



## ONLINE GROUP PLAN

**Summer 2020 // Proverbs; Song of Songs // Session 8: Pleasing God**

Suggested Use Date: 07/26/2020

*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:

One of the mistakes we often make when thinking about the wisdom of God is to separate the pursuit of wisdom from God Himself, as if the wisdom of God was distinct from the Person of God. To pursue God's wisdom means to pursue God Himself. This one truth changes everything.

Join us for this week's study as we learn that God's people should seek to please Him in their attitudes and actions. Read Proverbs 15:33–16:11 and the comments for Session 8 in the *Personal Study Guide* or *Daily Discipleship Guide*, looking for common themes. How do the common themes you identified connect to each other?

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 15:33–16:11, looking for common themes. How do the common themes you identified connect to each other?
- **Listen** to the Explore the Bible Adult Leader Podcast. Go to [goExploreTheBible.com/Adults-Training](https://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](https://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.



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## HELPFUL LINKS

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



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NOTES

**GREET** people as they join and ask them to visualize a child whose mother has been out of town for a week. The mother steps into sight at the airport, and the child takes off running as the mother holds her arms open wide. Explain that just as a child runs to his mother, so we should run to our heavenly Father with our eyes totally focused on Him and His open arms. Ask: **When you were a child, how did you try to please the people you loved? What difference did it make to you? Why did you want to please them?** (PSG, p. 73; DDG, p. 69)

**TRANSITION:** Proverbs 15:33–16:11 leads us to understand that God’s people should seek to please Him in their attitudes and actions. Option: Use the Extra! idea. See [goExploreTheBible.com/LeaderExtras](https://goExploreTheBible.com/LeaderExtras)

**INTRODUCE:** Remind the group that Proverbs 1–9 set the foundation of the collected proverbs in chapters 10–29, and that the wisdom described by Solomon is fully revealed through the person and work of Jesus Christ. Explain that in today’s session, rather than focusing on the verses in a linear way, we’ll examine the verses linked by themes.

**READ** Proverbs 15:33 and 16:8 as the group listens for ways godly wisdom is demonstrated.

**DISCUSS:** **If we’re truly wise in the Lord, how will we know it?** We know we’re receiving true wisdom if it causes us to fear the Lord (15:33). In the same way true wisdom prompts us to fear the Lord, true prosperity causes us to make righteousness our priority (16:8). When we’re wise in Him, we consider being right with Him and living according to His ways a priceless treasure in itself.

**SUMMARIZE:** True wisdom “is demonstrated in fearing the Lord, trusting Him, and pursuing Him as the greatest treasure of life out of which all other treasures and blessings of God come.” (PSG, p. 75; DDG, p. 73)



**READ Proverbs 16:1,4-5,9** as the group identifies words that reveal God's sovereignty and our accountability.

**ASK: What does living with the reality that we will face God one day look like? Why do people resist being held accountable?** (PSG, p. 78; DDG, p. 71)

**EMPHASIZE:** There are things we can't completely understand about the connection between God's sovereignty and our free will. It remains one of the mysteries of Scripture. "Whether or not we understand how both can co-exist together, God is sovereign and we are accountable." (PSG, p. 76; DDG, p. 73)

**TRANSITION: Have you ever done something because you thought you had to, but inside you were groaning and complaining or thinking it was silly?**

**READ Proverbs 16:2** as the group listens for how our actions and our hearts are known by God.

**ASK: Why are our motives so important? To what degree might our motives be more important than our actions?** (PSG, p. 79; DDG, p. 71)

**READ Proverbs 16:10-11** as the group listens for two examples of how God is pleased with the right motivation.

**HIGHLIGHT:** Pleasing God involves right motives as well as right actions. These verses reveal that honesty and dependency on God in leadership and in relationship with others is the proper motivation.

**READ Proverbs 16:3,6-7** as the group looks for the results of trusting the Lord as revealed in Jesus Christ.

**ASK: How does each promise in this passage give you assurance?** (PSG, p. 80; DDG, p. 75)

**CHALLENGE:** Using the bulleted points on page of 81 of the PSG (DDG, p. 72) to summarize the truths gained in studying Proverbs 15:33–16:11.

**REFLECTION:** Lead the group to examine the second set of questions on page 81 of the PSG (DDG, p. 72): Ask God to reveal areas in your life that are dominated by pride. Confess your pride and ask Him to help you grow in humility toward Him.

**PRAY:** Close in prayer, thanking God for being sovereign. Thank Him for providing guidance in how to live in an ever-changing world. Ask Him to cleanse our hearts and let our actions reflect a motivation of true love for Him. Pray that He will help us demonstrate wisdom in all that we do.

## NEXT STEPS



- Contact the group daily to simply pray with them. Pray specifically for the people they identify who need God's wisdom in their lives.
- 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.