions to reflect on the previous week of personal study. You can also find these questions on page 213 in the Bible study book.

- 1 What was your favorite day of study from last week? Why?
- 2 Which day was most challenging for you? Why?
- 3 How does understanding that God is your purpose affect your desire to spend time with Him?
- 4 What lies have you believed about prioritizing time with God (p. 196)?
- 5 What are some nos you're considering to clear some space for God in your schedule? What's going to be most difficult about implementing these?
- 6 Share your plan for spending time with God from Day 3. How are you feeling about this plan? Excited to start? Hopeful about what you'll learn? Concerned it will be difficult to live out? Explain.
- 7 On Day 4, what solution did you find most helpful for dealing with distractions? Are there any distractions you face that you're still not sure how to handle?
- 8 How did your reading of John 7 go without all the usual prompts? What are some things you learned from your reading?
- 9 Let's talk about the bonus! Have you ever been in a season where you literally couldn't read the Bible? If so, how did you get through that time? If not, which of the options presented do you think you most likely would use in a difficult season? Why?

**WATCH.** Play the teaching video for Session Ten. Encourage participants to take notes or jot down questions on page 213 in their Bible study books.

**WRAP-UP REFLECTION.** Use the following questions to reflect on your journey through this study. You can also find these questions on page 214 in the Bible study book.

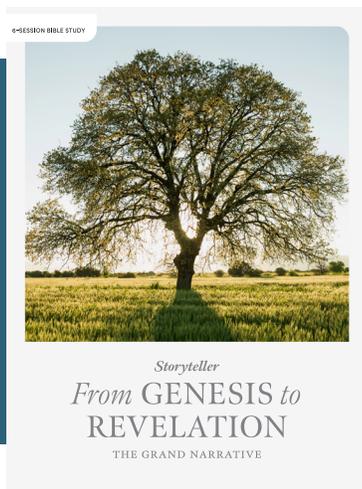
- 1 In our first group discussion, the first questions you had to answer were why did you decide to participate in this study and what are you hoping to get out of it? Did this study meet your expectations? Explain. What were some things you received out of the study that you weren't anticipating?
- 2 What Bible study hurdles have you overcome through this study? Are there still hurdles to overcome when it comes to reading the Bible for yourself? Explain.
- 3 What was your favorite week of this study? Why?
- 4 Which week of study was the most difficult for you? Why?
- 5 If you could redo any week from this study, which would it be and why?
- 6 Of all the skills you learned, which three skills are you most excited to use? Why did you choose these three?
- 7 How has this study increased your confidence to pick up your Bible and read it on your own? What has made the biggest difference?
- 8 If a friend asked you why she should do this study, what would you tell her?
- 9 How can we pray for you as we close our time together?

**CLOSE.** Close with a time of prayer, providing time for any group member to pray.

Encourage group members to hold onto their *See for Yourself* Bible study books for future reference. Point out the helpful resources in the Appendices and online at [lifeway.com/seeforyourselfmen](http://lifeway.com/seeforyourselfmen). Also, encourage them to complete any of the bonus exercises they were unable to do earlier in the study.

## FINISHING WELL

**NEXT STEPS.** Even after the study concludes, follow up and challenge men 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 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  
*Storyteller: From Genesis to Revelation* by Lifeway Adults.

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



## 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 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.