



SUMMER IN THE WORD

6-Week Group Leader Guide

Thanks so much for leading a 6-week Summer in the Word group! Instead of creating a different Leader Guide for each week your group meets, we've created one template that you can use for all six weeks. This guide includes a handful of questions and ideas you can use to lead your group and create space for women to connect with one another, as well as to discuss what you're reading and learning in God's Word.

>>>Suggested ideas and structure for group meetings

Welcome + Getting to Know You (Suggested time: 10 Minutes)

During your first meeting, we encourage you to lengthen the welcome time to allow women to introduce themselves and get to know each other. Consider giving each woman three minutes to answer the following questions:

1. Share your name.
2. Share three facts about yourself to help us get to know you (ie I'm a mom of three, I love to play the guitar, and I speak three languages).
3. Why did you decide to join a Summer in the Word group?

In the following weeks, you can begin by setting aside a few minutes to welcome women and catch up. Consider starting with an icebreaker question like "If you were a superhero, what would your superhero power be and why?" Or consider starting with this prompt: "Tell me something good" and ask women to share something good from their week.

Thank the women for joining your group, and let them know the reason why you're meeting is to connect with one another and discuss what you're learning from the daily Bible readings.

Pray (Suggested time: 3 Minutes)

Pray for the group and your meeting. Invite God to move and speak.

Read the Bible (Suggested time: 5-10 Minutes)

Although a lot of group members will have already read the daily Bible readings for the week, there is something powerful about reading God's Word aloud and with others. We encourage you to take a few minutes to read aloud some of the verses that you read that week. You might choose a few verses that really resonated with you. Consider reading them over the women and then sharing why those verses stood out to you personally. You can also consider reading the verses as part of the prayer time above. As the group continues, you might also consider inviting a couple women in your group to share and read a verse(s) from God's Word during this time.

Discuss God's Word + Application Questions (Suggested time: 30 Minutes)

We encourage you to spend the majority of your group time discussing what you're all learning from God's Word and how to apply the Scriptures to your life. Here is a list of questions you can consider asking. Don't feel like you have to get through all these questions. You might consider mixing up which questions you ask each week, or you might find a few questions that work well and use them each week. We also encourage you to come up with some of your own questions as you are reading God's Word.

1. How was your time in God's Word this week? What were some methods you used in reading the Bible (ie Lectio Divina, journaling, SOAP, etc.) and what was helpful about those methods?
2. What stood out to you from your reading in God's Word this week, and why? Where were you encouraged or challenged?
3. What questions arose for you as you read the Bible this week?
4. How can the Bible passages we read this week build or strengthen your faith today?
5. What is one truth you need to cling to from your reading in God's Word this week, and why?

One helpful way to discuss the Scriptures you're reading is to choose a verse(s) that stood out to you personally, read it aloud to the group, and then ask a question or two to discuss and apply that verse(s). For example:

Galatians 1:10 says:

¹⁰ For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant^[b] of Christ.

What are some ways that you've been trying to please man instead of God? Why do you think we are so prone to try to please man? What is one practical step you can take to please God instead of man?

Memory Verse (Suggested time: 5 minutes)

Each time we start a new book of the Bible, we will send out a resource email that includes information about the book, as well as a suggested memory verse from the book. Encourage your group to memorize Scripture as a way of keeping God's Word with them throughout their days and weeks.

Read the memory verse aloud over your group, encourage them to memorize it if they haven't already, and ask them to share about how the memory verse encourages or challenges them. You might also consider printing the memory verse on cards for your group and handing them out.

Closing Prayer (Suggested time: 5-10 Minutes)

Set aside time at the end of group to pray together. Here are a few ways you can consider praying together as a group:

- Share prayer requests and assign each person to pray for the person on their left. Pray aloud for one another, or commit to praying for that person for the week. You can also consider having each woman pray aloud for each other at the same time rather than taking turns.
- If you are meeting in person, write prayer requests on an index card, mix them up, and have each woman take a card and commit to praying for that person in the coming week.
- Ask a specific prayer request related to what you've been reading in God's Word. Invite each woman to share their response, and then say a prayer covering all those requests. (For example: this week we read about the importance of pleasing God instead of man; how can we pray for you to live this week in a way that pleases God?)

>>>Thank You!

Thank you so much for leading a 6-Week Summer in the Word group! We are excited for all that God will do in and through your group as you read and study His Word together.

>>>Questions?

If you have any questions or if there is any way we can support you as you lead your group, please email us at women@cachurch.com.