

How to Lead a Group using the Commentary as an Alternative (if your group is using the Commentary as a Personal Study Guide)

The Gospel Project is a weekly Bible study created by Lifeway that helps adults dive deep into the larger storyline of the Bible—namely, God’s plan to rescue His people through His Son, Jesus Christ. Every session shows how all Scripture leads us to Jesus. It is a chronological study that examines the uniting gospel story and essential truths of Scripture. Over a three-year period, the chronological storyline of the good news of Jesus Christ, from Genesis to Revelation, will help individuals and groups understand the full gospel story. Through the study, gospel-centered discipleship centers our transformation on Jesus, not simply on moralistic thinking.

This video will show you how to get the most out of the Commentary as a Leader Guide if your group plans to use the Commentary as a personal study guide. If you haven’t already, watch the video on How to Use the Commentary as a Personal Study Guide first. This will give you an understanding of why your group might choose this commentary-focused route and how best to make it work for your group.

If your group chooses to go this route, then you as the leader can also use the Commentary as a leader guide. For the best learning experience, getting the Leader Guide along with the Commentary will best help facilitate the group time as it has a guided path to lead the group time, a group activity to foster discussion and group interaction, and further details about the Head, Heart, and Hands section.

But if you choose not to use the Leader Guide, you can use the Commentary as a leader guide by following the pages in order with your group.

Let’s look at the different elements found in the Commentary if used as a leader guide.

(p. 10)

As you look at the first page, you will see the title, the core passage used, the context, and the key concept. The Context gives you the background surrounding the core passage to help you read the Scripture passages in its historical context, and the key concept helps direct your thoughts to the main ideas of the Scripture passage and lesson. Opening your group time with this information will help focus your group on the lesson for that day.

A daily reading plan is included as well, providing a way to read relevant texts on a daily basis to help you be consistent in your daily Bible reading. Encourage your group to have a daily reading time using this plan.

(p. 11)

The lesson is divided into two parts: the first section of the core passage and then the second. Each section of the core passage will start with a subtitle that supports the key concept. The selected Scripture will be available in CSB. Then an in-depth commentary will be provided with more subpoints.

When preparing for your lesson, underline or highlight key thoughts and information from the commentary to share with your group. Ask them as well if they had any questions about the content as they prepared. Encourage discussion around the questions provided for the lesson. Discuss and point your group to the subpoint as well as the key concept.

(p. 12)

Occasionally there will be a box with a Christ Connection, Gospel Connection, Theology Connection, and/or Church Connection. These added resources will help you connect the Scripture passage with how it relates to Christ, the gospel message, a theological doctrine, or how that passage is relevant to church life. Make time to highlight those boxes.

(p. 14)

Other boxes may contain additional information like word studies, famous quotes, or insights that pertain to the passage. Feel free to highlight the ones that seem significant for you and the group. They are all added resources to help you facilitate discussion around the lesson.

(pp. 16-17)

The second portion of the core passage will be laid out in the same way as the first, with a second subtitle supporting the key concept, the second portion of the Scripture passage, extensive commentary, and questions to answer and reflect on. Continue through this second portion of the passage and the second subpoint as you did with the first.

(p. 17)

The key concept will always be at the top of the spread, on the top right page, to remind you of the main point of the lesson for that week to keep you focused.

Continue to highlight key ideas and thoughts that were interesting to you. Be sure to take time during the group time to invite the group to share what was interesting to them. Continue digging deeper with the questions provided.

You have the full week to work to prepare for your group time, so whether you prefer to break it up into parts or do it all in one day, the flexibility is there for your schedule.

(p. 21)

At the conclusion of your group time, the Head, Heart, and Hands application questions will help you consider how to apply the day's Scripture lesson. Guide your group through these questions. End your time with prayer requests and praise and guide your group to write these requests and praises in the space in the margins.

A large portion of your success with your group will be your preparation. For the best experience, as stated earlier, use the leader guide and the commentary together to prepare to lead your group. Our hope is that the Commentary for The Gospel Project for

Adults, if used as a leader guide, will help you and your group study Scripture more thoroughly as you discover how Scripture points to Christ from the Old Testament to the New, seeing God's redemptive plan being played out throughout history for His glory and our good because of His gracious love toward us.

If you have any questions or feedback, please don't hesitate to email us. You can find our emails near the front of the Commentary where all the legal notices are included. For further information about The Gospel Project, go to gospelproject.com.