



ONLINE GROUP PLAN

Summer 2020 // Proverbs; Song of Songs // Session 1: Charted Waters

Suggested Use Date: 06/07/2020

For use with Explore the Bible Leader Guide, Personal Study Guide, and Daily Discipleship Guide



PREPARATION

Best Practices for Leading an Online Group



PRAY for your group members and for God to grant you insight as you study and prepare your Bible study session. Do this throughout the week.



SCHEDULE your group's online Bible study using the online meeting tool you prefer. Invite group members and guests to participate using a meeting ID if required by your online meeting tool. [Click here](#) to view a Best Practices document for online groups.



SEND digital copies of the next session to group members who do not have a print copy. If using the *Personal Study Guide*, encourage group members to read the passage and comments for the next session. If you are using the *Daily Discipleship Guide*, encourage your group members to follow up your session by engaging with the five daily Bible readings.



CONNECT with your group via email or text messaging early in the week.

Create your own message:

- Briefly tell the group the title of your next Bible study, why it is important, and what they will learn.
- Challenge group members to study before the group session if your group uses a *Personal Study Guide*; remind group members to follow up your online study with their daily readings if your group uses the *Daily Discipleship Guide*.
- Remind group members when your group will meet online.

Or copy and paste this suggested wording into the email or text message to your group:

How would you describe the difference between knowledge and wisdom? How should information lead to a change in behavior? I hope you'll join us this week as we begin our study of the Book of Proverbs and discover that God is the source of true wisdom.

Read Proverbs 1:7-19 and the comments on Session 1 found in your copy of the *Personal Study Guide* or *Daily Discipleship Guide*. Be sure to look at the words "fear," "knowledge," "fools," "despise," and "discipline" in verse 7 and how each relates to the rest of the passage.

We will meet at (add time) using (name of online tool). Here is the link to our meeting: (add meeting ID if your online tool doesn't do that automatically)

WEEKLY MESSAGE



PREPARE to lead your group's Bible study.

- **Study** Proverbs 1:7-19, being sure to complete the Bible Skill activity about the term “fear of the LORD.”
- **Listen** to the Explore the Bible Adult Leader Podcast. Go to goExploreTheBible.com/Adults-Training for an overview of the main points and key ideas from each session.
- **Visit** the Explore the Bible blog for additional leader helps at goExploreTheBible.com/Leader-Helps
- **Create** your teaching plan for guiding your group's online Bible study experience. Use the Online Group Plan on the next pages as a starting point, modifying it for your group as needed. Consult the *Adult Commentary*, *QuickSource*, and *Leader Pack* for additional ideas and resources.



REMIND your group members to study and prepare via another email or text message closer to the day your group meets.

- Include a quote from the *Personal Study Guide*, a question, or an insight you plan to discuss with the group when you meet online.



HELPFUL LINKS

- Explore the Bible main landing page: goExploreTheBible.com
- Digital version of Explore the Bible: curriculum.lifeway.com
- Explore the Bible leader helps: goExploreTheBible.com/Leader-Helps
- Explore the Bible Podcast: goExploreTheBible.com/Adults-Training
- Free Coronavirus links and leader helps: lifeway.com/coronavirus



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NOTES

GREET people as they join and invite them to give examples that illustrate the difference between wisdom and knowledge. Ask: **How should information lead to a change in behavior?** (See PSG, p. 10; DDG, p. 13.). Option: Use the Extra! idea. See goExploreTheBible.com/LeaderExtras

INTRODUCE: Explain that this is the first session of a study of the Bible books of Proverbs and Song of Songs. Using Understand the Context (PSG, p. 11, DDG, p. 13), provide an overview of the study of Proverbs. Point to the listing of the session titles on the table of contents and the outline of the Book of Proverbs (PSG, p. 9; DDG, p. 9). Highlight that Proverbs begins with an invitation and a warning.

READ Proverbs 1:7, calling attention to key words in the verse.

LEAD the group to complete the Bible Skill activity (PSG, p. 13, DDG, p. 15). Share different ways this verse is translated and read information from a Bible dictionary about the meaning of “the fear of the LORD.” Read 1 Corinthians 1:24-25 and explain that we know God through faith in Jesus. (Option: Recruit a volunteer prior to the group time to complete the Bible Skill and share with the group.)

DISCUSS: Call attention the last half of verse 7. Ask: **How might a person be intelligent and unwise at the same time?** (PSG, p. 13; DDG, p. 15)

READ Proverbs 1:8-9, emphasizing that the word “listen” appears in verse 5 and again in verse 8. Summarize the comments on these two verses on page 14 of the PSG or page 15 of the DDG. Call attention to the question: **How does listening to godly counsel lead to blessing?** (PSG, p. 14; DDG, p. 15). Share your response, reminding the group to thank God for the godly counsel in their lives.

TRANSITION: Solomon then focused on the consequences of following the wrong counsel.

READ Proverbs 1:10-14, as the group listens for the wisdom provided by Solomon on resisting sin.

STATE: We know that temptation is common to all humans, but the person on the wise path rejects temptation and resists sin. *Read aloud 1 Corinthians 10:12-13.*

REFLECT: How might being mindful of the consequences impact how a person responds to temptation? Which has the greater impact: focusing on the consequences of disobedience or the rewards of obedience? (PSG, p. 16; DDG, p. 15) If using the DDG, explain that the group will have an opportunity to reflect more on that question on Day 4 of the Daily Explorations (p. 18).

READ Proverbs 1:15-19. Emphasize that sin leads to self destruction, giving examples.

DISCUSS: Lead the group to discuss the bulleted list under “Bad Companions in the Book of Proverbs” on page 17 of the PSG [those who entice you to sin (1:10-19; 24:1); fools (13:20; 14:7); gossips (20:19); those who drink too much and gluttons (23:20-21); rebellious people (24:21)]. If using the DDG, share the list, encouraging the group to record it in the margin on page 19. Guide a discussion on how believers can be in the world but not negatively influenced into sin by the world.

SUMMARIZE: Solomon made it clear that humans have the choice to listen to godly wisdom or be enticed by sin. He also laid the foundation that wisdom starts with a right relationship with God and an application of God’s Word.

HIGHLIGHT: Lead the group to locate the four bulleted statements under In My Context (PSG, p. 18) or Apply the Text (DDG, p. 16), and read the statements aloud.

DISCUSS: Guide the group in a discussion of the second question set on PSG page 18 or on DDG page 16: **Discuss with your Bible study group ways people provide godly counsel. Discuss the role the group has in providing godly counsel and fostering obedience.**

EVALUATE: Direct the group to evaluate their own obedience to God and His counsel. Ask: **In what areas do you need to be more obedient to God and His Word?** (PSG, p. 18; DDG, p. 16)

EMPHASIZE: Return to Proverbs 1:7, and remind the group that this verse reflects the heart of the Book of Proverbs. Highlight that verse 7 is this session's memory verse.

PRAY: Thank God for providing a source for wisdom that aids people in avoiding foolish decisions and devastating consequences. Thank Him for His Son, Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit working in our lives to illuminate God's Word and resist temptation.

If using the Daily Discipleship Guide, encourage the group to complete the Daily Explorations in the week ahead.

NEXT STEPS



- Contact the group during the week to let them know that you're praying for them. Be specific if you're aware of a special need. Encourage them to memorize Proverbs 1:7 this week.
- Send digital copies of the next session to those in the group who do not have a print copy. If using the Personal Study Guide, encourage the group to read the passage and comments for the next session.
- Repeat the process outlined in the Preparation section of this document.