

LEADER GUIDE

NAVIGATING

A GUIDE TO FAITHFULLY READING

G O S P E L

THE ACCOUNTS OF JESUS'S LIFE

T R U T H

REBECCA McLAUGHLIN

LEADER **GUIDE**

GROUP SESSIONS

Each group session contains the following elements:

GATHER: This is a time to greet and welcome everyone and then to get them talking. In the first session, you're provided with some icebreaker questions. In the subsequent sessions, you're provided other instructions to help participants review the previous week's personal study.

WATCH: Each week you'll show a teaching video featuring Rebecca McLaughlin. The videos for this study are available for streaming through the digital access code in the back of each Bible study book as well as on the DVDs. Encourage participants to take notes on the Video Viewer Guide pages in their Bible study books.

DISCUSS: A list of questions is provided to help your group debrief what they heard in the video teaching. Feel free to adapt, skip, or add questions as needed to foster discussion.

CLOSE: A simple closing to each session is provided. Feel free to expand this time as it fits the needs of your group.

PERSONAL STUDY

Each session contains five days of personal study to help participants dig into God's Word for themselves. Encourage and challenge participants to complete each day of study while giving grace to those who may not be able to. The final two pages of each week (**except for the first week**) of personal study are provided to help participants review the important points of the week and then be able to put into practice what they have learned. Encourage your group to complete these.

PREPARE

STUDY: Make sure you've watched the teaching video and completed each week's personal study before the group session. Review the discussion questions and consider how best to lead your group through this time.

PRAY: Set aside time each week to pray for yourself and each member of your group.

CONNECT: Find ways to interact and stay engaged with each member of your group throughout the study. Make use of social media, email, and handwritten notes to encourage them.

SESSION ONE

GATHER

Welcome participants to the study and distribute Bible study books to each group member. Encourage discussion by asking the following questions:

What drew you to this study?

What do you anticipate this study will be about?

Which of the four Gospels is your favorite? Why?

Have you ever wondered why there are some differences in the different Gospel accounts? Explain.

If someone were to ask you to explain why the Gospels don't always match up, what would you say?

What do you hope is the outcome of this study for you personally?

WATCH

Play the teaching video for Session One. Encourage participants to take notes or jot down questions on the Session One Video Viewer Guide page (p. 12).

DISCUSS

Use the information and questions found on page 13 to debrief the video teaching.

CLOSE

Ask each group member to think of someone she knows who is struggling to believe in Christ or struggling to trust that what the Bible says is true. Encourage them to spend a few

moments praying for that person. Lead the group in a closing prayer.

SESSION TWO

GATHER

Welcome participants back to the study. Ask participants to share which day of study they found most interesting and which one had the most impact on them.

WATCH

Play the teaching video for Session Two. Encourage participants to take notes or jot down questions on the Session Two Video Viewer Guide page (p. 38).

DISCUSS

Use the information and questions found on page 39 to debrief the video teaching.

CLOSE

Provide time for some of your group members to share their spiritual stories—how they came to know Christ, those who have shaped their spiritual journeys, and what Christ is doing in their lives now. (If you have a large group, consider dividing into smaller groups for this activity.) Close by asking two or three group members to pray, thanking God for His work in each of their lives.

SESSION THREE

GATHER

Welcome participants back to the study. Ask participants to share which day of study they found most interesting and which one had the most impact on them. Walk through the tips on page 64 to review what they learned in their personal study. Also, allow participants to share their experiences with the application exercise on page 65.

WATCH

Play the teaching video for Session Three. Encourage participants to take notes or jot down questions on the Session Three Video Viewer Guide page (p. 68).

DISCUSS

Use the information and questions found on page 69 to debrief the video teaching.

CLOSE

Allow participants to share a metaphor Jesus used to describe Himself (I am the Good Shepherd, I am the resurrection and the life, and so forth) that means the most to them. Lead the group in a closing prayer, thanking Christ for meeting every need.

SESSION FOUR

GATHER

Welcome participants back to the study. Ask participants to share which day of study they found most interesting and which one had the most impact on them. Walk through the tips on page 92 to review what

they learned in their personal study. Also, allow participants to share their experiences with the application exercise on page 93.

WATCH

Play the teaching video for Session Four. Encourage participants to take notes or jot down questions on the Session Four Video Viewer Guide page (p. 96).

DISCUSS

Use the information and questions found on page 97 to debrief the video teaching.

CLOSE

Ask group members to think of a scriptural truth or biblical teaching they are struggling to understand and apply. Then, lead them in a silent prayer, encouraging them to ask the Holy Spirit to make that truth or teaching clear to them.

SESSION FIVE

GATHER

Welcome participants back to the study. Ask participants to share which day of study they found most interesting and which one had the most impact on them. Walk through the tips on page 118 to review what they learned in their personal study. Also, allow participants to share their experiences with the application exercise on page 119.

WATCH

Play the teaching video for Session Five. Encourage participants to take notes or jot down questions on the Session Five Video Viewer Guide page (p. 122).

DISCUSS

Use the information and questions found on page 123 to debrief the video teaching.

CLOSE

Ask participants to consider a command of Jesus they find difficult to follow. Lead them in a time of prayer, asking the Lord to give all of you the strength to obey Him completely and thanking Him for His grace that forgives when we fail.

SESSION SIX

GATHER

Welcome participants back to the study. Ask participants to share which day of study they found most interesting and which one had the most impact on them. Walk through the tips on page 146 to review what they learned in their personal study. Also, allow participants to share their experiences with the application exercise on page 147.

WATCH

Play the teaching video for Session Six. Encourage participants to take notes or jot down questions on the Session Six Video Viewer Guide page (p. 150).

DISCUSS

Use the information and questions found on page 151 to debrief the video teaching.

CLOSE

Provide time for group members to pray silently, encouraging them to have a conversation with Christ about whatever is on their hearts. Lead them

in a closing prayer, thanking God for being a God with whom we can communicate boldly and intimately.

SESSION SEVEN

GATHER

Welcome participants back to the study. Ask participants to share which day of study they found most interesting and which one had the most impact on them. Walk through the tips on page 174 to review what they learned in their personal study. Also, allow participants to share their experiences with the application exercise on page 175.

WATCH

Play the teaching video for Session Seven. Encourage participants to take notes or jot down questions on the Session Seven Video Viewer Guide page (p. 178).

DISCUSS

Use the information and questions found on page 179 to debrief the video teaching.

CLOSE

Ask the group members to consider something they are anxious about when it comes to the future. Encourage them to trust every event, decision, and situation to the Lord. Close by thanking God that He is sovereign over all things and holds the future in His hands.

SESSION EIGHT

GATHER

Welcome participants back to the study. Ask participants to share which day of study they found most interesting and which one had the most impact on them. Walk through the tips on page 200 to review what they learned in their personal study. Also, allow participants to share their experiences with the application exercise on page 201.

WATCH

Play the teaching video for Session Eight. Encourage participants to take notes or jot down questions on the Session Eight Video Viewer Guide page (p. 204).

DISCUSS

Use the information and questions found on page 205 to debrief the video teaching.

CLOSE

Close the study with a season of prayer, providing time for several group members to pray and offer thanks to the Lord for this study and for how He's used it to change their hearts and give them a new hunger and appreciation for the Scripture.