

Leader Guide

TIPS AND RESOURCES FOR LEADING A GROUP

Thank you for investing your time and resources in leading others through the study of God's Word. I know from personal experience that the job is a rewarding one, but I also know that it requires an extra layer of thought, prayer, and preparation.

What follows here are tips, resources, and suggestions to help your group get the most out of your time together. The suggested outline below for your group time is just that, a suggestion. You will know best how to customize your time based on the needs of the women who are participating in the study.

Know that I am praying for wisdom, discernment, and blessing over you as you encourage women in their faith. Thank you for serving them.

BEFORE THE STUDY BEGINS

- ❖ Pray, pray, pray. Pray for the women attending your study, whether you know their names yet or not. Pray for their families. Pray for yours. Psalm 91 is a beautiful Psalm to pray over your group members and over your family as you move through Joshua, particularly as it has a significant connection to this study.
- ❖ Consider how many weeks you will be meeting. Consider holding a social gathering before and after the study to allow time for fellowship and community building.
- ❖ Consider whether or not food will be involved and/or served. If so, how much and who will provide it? Light refreshments? Potluck dinner? Four-course meal? (we can dream, right girls?) Plan accordingly.
- ❖ This seems obvious, but invite women to come! Think of your neighbor, your co-worker, your friend you haven't seen in a while. Ask God to place specific people on your heart and to go before you when you invite them to the group.
- ❖ If you are hosting the study in your home, go ahead and block out a few minutes to prepare on the days you are scheduled to meet. It has been my experience that women don't really care if there are cheerios on your carpet; what matters most is that your heart is ready to welcome them. Preserving time to get your materials ready and pray for your time together is helpful. Schedule that in your calendar as you can.

THE FIRST NIGHT THAT YOU GATHER

- ❖ Consider having nametags if your group is large or includes new faces.
- ❖ Collect emails (or other contact info) from your group. This will be helpful when you want to send some encouraging thoughts or need to change timing or meeting details. Items noted below as an EXTRA RESOURCE are good ideas to consider including in a weekly email.
- ❖ Spend some time in fellowship and allow time for introductions or catching up.
- ❖ Offer refreshments. They don't have to be fancy.
- ❖ Hand out workbooks and scripture cards. Printable scripture cards are available in the digital version of the Leader Guide, which can be found at www.therescuedletters.com/ready-leader.
- ❖ Ask the group what they are looking forward to most about the study, what drew them to study Joshua, etc. This will help you be sensitive to their needs as you guide them through God's Word.
- ❖ Briefly walk through ABOUT THE STUDY with them and make sure they understand there are different levels of participation for the study.
- ❖ If your group is active on social media, encourage them to use the hashtag #READYSTUDY to connect with other women doing the study.
- ❖ Ask for prayer requests and spend some time in group prayer.
- ❖ Pray Psalm 91 (from the INTRODUCTION) over them.
- ❖ Watch the teaching video for SESSION 1: A NEW WAY.
- ❖ EXTRA RESOURCE: Watch the Joshua summary video from The Bible Project: https://youtu.be/JqOqJIFF_eU

SECOND MEETING

- ❖ Go over any announcements that need to be made.
- ❖ Move into a time of discussion over the homework assignments from WEEK ONE. Suggested questions that discuss WEEK ONE homework are:
 - ICEBREAKER: Tell us your name and also how long it takes you to get ready in the morning.
 - DAY 1: Does knowing that God is a promise-keeper change the way you pray?
 - DAY 2: Describe what you learned about Joshua from the experience in the chart you chose to study.
 - DAY 3: Is God calling you to take the lead on something? If so, tell us about it. What is it your turn to do?
 - DAY 4 We looked at the words *get ready* used in Joshua 1:2 from different translations. Describe in your own words what you think God was asking Joshua to do here.
- ❖ Ask for prayer requests and spend some time in group prayer.
- ❖ Watch the teaching video for SESSION 2: THE RIVER BANK YOU CAN'T SEE
- ❖ EXTRA RESOURCE: Play the worship song *Ready for You*, by Worship Central: https://youtu.be/842BA9R8_bY

THIRD MEETING

- ❖ Go over any announcements that need to be made.
- ❖ Move into a time of discussion over the homework assignments from WEEK TWO. Suggested questions that discuss WEEK TWO homework are:
 - ICEBREAKER: When do you start getting ready for Christmas?
 - DAY 1: Of the promises we looked at from Joshua 1, which one resonated the most with you and why? Bonus: share your rewritten promise in your own words.
 - DAY 2: Do you think there is a difference between strength and courage? If so, why?
 - DAY 2: Which verse did you choose to meditate on this week? Did that help you in any way throughout your week?
 - DAY 3: What are the six P's of God's presence? Which one resonates the most with you today?
 - DAY 4: What items would you put in your ready toolbox?
- ❖ Ask for prayer requests and spend some time in group prayer.
- ❖ Watch the teaching video for SESSION 3: A SCARLET CORD FOR ALL
- ❖ EXTRA RESOURCE: Watch the final battle scene from *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian* (mentioned in the Session 3 teaching video):
<https://youtu.be/rkSUhTfxlt4>

FOURTH MEETING

- ❖ Go over any announcements that need to be made.
- ❖ Move into a time of discussion over the homework assignments from WEEK THREE. Suggested questions that discuss WEEK THREE homework are:
 - ICEBREAKER: How long does it take you to get dinner ready on a weeknight?
 - DAY 1: How do you think Joshua's experience as a spy for Moses affected the decisions he makes as a leader in Joshua 2:1?
 - DAY 2: What words come to mind when you think about Christ's return? Does it make you anxious or hopeful? Do you think you will be ready?
 - DAY 3: How does God use Rahab to bring hope into the world?
 - DAY 3: Choose one of the verses you rewrote and share why it resonated the most with you.
 - DAY 4: We spent some time exploring the imagery and history of the Passover connecting the Old and New Testaments, and in particular, Jesus' role as our Passover and securer of our salvation. Did the study of the Passover change, influence, or enhance your view of the Bible and God's plan for humanity?
- ❖ Ask for prayer requests and spend some time in group prayer.
- ❖ Watch the teaching video for SESSION 4: PUT ME ON THE FRONT LINE
- ❖ EXTRA RESOURCE: Play the worship song *Dominion*, by Citipointe Live:
<https://youtu.be/AtaBXeQW3FA>

FIFTH MEETING

- ❖ Go over any announcements that need to be made.
- ❖ Move into a time of discussion over the homework assignments from WEEK FOUR. Suggested questions that discuss WEEK FOUR homework are:
 - ICEBREAKER: How many bags do you pack when you get ready to go on vacation for a week?
 - DAY 1: What do you think the Israelites might have been thinking as they were about to cross the Jordan River?
 - DAY 2: Which one of the six P's of God's Presence do you think would have resonated the most with the Israelites just before the crossing and why?
 - DAY 3: We looked at two of the reasons why the ark travelled ahead of the Israelites. Which one of these resonated the most with you and/or what else do you think might be accomplished by having the ark travel so far ahead?
 - DAY 3: Choose one verse that you read about the character of God. What did it tell you about Him?
 - DAY 5: Where is God calling you into the unknown?
- ❖ Ask for prayer requests and spend some time in group prayer.
- ❖ Watch the teaching video for SESSION 5: TIME TO RISE
- ❖ EXTRA RESOURCE: Share the tools available from *The Bible Project* about the Holy Spirit: <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/holy-spirit/>

SIXTH MEETING

- ❖ Go over any announcements that need to be made.
- ❖ Move into a time of discussion over the homework assignments from WEEK FIVE. Suggested questions that discuss WEEK FIVE homework are:
 - ICEBREAKER: What do you listen to when you get ready in the morning?
 - DAY 1: We looked at what Promised Land living looks like for us, specifically our inheritance as it is defined in *riches* and *rest*. We ended our time on this day with a prayer asking God to reveal areas of riches and avenues of rest. Based on what He revealed, do you feel like you are walking in Promised Land living today? Why or why not?
 - DAY 2: Review Alexander Whyte's quote at the top of the page. Do you agree with that statement? Why or why not?
 - DAY 3: Share with us an item or two that you added to your Ebenezer Memorial?
 - DAY 4: How would you describe the work of the Holy Spirit in your life thus far?
 - DAY 5: What two words did you choose to sum up the entire fourth chapter of Joshua?
- ❖ Ask for prayer requests and spend some time in group prayer.
- ❖ Watch the teaching video for SESSION 6: THE BRIDGE, THE BRIDE, & THE PRIZE
- ❖ EXTRA RESOURCE: Play the worship song *Even So Come*, by Kristian Stanfill: <https://youtu.be/fBHcvJhc6Pk>

FINAL MEETING

- ❖ Go over any announcements that need to be made.
- ❖ Move into a time of discussion over the homework assignments from WEEK SIX. Suggested questions that discuss WEEK SIX homework are:
 - ICEBREAKER: What will you remember most from your study of Joshua?
 - DAY 1: What thoughts came to mind as you considered that the language behind the Hebrew word for *covenant* implies *a cutting* and that the physical expression of God's covenant with His Old Testament people was circumcision? In what ways does God ask the same of us (a cutting away of something) today?
 - DAY 2: What does the “produce of Canaan” look like for you? Share how you have observed it showing up in your own life over the past six weeks.
 - DAY 3: What do you envision when you consider the scene that Revelation 19:7 paints for us?
 - DAY 4: Share a few thoughts you wrote down in your chart as you considered areas in your life that could be traded for God's glory. What showed up in your “less” column and what showed up in your “more” column”?
 - DAY 5: Review the chart where you studied Joshua's responses to God's commands. What patterns did you notice in Joshua's responses? Do you see the same patterns evolving in your own life?
- ❖ Ask for prayer requests and spend some time in group prayer.
- ❖ Watch the brief wrap-up video.
- ❖ EXTRA RESOURCES: Encourage your members to deepen their study of Joshua with the following resources:
 - Continuing to read the entire book of Joshua.
 - Search for #READYSTUDY on social media to read the thoughts and perspectives of others who have done the study.
 - *A Lineage of Grace*, by Francine Rivers (fiction, a retelling of the stories of five women from the Bible. The second story, *Unashamed*, is about Rahab.)
 - *Called to Be God's Leader*, by Henry Blackaby and Richard Blackaby (nonfiction, a discussion on the character of Joshua and what we can learn from Him as we move forward into leadership roles.)

Once the study is over, think of ways to stay connected as a group. Plan a social gathering, have a night reserved just for prayer, or get involved in a service opportunity together. And then, decide what Bible study you will do next!

Continue to walk through God's Word together and you'll be rewarded with a precious sisterhood and a fulfilling relationship with your personal Savior.

Blessings to you as you move forward in His will.

Toe to water until Christ calls me home,

Heather

To receive a digital version of this leader guide, please visit:
www.therescuedletters.com/ready-leader.

