

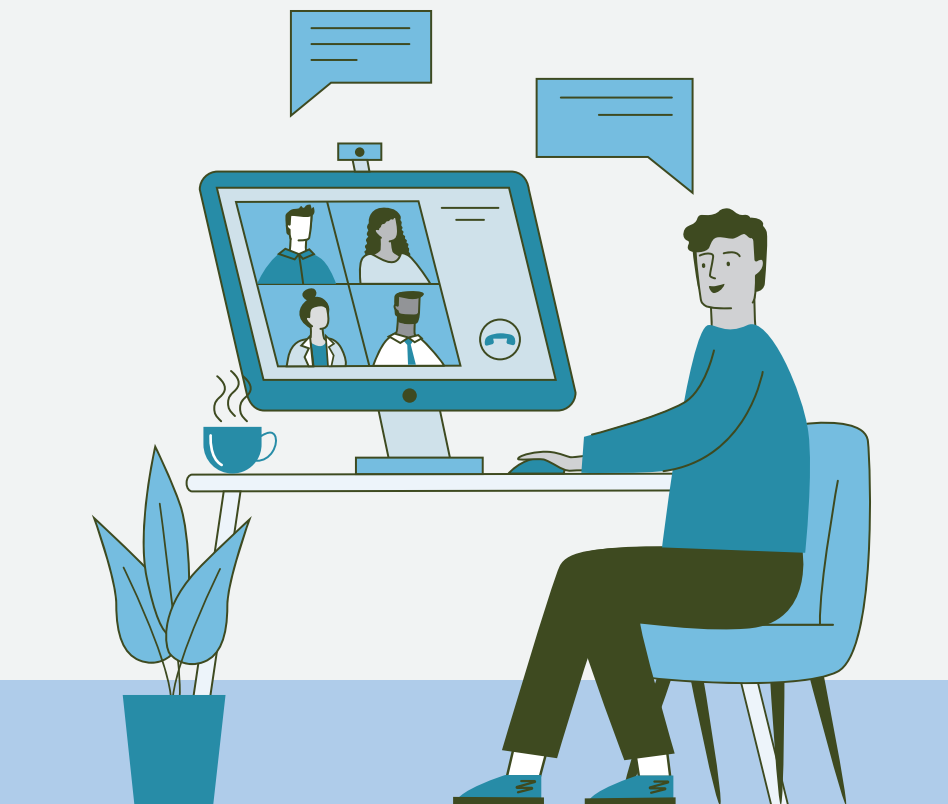


ONLINE GROUP PLAN

Summer 2020 // Proverbs; Song of Songs // Session 2: Direction Offered

Suggested Use Date: 06/14/2020

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:

A global positioning system, better known as GPS, is a handy tool for getting directions. The tool works well unless you decide you're going to ignore it and go in another direction. In this week's study, we'll learn from Solomon about how to live wisely and why we must follow God's directions in life.

Read Proverbs 3:1-12 and the comments for Session 2 found in your copy of the *Personal Study Guide* or *Daily Discipleship Guide*. Underline the commands given by Solomon. How do these commands define wise living?

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 3:1-12, noting the commands given.
- **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.



REMINDE 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 identify times when they became lost on a trip or refused to ask for directions. After all have had the opportunity to report, ask: **How often have you ignored the directions offered by a GPS because you wanted to take a different path? What dangers do you put yourself in by ignoring instruction?** (PSG, p. 19; DDG, p. 21)*

TRANSITION: Much like the GPS, we're faced with decisions daily. We have the choice to follow God's instructions. In Proverbs 2–3, Solomon examined the process of making wise choices. *Option: Use the Extra! idea. See goExploreTheBible.com/LeaderExtras*

CONTEXTUALIZE: *Utilizing Understand the Context (PSG, p. 20; DDG, p. 21), relate that in Proverbs 1, Solomon wrote Proverbs as a call to be wise and understand instruction in order to make wise choices. In Proverbs 2, the focus is on the value of godly wisdom and the process of how wisdom works.*

STATE: In today's session we will examine Proverbs 3 to determine how God provides direction to those who place their trust in Him.

READ Proverbs 3:1-4 *and ask the group to listen for the commands given. Identify the commands.*

DISCUSS: **What is significant about Solomon continually calling God's people to remember God's commandments and also His goodness and grace?**

REREAD Proverbs 3:1-4 *again, as the group considers whether the verses are directed at the mind, the heart, or both. Emphasize that both the mind and the heart matter. Point out that Jesus made the same connection in Matthew 22:37.*

EXPLAIN: Verses 1 and 3 share ways to grow in wisdom while verses 2 and 4 offer a blessing and peace for the wise believer. There's no guarantee that life will go smoothly, but faith and obedience provide a foundation for peace regardless of the circumstances. There are many factors that can corrupt the way of wise living.

READ: As you read aloud **Proverbs 3:5-8**, have the group listen for any additional commands in these verses. Identify the commands.

STATE: Proverbs 3:5-8 lets us know that our own thinking can result in poor decisions. If we disconnect knowledge from trust and love for God, we may get drawn into relying on self rather than being obedient to God's plan.

COMPARE: Lead the group to contrast the lives of people who trust God with those who trust themselves. Ask: **How should this contrast encourage believers to live God-honoring lives?** (PSG, p. 24; DDG, p. 23)

READ: As you read aloud **Proverbs 3:9-10**, ask the group to listen for a relationship between wise living and giving.

SHARE: For the believer, generosity is a result of wise living. These verses teach that we can count on God to provide for us when we choose to honor Him. *Stress from the PSG (p. 25) or DDG (p. 26):* This is not prosperity thinking but rather a deep trust in a promise-keeping God who may not provide all that we want, but He will provide what we need as we live for Him. *Ask for reactions to this quote.*

DISCUSS: How is the way a person handles finances a way of measuring his or her spiritual maturity?

What challenges might a person face in seeking to honor God with their financial management? (PSG, p. 25; DDG, p. 23)

READ Proverbs 3:11-12, directing the group to identify a key word in these verses.

DISCUSS: When you hear the word discipline, does it have a positive or negative connotation? Why?

STATE: It's critical that we recognize God's discipline as an act of love. Ask: **How do you see discipline as an act of God's love?**

SUMMARIZE: Direct the group to review the Summary Statements on page 27 of the PSG or page 24 in the DDG.

CHALLENGE: Guide the group to discuss ways of helping each other to live with integrity. Ask: **How can the group remind each other of God's expectations?** (PSG, p. 27; DDG, p. 24)

NEXT STEPS



- Contact the group daily to simply pray with them. Pray specifically for the group to be faithful in following God's direction and in accepting God's discipline. Ask God to help each person to trust God in all areas of life rather than choosing his or her own way.
- 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.