

LEADER GUIDE

Luke IN THE Land

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LEADER GUIDE

Welcome! Before you read any further, we want to say how thankful we are for you, the leader. Thank you for your willingness to dive into Scripture, brew the coffee, place the chairs, and set aside the time regularly to meet with other women.

Luke in the Land is a video- and discussion-based Bible study from Kristi McLelland. The teaching videos were filmed in Israel, in the very places where Jesus walked.

In the Middle Eastern way, the original context of the Gospel of Luke, learning is very communal. Here's what I mean: in a Middle Eastern context, it would be common to see rabbis teaching students as they walked down the road. This teaching tradition places significant value on students discussing an issue with one another.

Our goal is for this leader guide to help you feel equipped to facilitate and guide your Bible study group gatherings in a way that fosters deep *yeshiva*, or discussion of biblical texts together, for you and the women in your group.

We 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! Our goal is to give you all the tools you might need, but we are certain God has ordained your time with your specific group in your specific setting.

We are grateful for you and praying for you as you lead this study.

Lifeway Women

WEEKLY GROUP MEETING: SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

Seven (optional Eight) Group Meetings • Meeting Length: 1.25 hours

(OPTIONAL) INTRODUCTORY SESSION—Distribute Bible study books, get to know one another, and discuss your expectations for the study.

SESSION ONE—Watch the Session One video and discuss the Session One personal Bible study.

SESSION TWO—Watch the Session Two video and discuss the Session Two personal Bible study.

SESSION THREE—Watch the Session Three video and discuss the Session Three personal Bible study.

SESSION FOUR—Watch the Session Four video and discuss the Session Four personal Bible study.

SESSION FIVE—Watch the Session Five video and discuss the Session Five personal Bible study.

SESSION SIX—Watch the Session Six video and discuss the Session Six personal Bible study.

SESSION SEVEN—Watch the Session Seven video and the bonus video, “Reflecting on Filming in Israel,” and discuss the Session Seven personal Bible study.



HOW TO STRUCTURE YOUR GROUP TIME

(FOR STUDY WITH VIDEO)

Each group session contains the following elements. We've included a suggested amount of time based on a 1.25 hour group meeting. Adjust as you need to for the time you have together!

GATHER (10 MINUTES) This is a time to greet and welcome everyone and to get them talking. For the optional introductory session, you're provided with some general icebreaker questions. In the subsequent sessions, you'll notice a list of questions to help participants review the previous week's personal study. Feel free to adapt, skip, or add questions based on the needs of your group.

WATCH (25 MINUTES) During this time play the teaching video, encouraging the women to take notes on the Watch and Discuss page for that specific session.

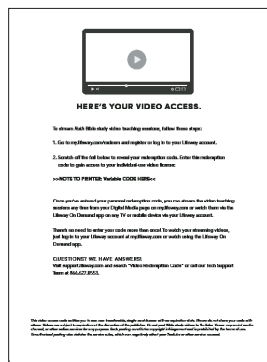
DISCUSS (30 MINUTES) You'll find a suggestion of questions for each week in this Leader Guide. Pick and choose the ones you want to discuss with your group. These questions are designed to help you facilitate conversation around the week's Bible study and personal reflection. As you go through your own 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.

HERE ARE A FEW TIPS TO HELP YOU LEAD.

HOW TO WATCH YOUR VIDEOS. The videos for this study are available for streaming through the digital access code on the last page of your Bible study book. Look for the cardstock page labeled “Here’s Your Video Access” and follow the two steps that prompt you to enter your unique redemption code to gain your video streaming access.

If your group doesn’t have adequate Internet connection for video streaming, DVD sets are available for purchase at lifeway.com/lukeintheland.



Each video is intended to be viewed after completing the accompanying week of personal study. We strongly recommend you use the teaching videos as a part of this study; they were filmed in the places Jesus walked, and the settings will help you visualize the stories in Scripture, along with Kristi’s teaching. However, you can still discover truth from Scripture and grow in your walk with God by simply doing the print portion if your setting doesn’t allow for video.

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. The study is seven sessions long, which means you will meet seven or eight times. Visit lifeway.com/lukeintheland for free promotional materials to help get the word out about your study.

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 will watch the teaching video together and discuss what you’re learning. You’ll also be encouraged to spend 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 watch the teaching video together and then 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 cannot afford a study book on their own.

EARLY PREP. We 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. We also recommend watching the teaching video sessions prior to your meeting, taking note of anything you may want to highlight from the teaching. And be sure you stay on top of your own personal study between each meeting! We'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.

PERSONAL STUDY. Between each meeting, there are four "Snapshots" of personal study to complete in the Bible study book. Women can complete these in whatever way their schedule allows.

PRAYER. Most importantly, be sure to pray for the women who attend the study. And pray for yourself as you prepare to lead. Ask God to draw the women closer to Him as they learn more about Jesus's life and ministry.

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

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

DISCUSSION GUIDE

OPTIONAL INTRODUCTORY SESSION

GATHER. Welcome women to the introductory session of *Luke in the Land*. 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. (We highly recommend snacks, coffee, and tea!)

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

Invite each woman to introduce herself and share basic get-to-know-you information.

Complete this sentence: I'm here because my heart needs . . .

Where would you most want to visit in Israel? Why?

With whom in Luke's Gospel would you want to have coffee? What would you want to discuss?

If you could go back in a time machine and witness any story or event that takes place in the Gospels, which one would you choose? Why?

PREVIEW THE STUDY. Point out a highlight or two about the study. Share about the weekly structure and the four snapshots of personal study to complete in each week. Encourage women to do what they can. If they are unable to finish all four snapshots 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, and take the opportunity now to cover any important housekeeping notes.

REMIND your group to complete Session 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.

SESSION ONE

Introduction

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 “Discuss” section on the previous page.) Ask the following question to get your group talking:

What are some of your favorite snapshots or stories in your own life? (Consider bringing in snapshots, or sharing photos from your phone with the group.)

What did you learn about the Gospel of Luke during this first session?

WATCH. Play the teaching video for Session One. Encourage participants to take notes or jot down questions on the Session One Watch and Discuss page, (page 32 in the Bible study book).

DISCUSS what you’ve learned and had questions about together. Use the following questions and those you noted throughout the week of personal study.

When have you seen fellow believers “giving what they got” (using their talents and treasures) to share the story of Jesus with others?

What did you learn about the historical context into which Jesus was born? How does that speak to God’s plan for His people?

Read Isaiah 9:6-7 as a group. Which of these names and promises about the Messiah brings you the most comfort right now? Why?

CLOSE. Ask each group member to think of an area in their lives where they need encouragement to “give what they got.” Encourage them to share that area with the group if they’re comfortable. Lead the group in a closing prayer, asking God for wisdom, boldness, and help in using your talents and treasures to share the story of Jesus with others.

REMIND. Encourage group members to complete their personal study (pages 35-50 in the Bible study book) before the next session.

SESSION TWO

Incarnation

GATHER. Welcome participants back to the study. Ask the following question to get your group talking:

What is a risky yes you've said in the past? It can be silly or serious!

WATCH. Play the teaching video for Session Two. Encourage participants to take notes or jot down questions on the Session Two Watch and Discuss page, (page 52 in the Bible study book).

DISCUSS what you've learned and had questions about together. Use the following questions and those you noted throughout the week of personal study.

Read Luke 2:8-15 together. Why do you think the angel declared the good news of the Savior to the shepherds first? What does that tell you about the living God?

What came to your mind as you studied *tikvah*—biblical hope? Are there people or circumstances in your life that demonstrate that hope to you?

You wrote a magnificat during Snapshot 2. Read a couple (or all of them) out loud as a prayer to end your time together.

CLOSE. Each participant was asked to write a magnificat during Snapshot 2. Ask a few women to read theirs out loud as a prayer to end your time together. You can also read Mary's Magnificat from Luke 1:46-55 as a prayer together.

REMIND. Encourage group members to complete their personal study (pages 55-72 of the Bible study book) before the next session.

SESSION THREE

Inauguration

GATHER. Welcome participants back to the study.

Ask participants to share what they learned during the study this week, or which day had the most impact for them.

WATCH. Play the teaching video for Session Three. Encourage participants to take notes or jot down questions on the Session Three Watch and Discuss page, (page 74 in the Bible study book).

DISCUSS what you've learned and had questions about together. Use the following questions and those you noted throughout the week of personal study.

For those in the group who have been baptized, share stories from your baptisms. Help those in the group who have not been baptized to know what it looks like in your church and answer any questions they may have regarding baptism.

Have you ever received a *davar bamidbar*? Share about that experience. How did God demonstrate His character to you in that season?

Read Luke 4:16-22 together. What was Jesus saying about who He is and what His mission is in this teaching?

Is it difficult for you to rest? Share your answers about rest with the group, encouraging one another to find rest this week.

CLOSE. End your time together by providing time and space for women to pray alone before closing out in corporate prayer, asking God to show you His character throughout the upcoming week. Ask Him to help you rest in who He is and what He is doing in the midst of every season.

REMIND. Encourage group members to complete their personal study (pages 77-92 of the Bible study book) before the next session.

SESSION FOUR

Invitation

GATHER. Welcome participants back to the study.

Ask the women which of the disciples they relate to the most. Ask them to share any new facts they learned about Jesus's followers this week.

WATCH. Play the teaching video for Session Four. Encourage participants to take notes or jot down questions on the Session Four Watch and Discuss page, (page 94 in the Bible study book).

DISCUSS what you've learned and had questions about together. Use the following questions and those you noted throughout the week of personal study.

Read Luke 5:1-11 together. What did you learn about the disciples this session? How does that encourage you?

How did Jesus's response to the leper in Luke 5:13-14 demonstrate His character?

Share with the group how you wrote Jesus's response to the Pharisees in Luke 5:31-32 in your own words. What does that tell you about Jesus's mission?

What would it look like for you to celebrate restoration—as a group and as individuals—this week?

CLOSE. Conclude your time together by celebrating restoration. Pray, thanking God for the restoration you've experienced and seen and praising Him for the restoration yet to come.

REMIND. Encourage group members to complete their personal study (pages 97-112 of the Bible study book) before the next session.

SESSION FIVE

Partnership

GATHER. Welcome participants back to the study.

Ask everyone to share the most adventurous thing they've ever done. Follow up by asking: Why was it adventurous to you? Did that adventure inspire you to take other adventures?

WATCH. Play the teaching video for Session Five. Encourage participants to take notes or jot down questions on the Session Five Watch and Discuss page on page 114.

DISCUSS what you've learned and had questions about together. Use the following questions and those you noted throughout the week of personal study.

What kingdom adventures have you been a part of or witnessed in the lives of those around you?

Read Luke 11:14-20 and Matthew 12:22-28 as a group. With what power did Jesus cast out the demon?

Read Luke 12:32 together. What feelings do those words from Jesus provoke in you? How do you think the disciples felt hearing those words?

Who is the most generous person you know? How can you grow in generosity this week?

CLOSE. Pray together, thanking God for His own generosity in sending His Son to dwell among us. Ask God to make you into generous people and a generous group. Consider reading the Generosity Liturgy on page 109 of the study out loud together.

REMIND. Encourage group members to complete their personal study (pages 117-130 of the Bible study book) before the next session.

SESSION SIX

Crucifixion

GATHER . Welcome participants back to the study.

Ask participants to share anything new they learned about Jesus's crucifixion. How does what they learned impact the way they think about Jesus's sacrifice for them?

WATCH. Play the teaching video for Session Six. Encourage participants to take notes or jot down questions on the Session Six Watch and Discuss page, (page 132 in the Bible study book).

DISCUSS what you've learned and had questions about together. Use the following questions and those you noted throughout the week of personal study.

Read John 10:1-18. Which of these metaphors for who Jesus is encourages you the most today? Share why.

Describe the meal or the moment you wrote about in Snapshot 2. Why was that time significant for you?

What from Snapshot 3 regarding crucifixion stood out to you, after reading about crucifixion in the Roman world? How does it change or enhance the way you look at Jesus's sacrifice for you?

Grief is one of the many emotions God models for us, alongside emotions like love and joy. Knowing God Himself grieves, how does that change the way you think about your own grief?

CLOSE. Spend time together praying over those in your group and in your lives who are grieving right now. Praise God for being the God of all comfort (2 Cor. 1:3-5).

REMIND. Encourage group members to complete their personal study (pages 135-149 of the Bible study book) before the next session.

SESSION SEVEN

Resurrection

GATHER. Welcome participants back to the study.

WATCH. Play the teaching video for Session Seven. Encourage participants to take notes or jot down questions on the Session Seven Watch and Discuss page, (page 150 in the Bible study book).

DISCUSS what you've learned and had questions about together. Use the following questions and those you noted throughout the week of personal study.

How have women played a part in carrying forth the gospel in your life? Share some stories with the group.

Look back at John 11 as a group. What characteristics or attributes of God did you see Jesus displaying in this story?

The disciples were eyewitnesses to the earthly life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. How can we be eyewitnesses to Jesus's character and works today?

How can you engage in and embody the work of tikkun olam in your everyday life?

WATCH. Watch the video session titled "Reflecting on Filming in Israel." This session gives your group the chance to hear Kristi's heart as she said a "risky yes" to what God asked of her with this study.

DISCUSS. Ask the following questions:

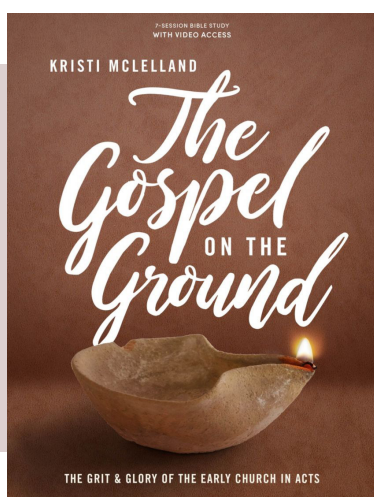
Is there anything you have submitted to that God has asked you to surrender? What would that difference look like to you?

As we've studied together over the last seven weeks, what is something from Luke in the Land that will stick to you? How has this study and our time together changed the way you read Scripture or think about Jesus's time on earth?

CLOSE. Conclude your time together, praising God for the opportunity to study His Word together. Ask that you remember what you've learned and for the guidance and grit to apply it to your lives in the coming days, weeks, and months.

FINISHING WELL

NEXT STEPS. Even after the study concludes, follow up and challenge women to stay involved through another Bible study, church opportunity, or anything that will continue their spiritual growth and friendships. Provide several options of ministry opportunities that the members can participate in individually or as a group to apply what they have learned through this study.



What's Next?

If you enjoyed this study, check out *The Gospel on the Ground* by Kristi McLelland.

lifeway.com/thegospelontheground



INTRODUCING BIBLE STUDIES with VIDEO ACCESS INCLUDED!

As trends in media consumption change from DVDs to streaming video, Lifeway made the decision to invest in technology that would allow for Bible studies to be accessed through mobile devices and smart TVs in addition to our website.

The concept of a Bible study book with video access allows us to use the technology to give all participants easier access to teaching videos. This will alleviate a concern we have heard from many group leaders of members who stop coming to their group after they miss a week of study.

How will customers access the videos that come with their Bible study book with video access?

There is a unique access code printed in each Bible study book. They will access their video content at my.lifeway.com or through the Lifeway On Demand app.

How long will they have access to the videos that come with their Bible study book?

There is no expiration date on the video access that comes with their Bible study book. They'll be able to access it as long as it is available through our Lifeway On Demand video apps.

What are the benefits of video access being included in each Bible study book?

- This provides more flexibility for group meeting time. Groups now have the option to have group members watch video sessions outside of group meetings to allow more time for discussion.
- If a group member misses a weekly group meeting due to sickness or travel, they will be able to access the video content on their own and continue in their study.
- Group members can re-watch video sessions that were particularly impactful on their own time.

- This simplifies what a group leader needs to facilitate Bible study. You'll now get everything you need with just the Bible study book.
- Our goal is to provide an affordable option for both individuals and churches who are looking for Bible study options.

What do churches and individuals need to lead a group?

Each group member will need a Bible study book, which will include video access. There is also a DVD option for groups who want a non-streaming viewing option. In addition, select studies provide a Video Streaming - Group option for groups who choose not to use the Bible study books. For the best experience, we recommend each group member have a Bible study book.

When do group leaders need a DVD Set?

Because the Bible study book includes video streaming access, the purchase of the DVD set is optional (not essential) for group leaders. This option is for groups who may not have reliable streaming internet access.