

Welcome to the Beloved Bible study Leader's Guide! Thank you for your decision to lead Beloved and to step out in faith to serve the young women of your community. It is our prayer that this resource will help you to reach the heart of every young woman who experiences this study with you.

# **Before Your First Group Meeting**

## 1. Communicate with your group

Depending on the size of your group, it may be advantageous to set up a form of communication between meetings. You may consider a group Facebook page, a group chat, etc. At the very least, we encourage you to exchange contact information with everyone so that you can stay in contact about future meetings as needed.

## 2. Prepare Your Space

Spend some time before each session to make your meeting space comfortable and inviting. The goal is to make your meeting room a welcoming space.

#### 3. Prepare for Your Session

Complete and review the lesson ahead of time so you are familiar with the topic, lesson and Scripture noted. Make sure you have a Bible, and encourage your participants to bring theirs, too!

# **Running Your Group**

Note: The timing below is for a 95-minute meeting. These timing guidelines are just a suggestion as we are aware that the length and context of your group may vary. Feel free to adjust timing accordingly.

#### 1. Introduction and Social Time (10 minutes)

Depending on when and where you lead your group, it may be advantageous to provide some beverages and/or snacks. If you choose to do so, spend the first few moments of your meeting time getting to know each other socially to prepare for the session ahead. After everyone has arrived, you can officially introduce yourself to the group, and share the schedule of the small group meeting. Be respectful of your participants' time by keeping to your meeting schedule; if participants arrive late, greet them warmly but pick up where you were before they came in.

#### 2. Ice Breaker Activity (3 minutes)



Beginning the session with an ice breaker activity is one way to transition into the discussion time as well as to begin to build community among the young women. Sample icebreaker activities include:

- Introduce yourself and share a few facts about yourself (i.e. school, major, clubs, hobbies, job, etc.)
- Share a "rose and thorn" (i.e. high and low) from the previous week
- Share one thing that you really like about yourself
- Share the hardest thing you have ever done
- Share a skill you would like to learn
- Share something that relaxes you
- Share the weirdest thing you have ever eaten

## 3. Explanation of Small Group Honor Code (2 minutes)

We recommend printing out the Walking with Purpose Small Group Honor Code and giving a copy to everyone in the group. They are available to you for download from the WWP leadership website. We encourage you to read through the Honor Code with your group, and assure everyone that they can count on you to follow these guidelines. We suggest posting a copy of the Honor Code as a table sign and display each week to serve as a gentle reminder.

#### 4. Small Group Discussion (70 minutes)

Begin each session with a prayer of gratitude for the opportunity to be together. Take a moment to call upon the Holy Spirit to put aside any thoughts or distractions during the session.

#### - Lesson Introduction (5 minutes)

For the start of each new lesson, there is an introduction section. We recommend asking multiple group members to take turns reading part of it as an easy way to get women speaking. At your first meeting, It may also be helpful to share what stood out to you from the introduction and to let young women know that in the future, you will spend time sharing what each highlighted rather than reading through the whole thing.

#### - Questions (10 minutes per day)

Each day of the lesson has two to four questions to discuss as a group. We suggest spending time on each question, but the goal is to get through each of the guestions within the lesson. Try to limit yourself to 10 minutes per day or give yourself more time where it is needed by spending a bit less time on Day Five: Saint Story.

In your first session, explain to the young women that there is a limited time for the questions and that it will be important to give everyone an opportunity to share at some point.

#### - Quiet Your Heart (3 minutes per day)

Give your small group time to read through the "Quiet Your Heart" section on their own. This is a beautiful time to pull the lesson's discussion together







and have some time in community reflection and prayer. After spending some time in silence, we recommend incorporating this into your conclusion and prayer time.

## 5. Prayer Intention Time (10 minutes)

At this point in the small group, encourage each young woman to share a personal prayer intention for themselves that connects to the lesson in some way. If someone is having trouble identifying a prayer intention, the Resolutions at the end of each lesson may be turned into personal prayer intentions. Invite your other participants to make a note of each young woman's prayer request, so she can pray for them throughout the following week (there is a section in the back of the study specifically for this).

We also encourage you, as the leader, to close the small group time in prayer, praying over the requests that were just shared. Women love to be cared for and praying for their specific intentions aloud is a unique way to do this!

# Individual Session Guidance

#### Lesson 1 - Abba - God the Father

# Introduction (5 minutes)

Leader Note: In this study, we will be exploring our true identity as beloved daughters of God. We will begin by learning more about the characteristics of God the Father.

**Volunteer Read**: The first four paragraphs of the Introduction.

Group Share: What makes it hard for us to believe that God will never abandon us and wants only good things for us?

Volunteer Read: Paragraph six of the Introduction beginning with, "What makes it so hard for us to believe this?"

Leader Note: Let's begin to look at some of the characteristics of God the Father.

## Day One: Your Heavenly Father Delights in You (10 minutes)

**Leader Note**: Very often we judge God by our circumstances rather than judging our circumstances by a bigger view of God. This bigger view of God comes from taking the time to get to know God better as He has revealed Himself in Scripture. That is what we are beginning to do here!

Leader Ask: Q1 and Q2

Leader Note: Sometimes it is our own failings that get in the way of opening up to the love of God the Father. How does God see our sin?

Leader Ask: O3

Partner Share: Q4 - Ask group members to turn and share with the young woman next to them anything standing in the way of embracing God the Father's unconditional love. Volunteer Share: Ask a volunteer to read the final paragraph of the Quiet Your Heart beginning with, "Some of you may need...".

#### Day Two: Your Heavenly Father Defends You (10 minutes)

Leader Note: Scripture tells us that God the Father searches for us when we are lost and wanderina.

Volunteer Read: Deuteronomy 32:10 and Matthew 18:14

Leader Ask: 01

**Leader Note**: We are in the midst of a struggle that is more than it appears on the surface. What can we learn about this struggle from Scripture and the Catechism? Who is our enemy?

Leader Ask: Q2A, Q2B, Q2C

Volunteer Read: Paragraph at the end of Q2.

Leader Ask: 03

**Group Share**: Describe how it felt to write the prayer in Q4.

**Leader Read**: Read the final two paragraphs of the Quiet Your Heart.







**Leader Note**: Ask the women to take a minute of quiet to consider what their own strongholds might be.

## Day Three: Your Heavenly Father Disciplines You (10 minutes)

Group Share: Ask the young women to share a key takeaway from the introductory paragraphs.

**Volunteer Read**: Read the final paragraph of the introduction.

Leader Ask: Q1A, Q1B, Q1C

Leader Note: God's discipline can be easier to understand when it comes as a result of our poor choices; but what about when God's discipline comes in the form of trials? We learned that in this case God's discipline comes to teach, correct, transform, and heal us. Our suffering has meaning and purpose.

Volunteer Read: Last paragraph of Q1C

Leader Ask: 02

**Group Share:** What does it mean to be a teachable young woman? How does this affect how we see God's discipline? O3

Volunteer Read: Exodus 34:6-7

Leader Ask: O4

Volunteer Read: Last two paragraphs of Q4

Leader Read: Third paragraph of the Quiet Your Heart beginning with, "God keeps His eyes..."

# Day Four: Your Heavenly Father Dreams with You (10 minutes)

**Leader Note:** What place do our dreams have in our relationship with God?

Leader Ask: Q1

Volunteer Read: Text after Q1

**Group Share:** Share any insights from the two verses in Q2

Group Share: Share any insights about trust and patient waiting that you had from the

three verses in O3. Partner Share: Q4

**Group Share**: Ask the young women to share a key takeaway from the Quiet Your Heart.

#### Day Five: Saint Story and Conclusion (5 minutes)

Group Share: Invite the young women to share their thoughts on the two questions at the end of the Saint Story.

**Leader Read**: Final paragraph of the Conclusion.

## Resolutions and Prayer Requests (10 minutes)







#### Lesson 2 - Emmanuel - Jesus Christ

### Introduction (5 minutes)

**Leader Note**: In this lesson, we are looking at "Who Is Jesus?". Each day's theme helps us answer this question: Jesus the Answer, Jesus the Fulfillment, Jesus the Savior, Jesus the Lord.

**Group Share**: What do we learn about Jesus in the Introduction?

**Leader Note:** Make note of the second paragraph about Jesus' humanity.

**Leader Read:** Read the third paragraph, beginning with, "Was He more ..." and the six scripture references from the Gospels.

Volunteer Read: Last three sentences of the C.S. Lewis quote beginning with, "Either this man..."

# Day One: Jesus the Answer (10 minutes)

**Leader Note**: Share that as we look through Day 1, we will use the commentary to look at John 14: 1-10.

Leader Ask: Q1 Partner Share: Q2

**Leader Note**: For Q3, share that we will not share answers aloud. Provide guidance that the Quiet Your Heart from Day Four might be helpful if they found completing the letter difficult.

Volunteer Read: Last two sentences of the Quiet Your Heart beginning with, "He is the way..."

#### Day Two: Jesus the Fulfillment (10 minutes)

Volunteer Read: Read the second introductory paragraph beginning, "The Old Testament is filled with...".

**Leader Note**: Ask the group to underline the Note at the end of Q1.

Group Share: In Q1, what was your reaction to the New Testament fulfillment of the prophecies in Isaiah 53?

**Volunteer Read**: In Q2, ask for one volunteer to read the first Old Testament prophecy and share how it was fulfilled, ask another to do the same with the second set of Scripture.

Leader Note: Ask the group to underline the last sentence of the Quiet Your Heart beginning with, "Don't expect..."

## Day Three: Jesus the Savior (10 minutes)

Leader Note: Explain how to use Catechism Clips (CCC).

Leader Ask: Q1

Leader Ask: Q2A beginning with, "Can any of us claim..."

Partner Share: Q2B beginning with, "Why do you think we find it so easy ..."

**Leader Ask:** Q2C beginning with, "What is the consequence of sin ..."

Volunteer Read: Paragraph at end of Q2.

Leader Ask: Q3 and Q4

Group Share: Ask the young women to share reflections on the song included in the Quiet Your Heart.

# Day Four: Jesus the Lord (10 minutes)

**Leader Note:** In this lesson we will look at Jesus the Lord.

Leader Ask: Q1 and Q2. Instead of going through every verse in Q1 and Q2, ask participants which verse stood out to them from the viewpoint of Saint Paul (Q1) and then Saint John (Q2). For example, in Q1 you might say, "In guestion one we look at all that Saint Paul wrote about Jesus in his letter to the Colossians. In these six verses, what stood out to you the most?" Do the same for Q2 with three verses from the Gospel of John.

Volunteer Read: Second paragraph of the Quiet Your Heart which begins with "Submit your personal freedom..."

## Day Five: Saint Story and Conclusion (5 minutes)

**Group Share**: Share pieces from the Saint Story that you enjoyed and ask the group to share the same.

**Volunteer Read**: Ask a volunteer to read the first paragraph of the Conclusion beginning with, "Have you ever..." and the last paragraph of the Conclusion beginning with, "Who is Jesus..."

## Resolutions and Prayer Requests (10 minutes)







### Lesson 3 - No Longer Slaves - Friendship with Jesus

## Introduction (5 minutes)

**Leader Note:** In this lesson we will explore our friendship with Jesus.

**Group Share**: Why is Jesus interested in our friendship?

**Volunteer Read**: Ask for a volunteer to read the third and fourth paragraphs

beginning with, "So why..." and "Jesus doesn't need anything...".

**Leader Read**: Sixth paragraph beginning with, "Jesus wants to satisfy...", the four

points that follow and the seventh paragraph.

## Day One: He Loves You (10 minutes)

Volunteer Read: Psalm 139: 13-16

Group Share: Q2 Leader Ask: Q3

Volunteer Read: CCC 220

Leader Ask: Q4

**Volunteer Read**: Third paragraph of the Quiet Your Heart beginning with, "God proves

his love...".

Leader Note: Ask the young women to take a few moments to reflect on the last

sentence of the Quiet Your Heart.

### Day Two: He Wants You to Fulfill Your Purpose in Life (10 minutes)

**Volunteer Read**: Second introductory paragraph.

Group Share: Q1

Leader Ask: Look at the Q2 verses as a whole asking the group to share ways the verses point us to know Jesus better.

Partner Share: Ask members to turn to a partner and share their responses to Q3.

**Volunteer Read**: Read the last paragraph of the Quiet Your Heart.

### Day Three: He Knows You Were Made for More (10 minutes)

**Volunteer Read**: First two introductory paragraphs beginning with, "Jesus knows..." and "But let's..."

**Volunteer Read:** Fourth introductory paragraph beginning with, "The only way..."

**Leader Ask**: Q1A and Q1B

**Leader Ask**: Q2 Ask the women to share thoughts on how friendship is described in Luke 9:23.

Group Share: Have the group circle the words "Christmas card friends" in Q2 and discuss the difference between this kind of friendship and real friendship.

**Leader Read**: Paragraph after Q2.



**Leader Note**: How did it feel to identify areas of your life that you were holding back from Jesus in Q3? Were you surprised by your response?

Volunteer Read: Last paragraph from the Quiet Your Heart beginning with, "Are you tired..."

## Day Four: He Wants to Spend Eternity With You (10 minutes)

**Volunteer Read**: First two introductory paragraphs, beginning with, "Have you ever..." and "This is one of the things..."

Leader Ask: Q1 and Q2

Volunteer Read: Quote from Ralph Martin at the end of Q2 beginning with, "Christianity is not a game..."

Group Share: Share reactions to Appendix 2: Conversion of Heart Volunteer Read: Read the last two paragraphs of the Quiet Your Heart, beginning with, "...no eye has seen...".

## Day Five: Saint Story and Conclusion (5 minutes)

Group Share: Share pieces from the Saint Story that you enjoyed and ask the group to share the same.

**Volunteer Read**: Ask for a volunteer to read the last two paragraphs of the Conclusion beginning with, "If we could only..."

**Leader Note**: An option for a closing prayer is to use the last paragraph of the Conclusion beginning with, "This is my prayer for you..." as a closing prayer for the day.

## Resolutions and Prayer Requests (10 minutes)



## Lesson 4 - Surge of the Heart - Prayer

## Introduction (5 minutes)

**Leader Note**: Encourage the group to underline the last 2 sentences of the fourth paragraph of the Introduction beginning with, "It isn't about how articulate..."

Leaders Note: Even though we know that prayer transforms us, so many things make it hard for us to pray. We will be taking a closer look at three of those difficulties in this lesson.

## Day One: Difficulty No. 1: "I Am Too Busy To Pray" (10 minutes)

**Leader Read**: Third paragraph beginning with, "If we want to be transformed..."

Group Share: Q1 Partner Share: 02 Leader Ask: O3

Leader Note: The prayer at the end of the Quiet Your Heart would be a beautiful closing prayer for the group to read aloud at the conclusion of the lesson.

#### Day Two: Difficulty No. 2: "I Want to Be Self-Sufficient" (10 minutes)

**Volunteer Read**: Second introductory paragraph beginning with, "This desire to be..." Leader Ask: Q1A, Q1B and Q2

**Group Share**: Ask the young women to share how it felt to pray big, bold prayers in Q3. Leader Note: Ask the group to underline the last sentence in the second paragraph of the Quiet Your Heart beginning with, "He knows better than we do...".

**Leader Read**: Continue to read through the end of the Quiet Your Heart.

## Day Three: Difficulty No. 3: "I've Given Up Hope" (10 minutes)

**Leader Note**: We will now look at the final barrier to prayer, a loss of hope.

Volunteer Read: Second paragraph of the introduction beginning with, "When this has been..."

**Volunteer Read**: Q1 beginning with, "I realize that when..."

Leader Note: Encourage the group to underline the following phrases in Q1: "lack of gratitude" and "But what has He given?

**Leader Ask:** Responses to each scripture in Q1

Volunteer Read: Last paragraph under Q1 beginning with, "In a season of my life ..." **Leader Note**: Encourage the group to underline the last sentence in this paragraph beginning with, "And I knew something was wrong..."

**Leader Read**: First three sentences of Q2. Encourage the group to circle the word "cultivated".

Group Share: Were you able to identify ways in which God has taken care of you and blessed you? Was this difficult for you?





## Day Four: Pray Boldly. Surrender Completely. (10 minutes)

**Leader Note**: Note the key words in Q1: "hesitant," "doubt-filled," and "tame prayers".

**Group Share**: Responses to Q1

**Leader Read**: Last two sentences in paragraph under Q1 beginning with, "The question

is not..."

Leader Ask: Q2 and Q3

Volunteer Read: Second paragraph of the Quiet Your Heart beginning with, "There is a

rock..."

## Day Five: Saint Story and Conclusion (5 minutes)

Group Share: Share pieces from the Saint Story that you enjoyed and ask the group to share the same.

Volunteer Read: Ask for a volunteer to read the first three paragraphs of the conclusion beginning with, "Whoever remains in me..."

**Leader Note**: An option for a closing prayer is the prayer in the Day One Quiet Your Heart.

## Resolutions and Prayer Requests (10 minutes)







## Lesson 5 - Sweet Guest of the Soul - The Holy Spirit

## Introduction (5 minutes)

**Leader Read:** Read the first sentence in the second introductory paragraph beginning with, "I remember well..." Read the last two sentences of the third paragraph beginning with, "When I opened my heart..." Read the final paragraph beginning with, "Perhaps God...".

Volunteer Read: Ask the group to turn to the Conclusion section at the end of the Lesson. Ask a volunteer to read the list of five "I can't" statements.

Leader Note: The Holy Spirit cannot come into our limitations (the things we cannot do), but the Holy Spirit CAN do for us.

## Day One: God's Personal Breath (10 minutes)

**Volunteer Read**: First introductory paragraph beginning with, "Before we delve into ..." Leader Ask: 01 and 02

**Leader Note**: In the paragraph under Q2, have the group circle the words: "a mighty wind" and underline the definition of the term 'Spirit' in the same paragraph.

**Leader Read**: Q3 Read the first sentence in the second paragraph beginning with, "As the Holy Spirit ..." Also note the last two sentences of that same paragraph beginning with, "The Holy Spirit filled specific people...".

**Volunteer Read**: Ezekiel 36:26–27 under Q3

Leader Note: Have the group turn to Appendix 2: Conversion of Heart in the back of the book. Encourage the group to underline the last paragraph about conversion.

Volunteer Read: Last two paragraphs of the Quiet Your Heart beginning with, "Through His grace..."

## Day Two: The Humble Unveiling (10 minutes)

**Leader Read**: First sentence in the introductory paragraph, "God had promised..." and the last two sentences of the same paragraph beginning with, "During that perfect time..."

Leader Ask: Q1 Ask the group to look at the verses as a whole and share points regarding the Holy Spirit's activity.

Group Share: How would you describe the Holy Spirit's action and purpose based on the Catechism Clip in Q2?

Group Share: Which qualities of the Holy Spirit do you see reflected in John the Baptist, Mary, and Jesus based on the Scripture listed in Q3?.

Volunteer Read: First and second paragraphs of Q4.

Group Share: Thoughts about the questions in the last paragraph of Q4.

Leader Note: Ask the group to underline the second paragraph in the Quiet Your Heart beginning with, "If we do invite ..."





## Day Three: Clothed with Power (10 minutes)

**Leader Note**: Skim Q1, Q2, Q3. These can be quickly summarized if needed due to time.

Volunteer Read: Paragraph under Q3.

Partner Share: 04

Volunteer Read: Last paragraph of the Quiet Your Heart beginning with, "God urges you..."

## Day Four: What Difference Does He Make in Our Lives? (10 minutes)

Volunteer Read: Ask four volunteers to look up one of four the verses listed in Q1 and read aloud.

Group Share: Were you able to identify from these verses ways in which the Holy Spirit impacts you personally?

**Leader Read**: First paragraph in the Quiet Your Heart beginning with, "The Holy Spirit is willing..."

# Day Five: Saint Story and Conclusion (5 minutes)

**Leader Read**: Third paragraph beginning with, "It is in those dark days..."

**Group Share**: Question at the end of the Saint Story

**Leader Read**: 2 Corinthians 3:17 at the beginning of the Conclusion.

**Leader Note**: Remind the group of the "I can't" statements in the Conclusion.

**Volunteer Read**: Sentence after list of "I can't" statements beginning with, "The Holy Spirit comes..." and through the next paragraph beginning with, "I know you can't ..." Volunteer Read: All the guestions at the end of the Conclusion beginning with, "Is there a

place..." through the end of the Conclusion.

# Resolutions and Prayer Requests (10 minutes)



#### Lesson 6 - Grace - The Difference Maker

## Introduction (5 minutes)

**Leader Note**: Share that this week we will be looking at grace and the difference it makes in our lives.

**Leader Note**: Review definitions of "grace" in fourth and fifth paragraphs of introduction. Ask the young women to circle important words and phrases and share what they circled. Examples could be: "grace is favor," "free," "undeserved help," "God gives to respond...," "infinite love," "mercy," "favor," "goodwill."

**Volunteer Read**: Last few sentences that begin in the middle of the fifth paragraph beginning with, "He doesn't just come ..." through the end of the Introduction.

## Day One: The First Work of Grace (10 minutes)

Leader Ask: 01

Volunteer Read: Second paragraph following Q1 beginning with, "God is always after vour heart..."

Leader Ask: Q2, Q3 and Q4

Volunteer Read: First two paragraphs of the Quiet Your Heart beginning with, "Quiet your heart..."

Leader Note: Point out the prayer at the end of the Quiet Your Heart and encourage women to underline the last sentence.

Group Share: Discuss the words "empty hands." What does that mean to you? **Leader Note**: This is another good time to point the young women to Appendix 2: Conversion of Heart.

## Day Two: The Extravagance of Grace (10 minutes)

Leader Ask: Q1 and Q2

Leader Note: In Q2, circle the word "cost" to note Jesus' sacrifice for us.

Leader Note: In the paragraph following Q2, underline the words beginning with, "He didn't do ..." through the end.

Leader Ask: O3

Leader Note: Encourage the young women to circle the words "abilities,"

"achievements," and "worth." Circling words reminds us to discuss thoughts that may not have come to mind while completing study independently.

Partner Share: Turn to a partner and share responses to Q4

Leader Note: Encourage women to underline words in the last paragraph of the Quiet Your Heart beginning with, "Spend some time talking to God..." through the end of paragraph.

# Day Three: The Risk of Grace (10 minutes)

Volunteer Read: Romans 5:20 and the two introductory paragraphs above Q1.





**Volunteer Read**: Ask a volunteer to look up and read aloud the Scripture from Q1. Leader Ask: Q2

Leader Note: The law was given to us so that we would be silenced. What could that mean? We are silenced because we see how much we fall short of the law. The alternative to being silenced is trying to justify ourselves to God. Living according to the law is so hard because we don't have what it takes to do it.

Leader Ask: O3

Leader Note: Encourage women to circle "new" in Q3 and consider the Beatitudes given to us in the Sermon at the Mount.

Leader Note: In the paragraph under Q3, circle and discuss the words "if we ask Him".

Group Share: Q4

Leader Read: Quiet Your Heart beginning with the last sentence in the second paragraph that begins with "Why would we want to sin?" and continue reading through the end.

# Day Four: The Sufficiency of Grace (10 minutes)

Leader Ask: Q1 and Q2

Leader Note: Note in reference to Q2 that sacraments are our "toolbox."

Volunteer Read: Second paragraph after Q2.

**Group Share**: Q3

Leader Note: The prayer at the end of the Quiet Your Heart would make a nice closing prayer for the Lesson.

#### Day Five: Saint Story and Conclusion (5 minutes)

Group Share: Share pieces of the Saint Story you enjoyed and ask the group to share the same.

Volunteer Read: Eighth, ninth and tenth paragraphs of the Conclusion beginning with, "Perhaps you are waiting for relief..."

## Resolutions and Prayer Requests (10 minutes)

