

The GoodBook

FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

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transforming lives together

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THE GOOD BOOK FACILITATOR'S GUIDE
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Letter from Deron Spoo and Kyle Idleman

Dear Group Leader,

Thank you for your willingness to lead this study! We feel profoundly privileged to explore the Scriptures through *The Good Book DVD*, and we feel privileged that you, as a leader, have chosen to join us on this exciting journey.

One of the marvelous aspects of the Christian faith is that God meets all of his children exactly where they are in life. Regardless of a person's age, education, ethnicity, economic status, or any other characteristic, God is available and accessible. Not surprisingly, this same principle holds true for the Bible—*everyone* can find guidance, comfort, and encouragement in Scripture.

Everything we need to become flourishing, fruitful followers of Christ is right at our fingertips. We need not look any further than God's Word for insight, inspiration, and instruction. The apostle Paul said, "All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:16–17).

As you help others to grow through these sessions, remember that the ultimate benefit of studying Scripture is

not greater familiarity with the Bible, but deeper intimacy with God. Our prayer is that you will encounter the eternal love of God in the pages of Scripture.

Honored to serve with you,
Deron Spoo and Kyle Idleman

Preparation Tips

BEFORE YOU LEAD

The video presentations your group will see are approximately fifteen to twenty minutes long. Take some time to preview each session so you are familiar with what your group will experience. Review the questions in the Talk About It and Video Discussion sections in *The Good Book Participant's Guide*, and select those you believe are best suited for your group.

STUDY SESSION OVERVIEW

Each study session is intended to be fifty minutes in length. As the group leader, you will need to pace your group so you can complete the study in the allotted time. For your convenience, suggested time frames for each portion of the study are noted in this guide.

If your group has a longer period of time to meet, consider allowing additional time for discussing the video and considering how the material applies individually. Your group could also work through the Personal Reflection, Personal Prayer Journey, and Personal Action sections provided in *The Good Book Participant's Guide*.

Introduction

Each study session includes an introduction, which provides a short lead-in to the video to be viewed. You may want to read the

section aloud to introduce the topic and provide context for what the group will discover as they watch the presentation.

Talk About It

Following the introduction, you will find two questions under the heading Talk About It. These fairly simple questions are intended to stimulate discussion within your group and lead into the video presentation to follow. Depending upon the size of your group, you may choose to invite two or three members to share their responses to a Talk About It question.

Video Presentation

Before starting the video presentation, remind the group that the participant's guide includes a section called Video Teaching Notes. In this section, the main points have already been listed, so participants can use it to follow along and to write down additional notes as they view the video.

Video Discussion

Following the video, you will lead the group in a series of discussion questions to help them process what they have seen and heard in the presentation.

Found in *The Good Book Participant's Guide* under the heading Video Discussion, these thought-provoking questions will help participants ponder more deeply what they have viewed. Further, the discussion will encourage group members to transition from

the topic of each lesson into the realities of their personal lives. Starting at the biblical foundation described by Deron Spoo and Kyle Idleman, participants will be challenged to explore practical ideas to apply what they have learned.

The participant's guide provides numerous questions for individual and group use. Within a group setting, it is unlikely you will have time to complete all the Scripture readings and questions provided. As a leader, you may want to review the questions ahead of time and select those that will be most helpful to your group.

Closing Prayer

Throughout your group's time together, it is likely members have thought about and discussed many important topics. By closing the study time in prayer, you can invite God to instill his message in their hearts and minds as you all part ways. To focus the prayers on the topics explored in the session, the section called Closing Prayer includes a short list of ideas.

FOR A BETTER GROUP EXPERIENCE

It is always best for a leader to prepare ahead of time by viewing the video, reviewing and prioritizing discussion questions, and anticipating how to best use the allotted time to cover the material.

Preparation of the study location is important. Arrive early to ensure that all equipment is working. Bring extra pens or pencils in case group members come without them.

Watch the time! Make sure you have access to a clock to keep the group session on schedule. Of course, you may adjust time allotted for particular portions of the study, but you don't want to run out of time to properly conclude your study time.

Be sensitive to the discussion process. Try to give everyone an opportunity to speak, and when necessary, gently redirect the focus of those who tend to dominate a discussion.

Session Time Frames

SESSION 1: IN THE BEGINNING

Key Themes in This Session

- The goodness of God's creation
- The cost of our rebellion against God
- The wonder of God's plan to restore humanity
- God's call for his people to step out in faith
- Becoming more like Christ isn't easy, but it's our destiny

Recommended Study Group Format

Read aloud the Introduction "Ready, Set, Go!" (5 minutes)

Talk About It (5 Minutes)

Video Presentation (20 minutes)

Video Discussion (15 minutes)

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

SESSION 2: GOD IS GOOD WHEN LIFE GETS MESSY

Key Themes in This Session

- People often end up in bondage and slavery to something
- God is ready and able to set us free—he is in the business of deliverance
- God is our provider
- God remains faithful in our faithlessness
- God delights when we seek to be faithful to him

Recommended Study Group Format

Read aloud the Introduction “Facing the Mess” (5 minutes)

Talk About It (5 Minutes)

Video Presentation (20 minutes)

Video Discussion (15 minutes)

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

SESSION 3: GOD IS BIG

Key Themes in This Session

- We all face hard times and are tempted to run from God
- In the hardest times of life, we should run to God
- God is faithful, even in our times of suffering
- God is bigger than whatever we face, including our sin
- Repentance is more than saying we did something wrong; it is reaffirming our love for God and choosing to follow his ways
- To overcome the troubles we face, we need the wisdom of God

Recommended Study Group Format

Read aloud the Introduction “Take One ... Take Two” (5 minutes)

Talk About It (5 Minutes)

Video Presentation (20 minutes)

Video Discussion (15 minutes)

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

SESSION 4: TOUGH LOVE, TROUBLED TIMES

Key Themes in This Session

- Those who follow God’s ways will bump against cultural norms
- God is present when we seek to be faithful to him in a harsh world
- Jesus is the perfect revelation of God’s love and presence
- The Bible gives us examples of people being faithful in hard times
- We need to know the will of God and do it

Recommended Study Group Format

Read aloud the Introduction “Spectators or Athletes?”
(5 minutes)

Talk About It (5 Minutes)

Video Presentation (20 minutes)

Video Discussion (15 minutes)

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

SESSION 5: JESUS HAS JUST ENTERED THE BUILDING

Key Themes in This Session

- Jesus came near us through the incarnation
- Jesus was fully man and fully God

- The example of Jesus’s radical sacrifice leads us to make surprising sacrifices in his name
- Jesus died and rose again in glory
- We are called to follow the teaching of Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit

Recommended Study Group Format

Read aloud the Introduction “Information and Transformation” (5 minutes)

Talk About It (5 Minutes)

Video Presentation (20 minutes)

Video Discussion (15 minutes)

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

SESSION 6: JESUS WON’T LEAVE US AS WE ARE

Key Themes in This Session

- Jesus is the exclusive pathway to a relationship with God
- There is no place we can go and nothing we can do that will push us beyond the bounds of God’s love and grace
- Jesus’s life, death, and resurrection are the path to our salvation
- The resurrection of Jesus gives us hope for an eternity with the Father and the power to change today

Recommended Study Group Format

Read aloud the Introduction “Broken beyond Repair?” (5 minutes)

Talk About It (5 Minutes)
Video Presentation (20 minutes)
Video Discussion (15 minutes)
Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

SESSION 7: FOLLOWING JESUS

Key Themes in This Session

- The coming and the work of the Holy Spirit
- God loves and calls all sorts of people
- Hope is available in Jesus, even when everything seem hopeless
- When we live in biblical community, we show what the church should look like
- God breaks down all sorts of barriers and divisions and binds people together in his church

Recommended Study Group Format

Read aloud the Introduction “Welcome to the Church”
(5 minutes)
Talk About It (5 Minutes)
Video Presentation (20 minutes)
Video Discussion (15 minutes)
Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

SESSION 8: GOD'S MESSAGE FOR YOU

Key Themes in This Session

- True love isn't self-focused but other-focused
- When we place our faith in Jesus, we are adopted into God's family
- God wants us to be dependent on him, not ourselves
- God wants to grow his character and the fruit of his Spirit in our lives
- We can experience joy even in times of suffering if we walk close to God
- Walking with Jesus will always lead to lasting and authentic life transformation

Recommended Study Group Format

Read aloud the Introduction "Transformed" (5 minutes)

Talk About It (5 Minutes)

Video Presentation (20 minutes)

Video Discussion (15 minutes)

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

Leader's Prayer

Father God,

You have given me the privilege of guiding a group of people toward a better understanding of your Word and a closer relationship with you. Thank you for this opportunity to work in harmony with the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and sharpen our focus on you.

In your Word, you've given us everything we need to live abundant and meaningful lives. As we dig deeper into the stories of your people and the principles of your kingdom, may we discover a fresh understanding of our faith and a passion for our purpose as your followers.

I ask that you help me serve effectively as a leader, empowering me to be ...

Servant hearted. Help me to approach each session with an attitude of humble service.

Open minded. Help me to remain open to group members' thoughts and opinions—and especially open to recognizing their spiritual needs and challenges.

Spirit guided. Help me to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading throughout our discussions.

Lord, thank you for helping me guide other Christ followers into a deeper understanding of your Scriptures and your plan for humankind. In Jesus's name I pray, amen.