



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE: STUDENTS

Leader Guide, Winter 2017-18  
VOLUME 4 • NUMBER 2

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Explore the Bible: Leader Guide

One LifeWay Plaza

Nashville, TN 37234-0144

PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Explore the Bible: Leader Guide  
(ISSN: 2377-0341; Item 005686026)  
is published quarterly by LifeWay,  
One LifeWay Plaza, Nashville, TN 37234,  
Thom S. Rainer, President. © 2017 LifeWay

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Customer Service, One LifeWay Plaza,  
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# Explore the Bible HOW TO USE

## Preparation

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Prior to each group meeting . . .

- Familiarize yourself with the Scripture text.
- Read the passage twice.
- Read the chapter of Scripture that precedes and follows each session's Bible text for context.
- Read over the Explore Options, Conversation questions, Now What questions, and leader notes so that you will be prepared to lead your students to discuss and engage the text.
- Refer to the Commentary page for help with questions that come up as you study the text.

## Leader Guide

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This teaching plan for the leaders of students contains five sections:



### EXPLORATION

This portion of the study is designed to introduce you and your students to the passage of Scripture they will be studying and the Central Truth of the text.

*Explore the Bible* now provides three options for introducing each session. Whether you choose to use the Talk it Out questions or one of the two Explore Options, both are designed to introduce students to the Central Truth.

**Explore Options:** These are interactive activities or engaging illustrations that help illustrate the Central Truth of each session. Each session contains two Explore Options. Review both and choose the one that works best for your group. If you choose to begin your group session with one of the Explore Options, you will want to read that session's Bible text afterward.

**Talk it Out:** These are discussion questions that introduce each session's key themes. These questions are designed to help students connect the text to their context. If you choose to begin your group session with the Talk it Out questions, you will want to read this week's Bible text prior.



### CONVERSATION

This portion of the study is designed to help you walk through the Scriptures with your students. You will find the following two elements:

**Discussion Questions:** These questions are designed to get students to dig into Scripture, training them to look to Scripture for the answers to their questions. All questions are included in the Personal Study Guide and are numbered "01-10" so that you can guide students to look at particular discussion questions in their Personal Study Guides.

**Leader's Notes:** Every discussion question is answered in the Leader's Guide, so that leaders are prepared to guide discussion as students engage the text.



## COMMENTARY

This portion of the study is located to the right of each Conversation page. The Commentary provides additional information to help leaders understand the text and give additional insight to the discussion questions.

The Commentary contains four types of Context notes designed to help explain the context of the Scripture students are studying:



**Literary Context:** Key word studies and cross references.



**Historical Context:** Historical setting, including information on key characters.



**Cultural Context:** Highlights of the political and cultural environment.



**Theological Context:** Information to help answer deeper questions from the text.



## NOW WHAT?

This portion of the study is designed to highlight the Central Truth of the passage and help students apply that truth to their daily lives.

- Each session contains four Now What? Questions.
- The questions are numbered “11-14” and are included in the Personal Study Guide so that you can guide students to look at particular discussion questions in their Personal Study Guides.



## PERSONAL CHALLENGE

Each session concludes with a Personal Challenge that calls students to continue processing what they’ve learned and to apply the Central Truth to their context as students. Each of the following sections of the Personal Challenge are also included in the Personal Study Guide:

**Dwell:** A challenge to meditate on and consider ways to apply the truths students have learned.

**Memorize:** Each session provides a memory verse for you and your students to learn together.

**Pray:** A suggested prayer to guide your closing prayer time and to challenge students to pray throughout the week.



**Keep on Digging:** Additional passages of Scripture for students to read on their own in order to further understand and apply each session’s Central Truth.

# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

## Family Connection

The Family Connection is a new resource replacing the One Conversation. It equips parents to have spiritual conversations with their students by providing the following:

- “As You Go” questions—these are simple questions designed to help families discuss the Bible on the go—on the way home from church or on the way to school or practice.
- A brief summary of each session to help parents understand what their students learned each session.
- A Family Devotion with discussion questions and a prayer prompt for those families who want to go deeper together.

Provide Family Connection for parents of students in your church by making it available on your website, through email, or print it and send it home with students.

## Leader Pack

The optional Leader Pack provides leaders with additional ways to make the session interactive with PowerPoint templates, posters, videos, and a downloadable PDF of our Family Connection. To help identify when to use each item, look for the Leader Pack directive in each session.

## Midweek Studies

These are additional verse-by-verse studies that can be used in a large or small group setting that complement each session. These can be found at [lifeway.com/etbwinactspart2](http://lifeway.com/etbwinactspart2).

## Middle School Option

This is a Middle School specific version of the **Leader Guide** and **Personal Study Guide**. It is available for purchase at [www.lifeway.com/etbstudents](http://www.lifeway.com/etbstudents) and in our Explore the Bible App available on the App Store and Google Play Store.