



ONLINE GROUP PLAN

Summer 2020 // Proverbs; Song of Songs // Session 10: Accepting Discipline

Suggested Use Date: 08/09/2020

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:

Mention the word “discipline” and people give you all kinds of reactions. To many, discipline connotes drudgery. However, the athlete, the scientist, the theologian, and the businessman must be disciplined and focused if they are to succeed. In the same way, believers should welcome discipline for the purpose of holiness. This week, we examine how God uses discipline from society, family, and others to shape His people. Read Proverbs 29:1-3,12-20 and the comments for Session 10 in the *Personal Study Guide* or *Daily Discipleship Guide*, noting the contrasts found in the passage. How do the contrasts help us understand the value of discipline?

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 29:1-3,12-20, focusing on the contrast between being disciplined and undisciplined.
- **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 offer their definition of discipline. (Note: record response for use later in the session.) After most have joined, explain that our English word discipline comes from the Latin word *discipulus*, the word for pupil, and it's also the source of the word *disciple*. The Greek word for disciple is *mathetes*, meaning a learner or apprentice. Ask: **Is discipline essential for the spiritual growth and development of God's people? Explain.** (PSG, p. 91; DDG, p. 85)

TRANSITION: Today's study of Proverbs 29 reveals how God uses discipline from society, family, and others to shape His people. *Option: Use the Extra! idea. See goExploreTheBible.com/LeaderExtras*

MINI-LECTURE: Proverbs 29 includes sayings of Solomon collected during the reign of Hezekiah, King of Judah. Using *Understand the Context*, explain how Hezekiah used Solomon's sayings to build spiritual reform in Judah. For more information about Hezekiah, consult the Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary.

STATE: Whether during the time of Hezekiah or today, God's people frequently need spiritual disciplining. Read aloud Hebrews 12:11, and relate that as we study Proverbs 29, we need to remember that through our relationship with Jesus Christ we have the Holy Spirit and God's Word to light our paths and discipline us when we go astray.

READ Proverbs 29:1-3, as the group listens for the contrast between the disciplined and the undisciplined. Identify words and phrases that relate to discipline and undisciplined.

TRANSITION: In the next verses, Solomon reveals that God's wisdom is available to all.

READ: Direct the group to silently read **Proverbs 29:12-14**, highlighting words or phrases that show that God's wisdom is available to all.

STATE: The words of Solomon reveal that there's no excuse for foolish, undisciplined living. Ask: **How does knowing the results of a disciplined lifestyle help a person continue in that lifestyle?** (PSG, p. 93; DDG, p. 87) **How does knowing that God's wisdom is available to all people bring encouragement?** (PSG, p. 95; DDG, p. 87)

READ: **Proverbs 29:15-17**, as the group listens for specific information regarding discipline and the role of parenting.

STUDY: Highlight the definition of discipline on page 95 of the PSG or under Day 3 on Page 90 of the DDG. Lead the group to compare this definition with the definitions shared as they gathered. Call attention to the information in the PSG and DDG about the three-fold domino effect of failing to discipline.

ASK: How are societal norms a gauge of the type of parenting taking place within that society? To what level do you agree that the lack of parental discipline of the child is a reflection of the lack of discipline in the parent's personal life? Explain. (PSG, p. 96; DDG, p. 87) If using the DDG, remind the group that they will have an opportunity to revisit this question on a personal level when doing the Day 3 Exploration study.

TRANSITION: Whether as parents, leaders, or followers, God's revelation provides direction for living a disciplined life.

READ **Proverbs 29:18-20**, as the group considers the connection between God's revelation through the law and discipline.

ASK: How does a commitment to God's Word help a person avoid acting in haste? (PSG, p. 98; DDG, p. 87)

TRANSITION: If true discipleship is reflected in consistent obedience, we must examine our own lives to determine how we're providing discipline for those in our care and how we're growing ourselves through the discipline of God's Word.

CHALLENGE: Summarize the contrast between discipline and lack of discipline. Ask rhetorically: **How might God be disciplining you now to draw you closer to Him?** Lead the group to record their responses to the questions under *In My Context* (PSG, p. 99) or *Apply the Text* (DDG, p. 88).

RELATE: Lead the group to share actions they will take in light of today's study. Encourage them to include daily Bible study if they are not currently doing so. Explain how to use the *Personal Study Guide* or *Daily Discipleship Guide* to enhance daily personal Bible study.

NEXT STEPS



- Examine your own heart to determine how willingly you accept God's discipline to support your growth in discipleship.
- 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.