

AMY JEAN WHITE



DIGITAL LEADER GUIDE

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LEADER GUIDE



Welcome! Before you read any further, I want to personally thank you, *the group leader*. Thank you for your willingness to gather a group of people and dive into Scripture. Your stewardship of time, talent, and treasure reflects a heart devoted to honoring God and serving others with purpose.

The goal of this leader guide is to help you feel equipped to facilitate and guide your Bible study group gatherings in a way that fosters deep conversation and prayer for you and the group you are leading.

I want to encourage you to use this study however it works best for you and your group. If you want to follow this leader guide to the letter, do that! If you want to do your own thing, feel free! My goal is to give you all the tools you might need, but I am certain that God has ordained your time with your specific group in your specific setting.

I am grateful for you and will be praying for you as you lead this study.

SINCERELY,
amy white

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE



OPTIONAL INTRODUCTORY SESSION—Distribute Bible study books if participants do not already have them, get to know one another, and discuss the questions found on page 9 of this leader guide.

WEEK ONE—Discuss the week one personal bible study questions found on page 10 of this leader guide.

WEEK TWO—Discuss the week two personal bible study questions found on page 11 of this leader guide.

WEEK THREE—Discuss the week three personal bible study questions found on page 12 of this leader guide.

WEEK FOUR—Discuss the week four personal bible study questions found on page 13 of this leader guide.

WEEK FIVE—Discuss the week five personal bible study questions found on page 14 of this leader guide.

WEEK SIX—Discuss the week six personal bible study questions found on page 15 of this leader guide.

GROUP TIME STRUCTURE



GATHER (10 minutes) This is a time to greet and welcome everyone and get them talking. In the first session, you're provided with some icebreaker and general discussion questions to help group members get to know each other and introduce the study. In the subsequent sessions, you'll find 1-2 icebreaker questions that set the tone for the study.

DISCUSS (30-40 minutes) You'll find a suggestion of questions for each week in this Leader Guide. Pick and choose the ones you want to discuss with your group. These questions are designed to help you facilitate conversation around the week's Bible study and personal reflection. As you go through your own study during the week, put a star by any questions or statements you might want to discuss with your group.

CLOSE (10 minutes) Brief closing activity ideas and/or prayer prompts have been provided. You can use this however you wish to enhance or close the session.

A FEW TIPS TO HELP YOU LEAD



GET THE WORD OUT. Be sure to advertise the study early and utilize all methods for getting the word out. Post it on your church's website, send emails to potential attendees, and promote it on all forms of social media. It's best to start advertising the study four to six weeks before it begins.

SCHEDULE. Be sure to make everyone aware of the schedule ahead of time and start promptly each week to honor everyone's time. In your group time, you'll dig into Scripture together, discuss what you're learning through your personal study, and be encouraged to spend a good bit of time in prayer.

STAY IN TOUCH. Prepare a sign-up sheet with space for names, email addresses, and phone numbers. You may also include information like birthdays, social media handles, and favorite candy so that you can foster community among group members.

GET COZY. Make an effort to create a comfortable environment for group meetings. Arrange chairs in a circle to encourage conversation. If your group is large, you may want to split into smaller groups for the discussion time. If you choose to do so, enlist discussion leaders for each group to keep the conversation moving and focused.

CHILDCARE. Be sure to check with participants to see if childcare is needed, and organize leaders and space for the children in advance.

BIBLE STUDY BOOKS. Each participant will need a Bible study book. Make sure you leave plenty of time for all the books to be ordered and received between announcing and starting your Bible study. Consider offering a scholarship or buy one-give-one option for those who can't afford a study book on their own.

EARLY PREP. I encourage you to read through the entire leader guide before the first session and evaluate how this will work best for your group. Highlight specific questions from the leader guide you want to make sure you cover during your group time. And be sure you stay on top of your own personal study between each meeting! I've left room in the leader guide for you to write down additional talking points and questions you want to pull in from the personal study.

PRAYER. Most importantly, be sure to pray for the group who attend the study. And pray for yourself as you prepare to lead. Ask God to draw the group closer to Him as they learn more about what it means to put on the full armor of God.

EVALUATE. At the end of each group session, ask yourself: *What went well? What could be improved? Did you see the group's lives transformed? Did your group grow closer to Christ and to one another?* Also, do a final evaluation at the close of the study.

CONNECT. Find ways to interact and stay engaged with each member of your group throughout the study. Make use of social media, email, text messages, and handwritten notes to encourage them. Continue these connections even after the study ends.

Next, I've provided a discussion guide for each session. Remember these are simply suggestions for how to use your time together. I want to empower you as you lead to do what is best for your group!

DISCUSSION GUIDE

OPTIONAL INTRODUCTORY SESSION

GATHER. Welcome your group to the introductory session of Word of Armor. Provide name tags and distribute Bible study books if participants don't have them yet.

MEET AND GREET one another! This will be the main point of today's meeting, so spend as much time getting to know one another as you can. (I highly recommend snacks, coffee, and tea!)

DISCUSS. Here are a few discussion ideas, especially if you're leading a brand-new group.

- Invite each person to introduce themselves and share basic get-to-know you information.
- Describe an activity or situation that makes you feel alive—something that invigorates and thrills you or reminds you of the gift that life is.
- Share a word that describes your relationship with Jesus today.
- What do you hope to gain from this Bible study and this group?

PREVIEW THE STUDY. Give a short overview of the study. Share about the weekly structure and the seven days of personal study to complete in each week. Encourage people to do what they can. If they are unable to finish all seven days of the personal study, they can still learn and contribute to the group time each week. Brainstorm specific times when they might try to complete their personal study each day. Set the commitment and time expectations you have for your group meetings, and take the opportunity now to cover any important housekeeping notes. Remind your group to complete Week One of the Bible study book before your next group gathering.

PRAY. Close with prayer. Ask how the group can be praying for one another over the coming week, and then do that now.

WEEK ONE

CHOSEN FOR CHRIST

GATHER. Welcome participants back to the study. Allow a time of introductions for any newcomers. (If your group skipped the optional introductory week, begin with the “Meet and Greet” section on the previous page.) Ask the following question to get your group talking: ***If you had unlimited power and resources to change one thing in your life, what would you change and why?***

DISCUSS. Encourage discussion by asking some of the following questions, along with any you flagged in the days of personal study.

- What stood out to you from this week of personal study?
- What has stuck with you?
- What surprised you or was new information?
- What questions from the personal study do you want to talk about with our group?

PRAY. Close with prayer. Ask how the group can be praying for one another over the coming week, and then do that now.

CLOSE. Remind your group to read and complete the “Week Two” personal Bible study before your next group meeting.

WEEK TWO

MADE ALIVE IN CHRIST

GATHER. Welcome participants back to the study. Allow a time of introductions for any newcomers. Ask the following question to get your group talking: ***When you were little, what did you want to be when you grew up?***

DISCUSS. Encourage discussion by asking some of the following questions, along with any you flagged in the days of personal study.

- What stood out to you from this week of personal study?
- What has stuck with you?
- What surprised you or was new information?
- What questions from the personal study do you want to talk about with our group?
- On page 47, you were asked what it means to be “raised” and “seated” with Christ. What do those terms mean in this context?

PRAY. Close with prayer. Ask how the group can be praying for one another over the coming week, and then do that now.

CLOSE. Remind your group to read and complete the “Week Three” personal Bible study before your next group meeting.

WEEK THREE

THE MYSTERY REVEALED

GATHER. Welcome participants back to the study. Allow a time of introductions for any newcomers. Ask the following question to get your group talking: ***What is your favorite thing to do with friends?***

DISCUSS. Encourage discussion by asking some of the following questions, along with any you flagged in the days of personal study.

- What stood out to you from this week of personal study?
- What has stuck with you?
- What surprised you or was new information?
- What questions from the personal study do you want to talk about with our group?
- On page 70, you were asked how your local church reflects God’s wisdom to the world. Does anyone want to share what they wrote for this question?

PRAY. Close with prayer. Ask how the group can be praying for one another over the coming week, and then do that now.

CLOSE. Remind your group to read and complete the “Week Four” personal Bible study before your next group meeting.

WEEK FOUR

WALKING WORTHY

GATHER. Welcome participants back to the study. Allow a time of introductions for any newcomers. Ask the following question to get your group talking: ***What’s your favorite way to travel—car, plane, train, or boat—and why?***

DISCUSS. Encourage discussion by asking some of the following questions, along with any you flagged in the days of personal study.

- What stood out to you from this week of personal study?
- What has stuck with you?
- What surprised you or was new information?
- What questions from the personal study do you want to talk about with our group?
- On page 97, you were asked how leaders or mentors have you in your walk with Christ. Does anyone want to share what they wrote for this question?

PRAY. Close with prayer. Ask how the group can be praying for one another over the coming week, and then do that now.

CLOSE. Remind your group to read and complete the “Week Five” personal Bible study before your next group meeting.

WEEK FIVE

WALKING IN LOVE AND LIGHT

GATHER. Welcome participants back to the study. Allow a time of introductions for any newcomers. Ask the following question to get your group talking: ***If you could spend one day on earth with one person from the Bible (besides Jesus), who would you choose, and why?***

DISCUSS. Encourage discussion by asking some of the following questions, along with any you flagged in the days of personal study.

- What stood out to you from this week of personal study?
- What has stuck with you?
- What surprised you or was new information?
- What questions from the personal study do you want to talk about with our group?
- Encourage group members to share some of their thoughts from question 7 on page 115.

PRAY. Close with prayer. Ask how the group can be praying for one another over the coming week, and then do that now.

CLOSE. Remind your group to read and complete the “Week Six” personal Bible study before your next group meeting.

WEEK SIX

STANDING STRONG

GATHER. Welcome participants back to the study. Allow a time of introductions for any newcomers. Ask the following question to get your group talking: ***If you could spend one day on earth with one person from the Bible (besides Jesus), who would you choose, and why?***

DISCUSS. Encourage discussion by asking some of the following questions, along with any you flagged in the days of personal study.

- What stood out to you from this week of personal study?
- What has stuck with you?
- What surprised you or was new information?
- What questions from the personal study do you want to talk about with our group?
- Encourage group members to share some of their thoughts from question 7 on page 147.

PRAY. Close with prayer. Ask how the group can be praying for one another over the coming week, and then do that now.

CLOSE. Remind your group to read and complete the “Reflection Questions” personal Bible study on their own. Thank them for participating in this group study, and encourage them to share their feedback about what went well, what improvements could be made, and what study they would like to complete next.

IT IS FINISHED

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
DEDICATION, LEADERSHIP, AND
PARTICIPATION IN THIS STUDY.
I PRAY THAT YOUR SPIRIT HAS
BEEN NOT ONLY RENEWED, BUT
TRANSFORMED BY THE HOLY
SPIRIT.**