



ONLINE GROUP PLAN

Summer 2020 // Proverbs; Song of Songs // Session 3: Compassion Demonstrated

Suggested Use Date: 06/21/2020

For use with Explore the Bible Leader Guide, Personal Study Guide, and Daily Discipleship Guide



PREPARATION

Best Practices for Leading an Online Group



PRAY for your group members and for God to grant you insight as you study and prepare your Bible study session. Do this throughout the week.



SCHEDULE your group's online Bible study using the online meeting tool you prefer. Invite group members and guests to participate using a meeting ID if required by your online meeting tool. [Click here](#) to view a Best Practices document for online groups.



SEND digital copies of the next session to group members who do not have a print copy. If using the *Personal Study Guide*, encourage group members to read the passage and comments for the next session. If you are using the *Daily Discipleship Guide*, encourage your group members to follow up your session by engaging with the five daily Bible readings.



CONNECT with your group via email or text messaging early in the week.

Create your own message:

- Briefly tell the group the title of your next Bible study, why it is important, and what they will learn.
- Challenge group members to study before the group session if your group uses a *Personal Study Guide*; remind group members to follow up your online study with their daily readings if your group uses the *Daily Discipleship Guide*.
- Remind group members when your group will meet online.

Or copy and paste this suggested wording into the email or text message to your group:

Love for God is purely academic if it's not expressed in real ways toward people. The cocoon we often make for ourselves keeps us from demonstrating the authenticity of our love for God by loving others. We'll study Proverbs 3:21-35 this week and discover how loving others demonstrates God's wisdom.

Be sure to read Proverbs 3:21-35 and the comments for Session 3 in the *Personal Study Guide* or *Daily Discipleship Guide*. As you study, look for the results of wise living. What is the connection between wise living and treating others?

We will meet at (add time) using (name of online tool). Here is the link to our meeting: (add meeting ID if your online tool doesn't do that automatically)

WEEKLY MESSAGE



PREPARE to lead your group's Bible study.

- **Study** Proverbs 3:21-35, noting words or phrases that reflect our relationships with God and others.
- **Listen** to the Explore the Bible Adult Leader Podcast. Go to goExploreTheBible.com/Adults-Training for an overview of the main points and key ideas from each session.
- **Visit** the Explore the Bible blog for additional leader helps at goExploreTheBible.com/Leader-Helps
- **Create** your teaching plan for guiding your group's online Bible study experience. Use the Online Group Plan on the next pages as a starting point, modifying it for your group as needed. Consult the *Adult Commentary*, *QuickSource*, and *Leader Pack* for additional ideas and resources.



REMIND your group members to study and prepare via another email or text message closer to the day your group meets.

- Include a quote from the *Personal Study Guide*, a question, or an insight you plan to discuss with the group when you meet online.



HELPFUL LINKS

- Explore the Bible main landing page: goExploreTheBible.com
- Digital version of Explore the Bible: curriculum.lifeway.com
- Explore the Bible leader helps: goExploreTheBible.com/Leader-Helps
- Explore the Bible Podcast: goExploreTheBible.com/Adults-Training
- Free Coronavirus links and leader helps: lifeway.com/coronavirus



ONLINE GROUP PLAN

Explore the Bible // Summer 2020 // Proverbs; Song of Songs // Session 3: Compassion Demonstrated

NOTES

GREET: *Welcome people as they join the group and invite them to talk about good aspects and bad aspects of staying at home (or even inside one's home) for a long period of time. When all have had an opportunity to offer responses, say: In 1982, the term "cocooning" was coined to describe not a mandate but a preference some people had for staying inside their homes and minimizing contact with other people in the outside world.*

SAY: In times of distress, social distancing, and stay-at-home mandates, it is all the more important that we as believers do not isolate ourselves completely from others and miss opportunities to creatively and genuinely show God's compassion to them. *Ask: **What makes it so difficult to show compassion to other people, especially those with whom we disagree?** (See PSG, p. 28; DDG, p. 29.)*

TRANSITION: In today's study in Proverbs 3:21-35, we see that following God's wisdom is demonstrated in how a person treats others. *Option: Use the Extra! idea. See goExploreTheBible.com/LeaderExtras*

INTRODUCE: *Remind participants of the purposes and themes of Proverbs by reading aloud 1:2-6. Indicate that 3:21-35 is an extended proverb emphasizing that wisdom brings happiness and is demonstrated in how a person treats others.*

READ Proverbs 3:21-26, *inviting listeners to identify results of wise living revealed in these verses.*

GUIDE: *Lead the group to discuss the impact of wise living on a person's relationship with God and with others.*

ASK: How does self-confidence differ from a confidence grounded in God's presence? How does confidence in God lead to peace? (PSG, p. 31; DDG, p. 31)
After several responses, underscore that our relationship with God through Jesus Christ allows us to trust Him for wise living rather than trusting only in ourselves.

TRANSITION: A natural result of a strong faith relationship with God is an increased awareness of others. Point out that a vertical relationship with God leads to stronger horizontal relationships with others.

READ Proverbs 3:27-30, encouraging the group to listen for two actions to take and two actions to avoid in dealing with others. After reading the passage, invite participants to identify the actions.

DISCUSS: Call attention to the Bible Skill activity for this session (PSG, p. 31; DDG, p. 31). Indicate that the activity calls for committing verse 27 to memory and applying it to a real-life situation.

ASK: Why might a person try to excuse himself or herself from helping others? (PSG, p. 32; DDG, p. 31)

READ Proverbs 3:31-35, inviting participants to listen for the benefits of godly wisdom. After the reading, allow participants to respond regarding what they identified as benefits.

STATE: As confidence in God grows, so should the desire to demonstrate kindness to others and to leave judgment of others to God.

CONNECT: Read Romans 12:19-21, asking listeners to compare what Paul taught believers in the passage to what they have learned in Proverbs 3:31-35. Ask: **How does taking on the role of judge get in the way of a believer demonstrating trust in God?** (PSG, p. 35; DDG, p. 31)

SUMMARIZE: Recap the key points of this session: (1) God offers peace (confidence) to those who trust Him; (2) God expects His people to treat others with kindness; and (3) God blesses those who know Him.

CHALLENGE the group to think of actions they could take to invest more deeply in their relationship with God. Then challenge them to think of actions they could take to demonstrate God's kindness to others.

PRAY: Lead the group in prayer. Thank God for giving believers confidence to trust Him and grace to reach out to others with kindness.

NEXT STEPS



- Contact the group during the week to encourage them. Pray specifically for any needs they are willing to share with you.
- Send digital copies of the next session to those in the group who do not have a print copy. If using the Personal Study Guide, encourage the group to read the passage and comments for the next session.
- Repeat the process outlined in the Preparation section of this document.