

ZONDERVAN™

The Bible in 90 Days™ Small Group Edition Leader's Guide

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Requests for information should be addressed to:

Zondervan, *Grand Rapids, Michigan 49530*

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BEFORE YOU LEAD

For the best experience in leading your class or small group, it's very important to preview session one on the DVD. Familiarize yourself with the session outline and gather the necessary materials.

Also, if you have more than 15 people participating, you'll spend some time during each session in small discussion groups, starting with the SECOND session. You'll need AT LEAST one leader (facilitator) for each small group; if at all possible, we recommend a coleader for each group. This week, be on the lookout for capable small group facilitators. (For more information on organizing small groups and selecting facilitators, see the Additional Teaching Resources on the CD-ROM.)

SESSION OUTLINE

- I. Welcome Activities (4 minutes)
- II. Whole Group Discussion (15 minutes)
- III. Video Discovery (10–15 minutes)
- IV. Video Discussion—optional (5–10 minutes)
- V. Are You Committed? (5 minutes)
- VI. Conclusion (1 minute)

WELCOME ACTIVITIES (4 minutes)

Welcome everyone to *The Bible in 90 Days*[™] and if the group members are new to one another, ask people to introduce themselves to at least one other person. Open your time together either with your own prayer or with this one:

Dear Lord, thank you for inviting each of us here [today/tonight], and for opening our hearts so that we accepted your invitation. Please fill each of us with your Spirit right now, and give me the ability to clearly and accurately communicate both the benefits and challenges of The Bible in 90 Days. I pray that upon understanding both the challenges and benefits, each group member will commit to this extraordinary, 90-day journey through your Word. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

WHOLE GROUP DISCUSSION (15 minutes)

Use the questions on pages 13–14 of the participant's guide to lead the whole group through a discussion about why they are interested in reading the Bible from cover to cover. Ask people to keep responses brief, and encourage a variety of people to respond (don't let the conversation be dominated by a few). It's not necessary to answer ALL of the questions or to have EVERYONE speak. That said, the priority is to get as many people as is practical actively engaged in the discussion.

Wrap up the discussion by thanking everyone for sharing their thoughts. Then summarize by noting the comments of some past participants of *The Bible in 90 Days* program, who testify that reading through the Bible in this deliberate, intensive manner: (1) helped them achieve a long-held goal; (2) provided an excellent overview of the sweeping story of Scripture; (3) started a pattern of Bible reading that became a habit in their lives; (4) enhanced their understanding of what they hear in worship services and Bible studies; (5) significantly strengthened their relationship with God; and (6) changed their lives.

VIDEO DISCOVERY (10-15 minutes)

“Now that we have a good idea of why many of you are here, let's view a video that will give us a concise overview of *The Bible in 90 Days*. You may take notes on page 15 of your participant's guide.”
[Show the DVD introductory session.]

VIDEO DISCUSSION — OPTIONAL (5 - 10 minutes)

“Based on the video, what questions do you have about *The Bible in 90 Days*?” [Answer any questions you can; offer to find answers by the next session for questions you cannot answer.]

ARE YOU COMMITTED? (5 minutes)

NOTE: “Accountability” is one of the pillars of a successful experience with The Bible in 90 Days. There is no greater accountability than when one makes a commitment to God. Even nonbelievers typically respect such a solemn promise. Take a few minutes to prepare the group or class for the commitment prayer either by reading or summarizing the following content, and answering any last-minute questions:

“The journey we are about to take together is an extraordinary one. You clearly are intrigued by the notion, or you wouldn’t be here. Even if you came at the insistence of a family member or friend, aren’t you wondering, *Is there some greater purpose for my being here?* It’s okay if you’re not sure. It’s even okay if you are not a believer. At worst, by following this program you will become one of the minority of people who have read all of the world’s most influential book. At best ... you’ll have an experience that will change you forever.

“Any questions? Ultimately, the decision is between you and God. In a moment, I’ll start a decision prayer. I’ll pray out loud, then you’ll have a minute to pray silently.”

Commitment Prayer

God, you’ve invited each of us here [today/tonight] to embark on this 14-week adventure. While we understand the general parameters of this journey and may have some idea where it will lead, we also know unanticipated twists and turns await. Ultimately we believe there are significant truths you want to teach us about you, the world, and ourselves. As each of us prays our silent decision to you, we ask that you give us the strength to respond to your desires more strongly than to our own. Hear us as we each pray silently for one minute. [After one minute] In your Son’s name we pray. Amen.

CONCLUSION (1 minute)

“If you can, read your first 12 pages [today/tonight]. This week, you’ll read all of Genesis and Exodus. You’ll find brief overviews of both of these books as well as other helpful tools on pages 16–17 of the participant’s guide. If you haven’t picked up your Bible or other materials yet, please do so before you leave. And, while the goal is to *read* the Bible in 90 days, some people may prefer to *listen* to the Bible. They can do so using the *NIV Dramatized Audio Bible* and the Listening Plan included on pages 139–144 of the participant’s guide. To get the most out of your listening, we suggest that you read along as you listen.

“Also, if you know other people who might be interested in this group/class, they CAN start late, but we suggest that they don’t start more than a week late. Otherwise, it is too hard to catch up. See you next week. Enjoy your reading!”