

CAN WE TALK?

LEADER GUIDE



*soul-stirring
conversations
with God*

PRISCILLA
SHIRER

LEADER GUIDE BY
CARLA M. ROBERTSON

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A NOTE FROM PRISCILLA

Welcome to *Can We Talk: Soul-Stirring Conversations with God*. I am thrilled to partner with you in leading your group into a deeper, more fulfilling conversation with God. I had great fun creating this unique resource, and I'm praying that you'll have fun leading it. This guide provides direction to help you lead those whom the Lord has entrusted to you through this seven-session group study and includes tools to help you begin and facilitate your Bible study.

Hopefully you've gotten your leader's kit containing a member book for you and two DVDs. Each participant will need her own workbook that includes six weeks of individual study materials incorporating a Bible study method I've called "The 5 Ps of Hearing God through Scripture." This simple method has revolutionized my quiet time, and I know it can do the same for you. The DVDs include a promotional segment, leader instructions, six challenges from me (one for each weekly meeting), and an epilogue. While the video messages are valuable to the study, you may choose to do the study using only the member book.

This study is different from any you've ever done because it is simply filled with Scripture on specific topics designed to lead participants into a personal conversation with God. While I've added some helps along the way, the work of digging into the text belongs to the reader. The "5 Ps of Hearing God through Scripture" will assist you in doing this. Every week participants will have a conversation with God on a specific topic using the 5P method. I cannot begin to tell you how much more meaningful my quiet time has become as I've incorporated this simple method of study into my Bible reading and how much it has impacted my life. Suddenly, I'm not just reading verses, but I'm also having a conversation with the Almighty God. Since success in this Bible study centers on the 5P method, familiarizing yourself with it is critical. But don't worry; it's simple and fun to use. I've given you in-depth instructions using this method as well as an example of how to use it from my personal journal on pages 6-7 of the member book, but I'll go over it quickly here.

AS YOU BEGIN YOUR TIME WITH THE LORD EACH DAY:

1. Position yourself to hear from God.

Encourage your group members to find a place where hearing God can be made more simple each day. Engaging in the spiritual disciplines of silence and solitude always assists in hearing God through the Scriptures.

AS YOU LOOK INTO THE PASSAGE YOU ARE STUDYING:

2. Pore over the passage **and Paraphrase** the major points.

Take time to fully engage in each verse you read. Don't just skim over it; meditate on it. Then paraphrase what you've read from each verse either in your workbook or a separate journal.

3. Pull out the spiritual principles.

Close your Bible and look at the paraphrases you've written down. For each one, record the spiritual principle that it is designed to convey. Is there a command to follow? Is there a promise to heed? Is there an attribute of God revealed?

4. Pose the question.

For each of the spiritual principles you've pulled out, form a personally directed question. In your daily living, are you following the command, heeding the promise, depending on that attribute of God? As you ask yourself questions from the text, you will find a divine dialogue begin to develop as the Holy Spirit brings answers, conviction, and challenge.

5. Plan obedience **and Pin** down a date.

Consider what God would have you do as a result of the conversation you've had with Him and then plan to obey Him. If possible, pin down a date so that you can remain accountable.

There it is! The "5 Ps of Hearing God Through the Bible." Simple, yet profound. So here's how your group meeting should work. When you convene, you'll watch the weekly video that presents a theme for your conversation with God that week. The video—set up like a modern day parable—will stir dialogue among your group members and prepare them for their personal study. The small group discussion times will provide you with an opportunity to encourage the women to share what the Lord is teaching them and how they have applied this teaching to their lives. The first day of personal study in the member book begins with a short article emphasizing the week's theme and one passage of Scripture to study using the 5P method. In the four daily lessons that follow, several Scriptures relate to the week's theme. Encourage participants to use the 5P method with the passage(s) of Scripture they choose to study each day. The goal for participants is to have a meaningful conversation with God (not to finish their homework). I've purposefully included far more

Scripture each day than you or they will likely have time to examine. Encourage them to choose a passage or two that grabs their attention, and spend time allowing God's Spirit to speak to them through it. Be consistent about reminding them that meditating on Scripture takes time and that they should not feel guilty about meandering in one passage.

Because participants may need additional room to write, encourage them to have a notebook available for answers to additional questions provided each week. This journaling will allow the women to look back at the path they have traveled with the Lord during this study and will hopefully encourage them to continue to deepen their conversations with God.

I am so excited about what the next six weeks will accomplish in your spiritual life and the lives of those in your group. I'm praying that you will have heightened communion with God and encourage the women to expect and anticipate hearing the voice of God through Scriptures. The goal of this resource is to encourage your times alone with God to be richer as you allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you through His word. As you obey His promptings, watch Him work. I pray that God will use this study for you and the women to ground you more deeply, challenge you more personally, and spur you on to more passionately and purposefully care for your souls. God is waiting, and He wants to talk with you!

Blessings,
Priscilla

BEGINNING A BIBLE STUDY

Pray for God's direction in preparing for this Bible study.

Determine the date and time.

Determine dates to sign up for the study unless you are using the phone or e-mail as means of communicating. If so, keep track of those who are interested in participating so you can follow up.

Create flyers and bulletins for the upcoming study.

If you choose to use the Leader Kit, show the promotional video at your church or gathering.

Personally invite individuals to be a part of the Bible study.

Show the promotional video at your church or gathering and announce the time to sign up for the Bible study.

Enlist the number of group facilitators you need for the number of groups you anticipate.

Have a time to fellowship before the group starts. This allows the participants to get to know each other and also allows you to know more specifically how many member books to order for your group. Give yourself sufficient time to order the books before the next meeting.

Order your member books and have them available for your first meeting.

Reserve your meeting place and time.

Arrange for childcare if needed.

Purchase supplies needed for group time such as name tags, markers, and refreshments.

Have available a DVD player, a television or video screen, name tags, markers, and refreshments (if applicable).

FACILITATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

FOCUS ON STUDY'S PURPOSE

This study helps individuals personally hear the voice of God through Scripture by:

igniting divine dialogue,

encouraging active obedience through the study of specific Bible passages using "The Five P's of Hearing God Through Scripture," and

posing challenging, thought-provoking questions.

FACILITATING A GROUP

The group does not require a teacher as much as a leader who will enlist, encourage, and pray for group members while joining them in the process of becoming more sensitive to hearing God's voice through Scriptures. You want participants to come away from this study with an expectation and anticipation to personally hear God's voice through Scripture. Allow them to seek God for His solutions to their problems.

Although you may be led to give advice, do so sparingly and with much discretion. You are not there to give answers to participant's problems. Encourage them to take ownership of their own growth

and seek the Lord's will for them through these weekly soul-stirring conversations with God. You may want to ask questions such as these to remain focused on the purpose of the study: *What has the Lord been revealing to you this week? How can you apply this truth to your current situation? Do you know what the Lord would have you to do? Have you done it, why or why not?*

The appendix provides information on the 5P method, creating a safe environment, and making a covenant. You will also find each week's review (summarized from the DVDs) and the title and principle within each day's lesson. The principles supplied give you examples of how to write principles and help you more effectively facilitate your group times. You will also find a list of all the discussion and summary questions for each day.

Encourage each woman to have an accountability partner. This partner should be someone who will be honest with them, encourage them, and challenge them to be obedient to all that God is telling them to do.

PRAYER

The facilitator must stay dependent on the Lord's leading, so take time to pray for yourself and the group.

TIME AND PREPARATION

In preparation for the study, familiarize yourself with the outline of each week and

lesson. This Leader Guide provides the study's overview and format.

Do your best to go through the entire study using the 5Ps and answer the questions provided. As you do some of the passages of Scripture from each week's lesson using the 5Ps, you will become skilled at using them.

Each week, a list of the day's group discussion questions and the week's summary questions have been provided so you can choose those you want to incorporate into your group discussion times. You may want to add other questions or comments as well. Begin the discussion by asking the more general questions, then move to more personal questions as the group becomes more open. As you become more acquainted with the participants, it will become easier to determine which questions to ask.

We also encourage you to read the Scripture references under "More Conversation Starters." The more familiar you are with each week, the more effective you will become at facilitating your group time.

SESSION 1

FIRE STARTER

BEFORE THE SESSION

1. Preview "Leader's Notes" and the "5Ps" on DVD 1. A brief copy of the "5Ps," leader notes, and schedule can be printed from the DVD by clicking on the folder labeled

“print.” You will be able to access it through your computer and not from the DVD’s menu options.

2. Familiarize yourself with the overview and format of the study, the week’s review with daily titles and principles, and the group discussion and summary questions. A general format and review of each day and week is provided in this Leader Guide. Be able to explain the format and briefly review the next six weeks at your first meeting.

3. Read and be familiar with the “5Ps” process and Priscilla’s illustration using it from John 1:36-37 on pages 6-7 of your member book. You will take your group through this example during your first session.

4. Review and be familiar with the information on group covenants. If you choose to have one for your group, be prepared to facilitate the covenant-making time.

5. Preview video session 1, *Fire Starter* [23:50]. Write down any questions or comments you want to add.

6. Pray for participants, leaders, yourself, and your time together.

DURING THE SESSION

1. Greet participants as they arrive. Hand out or direct participants to member books, markers, nametags, and refreshments.

2. Have extra copies of the member book available.

3. Introduce yourself and any other leaders. Have members introduce themselves. You can have them say their names and something about themselves, or ask them to tell something about themselves that no one else in the room knows. Be creative. If the group is too large to complete in approximately 15 minutes, then have them split up into small groups. Each week have them greet five new people.

4. Briefly go over the schedule. Say, *After our time of prayer, I will give an overview of the study. Then we will create a covenant, watch the first video session, and practice going through the 5Ps method with one Scripture before we wrap up.* Open the group time with prayer.

5. Overview the study. Explain the format as described in the section titled “A Note from Priscilla.” Take them briefly through the week’s review. For example, you can tell them that during week 1, they will have a conversation with God on controlling the tongue. Each week’s topic has been listed for you in Appendix D.

6. Discuss and make notes for the group covenant.

7. Show “Fire Starter” on DVD 1. Ask questions or make comments to stir conversation about the theme presented in the video. Use the remainder of your time to go over the 5P method, making sure your group members are comfortable with it.

8. Have the participants turn to pages 5-7 of their workbooks. Encourage the participants by emphasizing that the process gets easier with practice. Say, *Priscilla has provided an example for us that we will now go through. Turn to John 1:36-37 of your Bible.* Read the reference together as a group and go through the process with them. If time permits, have them do it themselves without looking at the answers Priscilla provided on pages 6-7.

9. Read the week’s review aloud, then inform the participants that they are to start week 1 in their member books. Ask them to be familiar with each week’s lesson. Re-emphasize that the goal is not to finish all the homework each day but to have a meaningful conversation with God. Remind them to choose one or two passages that speak to them each day and to spend time mediating on it.

11. Close in prayer.

SESSION 2

LIFE: THE EDITED VERSION

BEFORE THE SESSION

1. Complete week 1. Make note of areas you want to emphasize and list any questions of your own that you want to ask during the discussion time.

2. Check the week’s group questions you want to incorporate during the week. See Appendix E for a list of this week’s questions. Remember to start the discussion times with more general questions and move on to more specific ones as group participation increases.

3. Create the covenant form and make copies for all participants to sign. Be sure to have additional copies.

4. Preview video session 2, *Life: The Edited Version* [12:27]. Write down any comments to emphasize or questions to ask from the video.

5. Pray for participants, leaders, yourself, and your time together.

DURING THE SESSION

1. Greet participants as they arrive.

2. Hand out covenants and have the participants sign and leave them with a leader.

3. Open group time in prayer.
4. Direct participants to their member books. Ask them what Scriptures spoke to them and how they were challenged during week 1. Refer to the comments and/or list of discussion questions that you chose to incorporate into your discussion time. Share the page number so that participants can refer to their member books. When you choose a question from a certain day, make sure you go over that day's principle to preface the questions.
5. Thoughtfully answer the questions on page 29 under "Summarize your conversation with God this week." See Appendix E for possible questions to ask.
6. View session 2 video. If you have questions from the video that you want to incorporate into the study, ask them after the video.
7. Read this week's review located in Appendix D and direct participants to go over week 2 in their member books.
8. Close in prayer.

SESSION 3

WHO IS THE LORD?

BEFORE THE SESSION

1. Complete week 2. Make note of areas you want to emphasize and list any questions of your own that you may want to ask during the discussion time.
2. Check the week's questions you want to incorporate in the group discussion. A list of this week's questions is in Appendix E.
3. Preview video session 3, *Nickels and Dimes* [14:18]. Write down any comments to emphasize or questions to ask from video.
4. Pray for participants, leaders, yourself, and your time together.

DURING THE SESSION

1. Greet participants as they arrive.
2. Open group time in prayer.
3. Direct participants to their member books. Ask them what Scriptures spoke to them and how they were challenged during week 2. Refer to the comments and/or list of discussion questions that you chose to incorporate into your discussion time. Share the page number so participants can refer to their member books.

4. Devote some time to answering the questions on page 51 under “Summarize your conversation with God this week.” See Appendix E for questions to ask.

5. View session 3 video. If you have questions from the video to incorporate into the study, ask them after the video.

6. Read the week’s review located in Appendix D and direct participants to go over week 3 in their member books.

7. Direct participants to pages 74-75 of their member books. Make sure they all read it and fill in the blanks because one of the summary questions for next week will refer to this page.

8. Close in prayer.

SESSION 4

THE HEDGE THAT PROTECTS

BEFORE THE SESSION

1. Complete week 3. Make note of areas you want to emphasize and list any questions of your own that you may want to ask during the discussion time.

2. Check the week’s group questions you want to incorporate during the week. See Appendix E for this week’s questions.

3. Preview video session 4, *The Hedge that Protects* [12:57]. Write down any comments to emphasize or questions to ask from the video.

4. Pray for participants, leaders, yourself, and your time together.

DURING THE SESSION

1. Greet participants as they arrive.

2. Open group time in prayer.

3. Direct participants to their member books and stimulate conversation about how God challenged them during their study. Refer to the comments and/or list of discussion questions you chose to incorporate into your discussion time. Share the page number so participants can refer to the question in their member books. When you choose a question from a certain day, make sure you go over that day’s principle.

4. Devote some time to answering the questions on page 73 under “Summarize your conversation with God this week.” See Appendix E for possible questions to ask.

5. View session 4 video. If you have questions from the video that you want to incorporate into the study, ask them after you view the video.

6. Read the week's review located in Appendix D and direct participants to go over week 5 in their member books. Have them turn to pages 118-119 and identify truths they have a hard time grasping. Encourage them write the truths on a note card and place them where they can see them throughout the day. Encourage them to verbalize the truths several times during the day.
7. Close in prayer.
2. Open group time in prayer.
3. Ask the participants how writing the truths on paper and verbalizing them throughout the day affected their day and/or week.
4. Direct participants to their member books and stimulate conversation about how God challenged them during their study in week 4. Refer to the comments and/or list of discussion questions that you chose to incorporate into your discussion time. Share the page number so participants can refer to their member books.

SESSION 5

MY PINK PRINCESS SLIPPERS

BEFORE THE SESSION

1. Complete week 4. Make note of areas you want to emphasize and list any questions of your own to ask during the discussion time.
2. Check the week's group questions you want to incorporate during the week. See Appendix E for this week's questions.
3. Preview video session 5, *A New Road* [10:37], and write down any comments to emphasize or questions to ask from it.
4. Pray for participants, leaders, yourself, and your time together.
5. Devote some time to answering the questions on page 95 under "Summarize your conversation with God this week." See Appendix E for this week's questions.
6. View session 5 video. If you have questions from the video that you want to incorporate into the study, ask them after you view the video.
7. Read the week's review located in Appendix D and direct participants to go over week 5 in their member books.
8. Refer participants to pages 118-119 of their member books and lead them to take time to praise God for these truths. Have them look over the page and identify the truths that really impact them. Then have them verbally thank God for those truths.

DURING THE SESSION

1. Greet participants as they arrive.

SESSION 6

THE HOLE UNDER THE DOOR

BEFORE THE SESSION

1. Complete week 5. Make note of areas you want to emphasize, and list any questions of your own that you may want to ask during the discussion time.
2. Check the week's group questions you want to incorporate during the week. See Appendix E for this week's questions.
3. Preview video session 6, *The Hole under the Door* [12:44], and write down any comments to emphasize or questions to ask from the video.
4. Pray for participants, leaders, yourself, and your time together.

DURING THE SESSION

1. Greet participants as they arrive.
2. Open group time in prayer.
3. Direct participants to their member books and stimulate conversation about what how God challenged them during their study in week 5. Refer to the comments and/or list of discussion questions that you chose to incorporate into your discussion time. Share the page number so that participants can refer to their member books.

4. Devote some time to answering the questions on page 117 under "Summarize your conversation with God this week." See Appendix E for a list of this week's questions.
5. View session 6 video. If you have questions from the video that you want to incorporate into the study, ask them after you view the video.
6. Read the week's review located in Appendix D and direct participants to go over week 6 in their member books.
7. Make plans to celebrate all the Lord has done in these few weeks. You may decide to have a meal or dessert at your next meeting or soon afterward.
8. Close in prayer.

SESSION 7

SUMMARY

BEFORE THE SESSION

1. If you choose to have a meal or dessert to celebrate, make plans to have that ready.
2. Complete week 6. Make note of areas you want to emphasize and list any questions of your own that you may want to ask during the discussion time.

3. Check the week's group questions you want to incorporate during the week. See Appendix E for a list of this week's questions.
4. Preview video session 7, *Epilogue* [7:08]. Write down any comments to emphasize or questions to ask from the video.
5. Pray for participants, leaders, yourself, and your time together.
7. You may want to spend the remainder of the time fellowshiping. Sum up the study, and ask the group how this study has impacted their times alone with the Lord. Since it is unlikely that they studied all of the Scriptures in each day's lesson, encourage them to revisit lessons in the weeks to come and engage in fresh dialogue with God using new Scriptures.
8. Close in prayer.

DURING THE SESSION

1. If you have chosen to share a meal or dessert to celebrate, have that ready.
2. Greet participants as they arrive.
3. Open group time in prayer.
4. Direct participants to their member books and stimulate conversation about how God challenged them during their study in week 6. Refer to the comments and/or list of discussion questions that you chose to incorporate into your discussion time. Share the page number so participants can refer to their member books.
5. Devote some time to answering the questions on page 141 under "Summarize your conversation with God this week." See Appendix E for this week's questions.
6. Watch video session 7, *Epilogue* [7:08].

APPENDIX A

THE FIVE P'S OF HEARING THE VOICE OF GOD THROUGH SCRIPTURE

AS YOU BEGIN EACH DAY:

1. Position yourself to hear from God.

Habakkuk 2:1—Engage in solitude and silence.

Though God can speak to us anywhere and anytime, we find hearing easier when the distractions are limited. Find a spot where you can be alone, even if just for a few moments, so that you can more easily have an awareness of God's presence and an ability to hear His voice whispering to you. Don't be afraid of the silence. It is in the stillness that we get to know God best (Ps. 46:10). Go into your time of Bible reading with an expectation that you will get something out of it.

Psalms 27:14—Expect God to speak.

Even if you have never heard the voice of God before, if you are a believer, you can now! Having intimate, conversational relationship with Him is a privilege that comes with being His child. Go into your time of Bible reading with an expectation that you will get something out of it. Don't limit God by your past experiences.

AS YOU LOOK AT EACH VERSE:

2. Pore over the passage **and Paraphrase** the major points.

James 1:25—Look deliberately and intentionally into the Scriptures.

When you read the Bible expecting God to speak, you cannot just skim the passage. You are not in a race to finish the lesson. Meander in each verse. If the passage allows, put yourself in the Scripture and see yourself in the story. If one verse seems to resonate with you, don't worry about finishing the rest, just stay in the passage and let the Holy Spirit speak to you.

Joshua 1:8—Read slowly and meditatively.

Read the passage a few times, emphasizing the different words each time. If a certain word or phrase pops out to you, don't ignore it. Stop and consider why. This is how the Spirit speaks; He causes Scripture to connect with the details of our lives.

Consider the contexts as your Pore over the passage:

Who are the major participants?

What are they doing? Saying?

Where are they going?

Why is this happening?

How is this occurring?

3. Pull out the spiritual principles.

Spiritualize the major points in the verse. What is God teaching? What is He revealing about Himself?

4. Pose the question.

Form a personally directed question from each of the spiritual principles you listed in the previous step. Ask yourself, “Does my life coincide with the message of this verse? Is anything in my life contradicting this passage? What do I need to do to bring my life in line? How does this apply to my life right now?” As you ask yourself questions along these lines, permit the Holy Spirit to speak to you. Take time to listen (Eccl. 5:1-2) for His voice as you quietly consider the answers to these questions. As you sit still in God’s presence, you will hear the Spirit whispering to you: encouraging you, convicting you, challenging you, and inspiring you. Record what the Spirit is asking you to do.

5. Plan obedience **and Pin** down a date.

James 1:22—Plan to obey.

Don’t be one who hears and then does nothing with what she has heard. Record the steps that you can take immediately to begin responding to what God has said to you in the verses you looked at that day. Recall these steps throughout your day and put them into practice immediately. If obedience requires you to do something specific such as apologize to someone, record a date and time you will follow through. Let someone else know about your plan so you can be held accountable.

APPENDIX B CREATING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Here are some things you can do to help facilitate a safe environment for your group:

Emphasize confidentiality. For specifics, see the example in Creating a Covenant (Appendix C).

Provide a comfortable, private location free from interruptions (such as a home or room in your church).

If possible, have a time of fellowship over a meal or dessert to get acquainted with one another or to reconnect before the group actually begins the study.

Be available to talk with the members who may want to talk personally to you after the close of your time together as a group. If you are available, schedule a time during the week to meet with those who want to talk further.

Don't be quick to break the silence during group discussion time. Give individuals time to think about how they are going to respond to the question. By not having a quick response, you show that you don't have all the answers, you value what others have to say, and you communicate acceptance, care, and respect instead of quick, easy solutions to possibly complex issues. Embracing the silence also encourages participants to be involved in the dialogue.

Though you may have created a covenant that addresses discussion times, remember that it is not easy to be vulnerable and share our struggles. Never pressure anyone to speak or put anyone on the spot (unless you have asked them to share before the group time and they agreed). It may be helpful to encourage the women to share how circumstances, events, and individuals impacted them and their ability to authentically communicate with the Lord, rather than sharing a lot of the details of the instances.

With discretion, be authentic and willing to share from your own life.

If you notice that some women are having a hard time sharing with the group, consider providing note cards and a container for women to add comments or prayer requests before, during, and after your time together. Ask them to write "confidential" on the card if the request or comment cannot be shared with the group. The facilitator(s) will be the ones to read the cards and pray for the individual. Make sure the women are aware that this option is available. Even so, do your best to encourage the group members to share, support, and pray for one another during their time together.

Create a group covenant. This will also help everyone take ownership of your time together.

APPENDIX C CREATING A COVENANT

At the first meeting (after you have given the overview and purpose of the study), you may want to devote time to creating a group covenant. A covenant will help to promote a safe environment for growth and mutual encouragement, and will help the group members take ownership of their times together. To begin this time, say something like: “We are going to take some time to discuss, as a group, what are our core values and expectations. The purpose of this is to create a covenant, a formal agreement between us that will help to facilitate a meaningful and spiritually uplifting time together, where people feel safe to be themselves and free to grow in the Lord. This covenant will also serve to encourage accountability in the areas specified by the group.”

Give one example of a value from the example covenant, and then begin the discussion. As you discuss what you will want to add, make sure to have an explanation of how this value or expectation will look in your group. After you have taken some time to discuss, write down the core values and reiterate them to the group. If need be, give note cards to the participants and have them rate the values in order of importance. You will not want more than five to seven values; any more than that will be hard to remember. Tell

them that you will have the covenant in writing for them to sign at the next meeting. An example covenant (with additional values) has been provided below:

COVENANT EXAMPLE

As a participant in the *Can We Talk* study, I covenant to ...

Start and end on time—our group time will start at 7:00 p.m. and end at 9:00 p.m. I understand that the last week of celebration may go over the specified time.

Meet for seven weeks.

Arrive and leave on time—I will arrive to the meeting on time and will not run over. If I will not attend, I will call the facilitator prior to the scheduled time.

Do homework—I understand that the goal is not to finish the lesson, but have a rich, Bible-focused conversation with God. Therefore, I will be committed to having daily conversations with God using the 5Ps method of Hearing God’s Voice.

Familiarize myself with the daily lessons for the week—Though I may not finish each daily lesson, I agree to read over the daily lesson to familiarize myself with it, so that our group discussion times may be more fruitful.

Maintain confidentiality—what is said in the group will stay in the group. I will not discuss information disclosed during group time outside of group time (unless the person who has shared says we are free to do so). But I am not bound to confidentiality if the situation is life-

threatening to the individual sharing or anyone else. If there is a life-threatening situation, then I agree to allow the facilitator inform the group of the appropriate intervention and help that will be sought. The facilitator will seek that intervention and help with our without the consent of the one who disclosed the information.

Participate in group discussion—I understand that this study is centered around communication and discussion, and I will share what I have been learning and will provide encouragement to those sharing.

Encourage one another—I understand that spiritual growth is a process, and I will choose words and actions that are honest and God-honoring, and will build up another in the Lord.

Pray for each other—I will pray for individuals inside and outside of group time.

During this six-week study, I will have an accountability partner with whom I can be brutally honest. She will be someone who will be honest with me, encourage me, and challenge me to be obedient to all that God is telling me to do.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

APPENDIX D WEEK'S REVIEW AND DAILY TITLES AND PRINCIPLES

SESSION 1 FIRE STARTER REVIEW

You are encouraged to have a conversation with God on quelling the tongue. As you converse with God this week, allow God to do some digging deep behind the walls of your true self where you can't easily see. Allow Him to pry open the layers of your heart to reveal what your mouth speaks and why it speaks it. Extinguish the fires you have set and choose to let your mouth be a tool useful to God.

DAILY TITLE AND PRINCIPLE

Day 1 *Fire Starter:* We should allow our mouths to be a resting ground for the praises of God and not for our fleshly desires.

Day 2 *The Power of Words in our Personal Lives:* Your words reveal the truth of your character and have influence in your own life.

Day 3 *The Power of Words in our Family:* Your words have profound influence on your children and spouse.

Day 4 *The Power of Words in our Friendships:* Your words should provide encouragement, solace, and edification and spur others on to spiritual maturity.

Day 5 *The Power of Words in our Relationship with God:* God wants grateful, sincere praise, not lip-service.

SESSION 2 LIFE: THE EDITED VERSION REVIEW

This week you are encouraged to have a conversation with God about His plan and priorities for your life. As you converse with God this week, allow Him to show you areas in your life that need pruning and weeding so that you can focus on His mission for you and bring Him glory. Be committed to doing only the Father's will for you and nothing else.

DAILY TITLE AND PRINCIPLE

Day 1 *Life: The Edited Version:* God's edited version of our lives will most clearly communicate His divine purposes.

Day 2 *Re-organizing Our Priorities:* God wants us to pursue His purposes and priorities.

Day 3 *God's Edited Version of Our Spiritual Lives:* We must get rid of busyness and recognize that being spiritual is not enough.

Day 4 *God's Edited Version of Our Finances:* We must not be lovers of money but must both be content with what we have and give back to God.

Day 5 *God's Edited Version of Our Relationships:* We must be wise about the company we keep.

SESSION 3 NICKELS AND DIMES

REVIEW

This week you are encouraged to have a conversation with God about what you may value. As you converse with God this week, allow Him to reveal the people and things that enamor you and blind you to the beauty of the One who is truly valuable. Choose to allow nothing to take the place of God in your life.

DAILY TITLE AND PRINCIPLE

Day 1 *Who Is the Lord?:* We must end our tendency to place others in the position reserved for God alone.

Day 2 *Human Heroes:* Worship belongs to God alone.

Day 3 *Secret Idolatry:* Idolatry done in secret is never hidden from God.

Day 4 *Consequences of Idolatry:* Idolatry has far-reaching consequences.

Day 5 *Breaking the Cycle:* To break the cycle of idolatry, we must challenge ourselves, our leadership, and our families to put an end to it.

SESSION 4 THE HEDGE THAT PROTECTS

REVIEW

This week you are encouraged to have a conversation with God about the things you trust. As you converse with God this week, allow Him to expose those areas that you are trusting to give security.

Determine to let your life reflect a continual, unadulterated trust in the name of the Lord our God.

DAILY TITLE AND PRINCIPLE

Day 1 *The Hedge That Protects:* God protects His own.

Day 2 *The Trustworthy Protection of El-Rohi:* God protects His own in times of hardship and will use unseen supernatural forces to do so.

Day 3 *False Sense of Security:* Security and deliverance comes not from things created but from the Creator.

Day 4 *God's Protection when I'm Intimidated:* God equips us to accomplish tasks that seem bigger than ourselves and is with us during intimidating circumstances.

Day 5 *Trusting God when Bad Things Happen:* Expressing faith in God's holy character and His promises during times of adversity protects our hearts and minds.

SESSION 5 A NEW ROAD

REVIEW

This week you are encouraged to have a conversation with God about traveling the new road He has specifically designed for you. Allow God to renew you in the truth of what Scripture says about you instead of your past, other people, or your current circumstances. Get rid of whatever is impeding your spiritual growth.

DAILY TITLE AND PRINCIPLE

Day 1 *My Pink Princess Slippers*: To reflect our new identity in Christ, we must get rid of whatever is detrimental to our spiritual growth.

Day 2 *The Truth about Me*: I am a masterpiece who is chosen by God to be blessed, to know Him and proclaim His excellencies, and to be a fully-forgiven friend.

Day 3 *The Truth about Me, Continued*: I am necessary, valuable, and delightful.

Day 4 *Changing Clothes—Taking Off the Old*: We must not live according to our sinful natures.

Day 5 *Changing Clothes—Putting on the New*: We must live by the Spirit in accordance with the Word of God.

age uses to corrupt the purity of our relationship with God.

Day 2 *The Lukewarm Believer*: The lukewarm believer is characterized by short-lived love.

Day 3 *Recognizing the Holes*: The spirit of the age seeps in through the holes of false teaching, the culture, and materialism.

Day 4 *The Call to Act*: We must stand at attention, be alert to the Enemy's schemes, and have full allegiance to God and His purposes.

Day 5 *From Apathy to Action*: To move from apathy to passion, we must have active determination, obedience, and faith.

SESSION 6

THE HOLE UNDER THE DOOR

REVIEW

This week you are encouraged to have a conversation about the holes in your life that need to be patched up. Allow God to uncover what type of life you truly lead by revealing what you have left unattended and what has diverted you off His course for you. Allow Him to help you see how and why those holes are there. Take time to stop and deal with the holes in your life.

DAILY TITLE AND PRINCIPLE

Day 1 *The Hole under the Door*: We must watch out for holes the subtle spirit of the

APPENDIX E GROUP SESSION AND QUESTIONS

DISCUS- SUMMARY

SESSION 1

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Day 1 (p. 13)

1. Can you think of a time when you were on the receiving end of an evil tongue? How did it feel?
2. Discuss what the uses of poison reveal about the danger of an undisciplined tongue.
3. How does it feel to know you have used your tongue as an instrument of poison?

Day 2 (p. 16)

1. What do your words reveal about what is hidden in your heart?
2. What kinds of things are you allowing to influence your heart and thought life?

Day 3 (p. 20)

1. Sometimes it seems we speak more harshly to our spouses and children than we would to anyone else we know. Why? Do you recognize this in your life?
2. Discuss some specific words you can use that will edify your husbands.

Day 4 (p. 24)

1. Ask any honest friend to answer these questions about you: Am I a positive and

- encouraging friend? Do you feel comfortable coming to me for advice?
2. How can we consciously use our words to encourage friends?

Day 5 (p. 29)

1. How can speaking praise to God even when we don't feel especially praiseful change our hearts?
2. What is power in speaking God's Word out loud?

WEEK'S SUMMARY QUESTIONS (P. 29)

1. In what specific ways have you been challenged to yield your tongue to the Lord's control?
2. What steps can you take immediately to obey?
3. What is the most meaningful day of conversation you had this week? Why?
4. What verse stirred the deepest conversation?

SESSION 2

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Day 1 (p. 34)

1. What sort of things do you think God wants to delete from a Christian life?
2. What makes you nervous or fearful when you think about how God might edit your life?

Day 2 (p. 39)

1. When my hard efforts seem to be achieving no results, do I depend on my own skills and expertise rather than listen to God's direction? In what ways? When has God's way proven more efficient?

Day 3 (p. 41)

1. What are the benefits of and differences between group Bible study and your own personal time with the Lord?
2. What activities could you edit out of your schedule to make room for God?

Day 4: NONE

Day 5 (p. 51)

1. Why is it crucial to be careful about who is included in your intimate circle of friends?
2. How can having relationships with non-Christians affect our lives for good and for bad? Is there a place for them?

WEEK'S SUMMARY QUESTIONS (P. 51)

1. In what specific ways have you been challenged to yield your tongue to the Lord's control?
2. What steps can you take immediately to obey?
3. What is the most meaningful day of conversation you had this week? Why?
4. What verse stirred the deepest conversation?

SESSION 3

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Day 1 (p. 56)

1. Are you guilty of creating Christian celebrities? How can we stop the process?
2. How can we become like the person described in Psalm 24:4?

Day 2 (p. 60)

1. If someone praised you as the people in Lystra praised Paul and Barnabas, how do you think you would respond?
2. Do you know anyone who seems to worship nature rather than its Creator?

Day 3 (p. 64)

1. Why do we think we can keep God in the dark about our idols?
2. Have you recognized any idols in your life this week? If you are willing to share, please do so.

Day 4 (p. 68)

1. Share a time when idolatry had an ill-effect on you or someone you love.
2. Read 1 Samuel 15:23 (p. 69). When have you been guilty of rebellion and stubbornness? What are the similarities between rebellion and witchcraft?

Day 5 (p. 72)

1. How do we break a cycle of idol worship?

2. When is it appropriate to oppose your family on a matter of idols?

WEEK'S SUMMARY QUESTIONS (P. 73)

1. What people, places, activities, or things have you allowed to take God's place in your life?
2. What steps can you take immediately to respond?
3. What is the most meaningful day of conversation you had this week? Why?
4. What verse stirred the deepest conversation?

SESSION 4

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Day 1 (p. 78)

1. Have you experienced the hedge that protects?
2. Why do so many Christians live in a spirit of fear?

Day 2 (p. 80)

1. Spend time praying for one another using the words of Psalm 23 and 33.
2. Do you know someone personally whose life reflects God's hedge of protection?

Day 3 (p. 85)

1. What Babels do people build today?
2. What things give false hope? In what might non-believers say they hope?

Day 4 (p. 89)

1. What "Moses moment" have you had when you weren't sure you could do what God asked you to do?
2. Why doesn't God always rescue us from the fire?

Day 5: NONE

WEEK'S SUMMARY QUESTIONS (P. 95)

1. What are the main things the Lord has taught you, not only about His love for you but also concerning His desire and ability to protect you?
2. What is the most meaningful day of conversation you had this week? Why?
3. What passage stirred the deepest conversation?
4. At the beginning of this week you wrote down some things that have happened in your life that resulted in you having a shaken confidence in the Lord. How has your conversation with God this week affected your view of why God may have allowed these things? How was He protecting you even while you were going through them?

SESSION 5

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Day 1 (p. 101)

1. How do you "put to death" the worldly things Paul described in Colossians 3?

2. What are you “wearing” that keeps you bogged down instead of looking up to the Lord?

Day 2 (p. 103)

1. Do you feel justified, chosen, and forgiven?
2. How would you live differently if you believed you were all of these things?

Day 3: NONE

Day 4 (p. 111)

1. What process must we go through to “throw off” the old way of life?
2. How would you advise a new Christian to “put on” the new nature?

Day 5 (p. 117)

1. Which fruit of the Spirit is the most prevalent in your life? On which do you need to work the most?
2. What is encompassed by the spirit of power and discipline?

WEEK’S SUMMARY QUESTIONS (P. 117)

1. In what specific ways have you been challenged to renew your mind in regard to your identity in Christ?
2. What have you been challenged to “take off” and “put on”? What practical steps do you plan to take to make this happen?
3. What is the most meaningful day of conversation you had this week? Why? What verse stirred the deepest conversation?

SESSION 6

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Day 1 (p. 125)

1. What characterizes a lukewarm Christian?
2. What “holes under the door” have allowed in messages that water down your faith?

Day 2 (p. 129)

1. Are there times when you put wanting to be like the world above wanting to be more like Christ? When and how?
2. What are some practical ways we can pursue the calling of Hosea 6:6? What is the difference between “religion” and “a love that lasts” as described in this verse?

Day 3: NONE

Day 4 (p. 134)

1. How often do you consider you might be living in spiritual warfare?
2. What piece of armor do you need to remember to put on?

Day 5 (p. 141)

1. In what specific ways has the Spirit challenged you to move from apathy to action?
2. How has your focus changed during the last six weeks? Is it easier for you to study

the Bible now? How has your communication with God changed?

WEEK'S SUMMARY QUESTIONS (P. 141)

1. In what specific ways have you been challenged to renew your mind in regard to your identity in Christ?
2. What have you been challenged to “take off” and “put on”? What practical steps do you plan to take to make this happen?
3. What is the most meaningful day of conversation you had this week? Why?
4. What verse stirred the deepest conversation?

