

DISPLAYING THE
GOSPEL OF GRACE

TITUS

Leader Guide

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& HUNTER BELESS

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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.

Titus: Displaying the Gospel of Grace is a video-and-discussion-based Bible study from Courtney Doctor and Hunter Beless. The teaching videos were filmed in Asheville, North Carolina.

Our goal for this leader guide is to help you feel equipped to facilitate and guide your Bible study group gatherings in a way that fosters genuine community, deep conversations, and transformational learning for you and the women you're leading.

We 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 as you lead 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:

8 Group Meetings • Meeting Length: 1.5 hours

SESSION ONE Introduction: Distribute Bible study books, get to know one another, and watch the Session One video. There is no personal study before Session One.

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

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

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

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

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

SESSION SEVEN Review the Session Seven personal Bible study. Watch the Session Seven video and discuss the video teaching.

SESSION EIGHT Review the Session Eight personal Bible study. Watch the Session Eight video and discuss the video teaching.



HOW TO STRUCTURE YOUR GROUP TIME

Each group session contains the following elements. We've included a suggested amount of time based on a 1.5 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. In the first 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. Also, 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.

WATCH (35 MINUTES) Play the teaching video during this time, encouraging the women to take notes on the Viewer Guide page for that specific session.

DISCUSS (35 MINUTES) You'll find a list of discussion questions designed to help you facilitate conversation around each teaching video on the Viewer Guide pages in the Bible study book and in this Leader Guide. We encourage you to preview each teaching video and then pick and choose the question you 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/titus.

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, but 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.

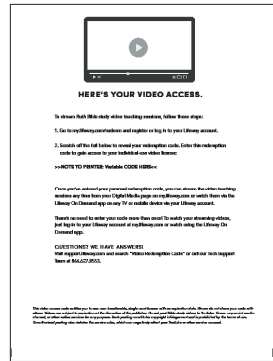
GET THE WORD OUT. Be sure to advertise the study early and utilize all methods for getting the word out. Post it on your church’s website, send emails to potential attendees, and promote it on all forms of social media. It’s best to start advertising the study four to six weeks before it begins. The study is eight sessions long, which means you will meet eight times. Visit lifeway.com/titus 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.

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. 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 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!

PERSONAL STUDY. Between each meeting, there are five days of personal study to complete in the Bible study book.

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 the book of Titus.

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?* Also, do a final evaluation at the close of the study.

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

Session One

Introduction

GATHER. Welcome participants to the study and distribute Bible study books to each group member. Encourage discussion by using the following prompts or questions:

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

What are some important letters you have either written or received?
What gave them importance?

Why did you choose to do this study and what are you hoping to gain from it?

WATCH. Play the teaching video for Session One. Encourage participants to take notes or jot down questions on the Session One Video Viewer Guide (page 12 of the Bible study book).

DISCUSS. Use the following questions to debrief the Session 1 video teaching. You can also find these questions on page 13 in the Bible study book.

What part of Courtney and Hunter’s conversation resonated with you the most? Why?

Why is it important to study the Bible in community? Why is it personally helpful to you?

How does Titus fit into the big story of the Bible and why should we study it?

Courtney talked about how the baton of faith has been passed down through the centuries. Who passed the baton of faith on to you and how did they do so? Who do you have the opportunity to pass it on to?

How would you summarize the message of the gospel?

What context(s) do you have for living out the gospel—family, workplace, church, community, and so on?

When you take a moment to consider that God has placed you in your context to display the gospel of grace, what are your thoughts and emotions?

After hearing this opening conversation, what do you hope to get out of this study?

CLOSE. Take a moment to share about the weekly structure and the five days of personal study to complete in each week. Encourage women to do what they can. If they are unable to finish all five days 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 to cover any important housekeeping notes.

Remind your group to work on their memory verse and complete Session Two of the Bible study book before your next group gathering.

Close with prayer.

Session Two

Entrusting the Gospel

GATHER. Welcome participants back to the study. Use the following questions to get your group talking and to briefly review the Session Two personal study.

What three words or phrases would you use to describe yourself? (For example: *fun-loving, outdoorsy, writer, etc.*)

What day of personal study was your favorite and why?

What stood out to you from this week of personal study? What has stuck with you? What surprised you or was new information?

What questions did you have from your personal study?

WATCH. Play the teaching video for Session Two. Encourage participants to take notes or jot down questions on the Session Two Video Viewer Guide (page 34 of the Bible study book).

DISCUSS. Use the following questions to debrief the Session Two video teaching. You can also find these questions on page 35 in the Bible study book.

What part of Courtney and Hunter's conversation resonated with you the most? Why?

How have you seen the gospel bring people together from different walks of life? How is the gospel able to do that?

The gospel radically changed the purpose and trajectory of Paul's life. How has the gospel done the same in your life? In the lives of those around you?

Paul identified himself first as a “servant of God.” Is that how you would first identify yourself? Explain.

Call on a volunteer to read the memory passage: Titus 3:3–7.

Ask: How would you summarize these verses?

How does the memory passage help you better understand the gospel?

Do you ever find yourself trying to produce good works in your own power? What are the consequences of that effort?

God, who cannot lie, has promised us the hope of eternal life. How does God’s character and His promise in this passage affect your walk with Him and witness for Him?

How does this passage call you to display the gospel of grace?

CLOSE. Remind your group to work on their memory verses this week and to complete the Session Three personal study before the next group session. Call on a pre-enlisted person to close in prayer.

Session Three

Holding to the Gospel

GATHER. Welcome participants back to the study. Use the following questions to get your group talking and to briefly review the Session Three personal study.

If you were stranded on a desert island, what two people would you want with you and why?

What day of personal study was your favorite and why?

What stood out to you from this week of personal study? What has stuck with you? What surprised you or was new information?

What questions did you have from your personal study?

WATCH. Play the teaching video for Session Three. Encourage participants to take notes or jot down questions on the Session Three Video Viewer Guide (page 54 of the Bible study book).

DISCUSS. Use the following questions to debrief the Session Three video teaching. You can also find these questions on page 55 in the Bible study book.

What part of Courtney and Hunter's conversation resonated with you the most? Why?

What are some ways leadership has been identified in the churches you've attended?

Name a person in church leadership who has positively impacted your walk with Christ. In what way?

If an unchurched friend asked you why they should be involved in a local church, what would you say?

How have you most benefited from being part of a local church?

If you had just moved to a new community and were looking for a local church to attend, what characteristics would you be looking for?

What would you do or say to help someone work through church hurt?

Of the characteristics of a sound church leader listed in verses 6–9, which seem most important to you and why? Which ones seem most important for you to display as a follower of Christ? Why?

What are some ways you are currently supporting your church leadership? What are some other things you could be doing?

How does this passage call you to display the gospel of grace?

CLOSE. Remind your group to work on their memory verses this week and to complete the Session Four personal study before the next group session. As you close the group time, provide a few minutes for group members to pray silently for the leadership in your church.

*Session Four***Guarding the Gospel**

GATHER. Welcome participants back to the study. Use the following questions to get your group talking and to briefly review the Session Four personal study.

What movie or book would you say has the best plot twist and why? (Try not to reveal too much for those who have not seen the film or read the book.)

What day of personal study was your favorite and why?

What stood out to you from this week of personal study? What has stuck with you? What surprised you or was new information?

What questions did you have from your personal study?

WATCH. Play the teaching video for Session Four. Encourage participants to take notes or jot down questions on the Session Four Video Viewer Guide (page 74 in the Bible study book).

DISCUSS. Use the following questions to debrief the Session Four video teaching. You can also find these questions on page 75 in the Bible study book.

What part of Courtney and Hunter's conversation resonated with you the most? Why?

How would you define Jesus + Something theology? Do you think you could recognize it if someone you were listening to was teaching or espousing it? Explain.

How is it possible for us to say we don't hold or teach Jesus + Something theology, yet sometimes fall into the trap of living that way?

Do you think we have false teachers in our midst? Explain. How can we know when someone is a false teacher?

Though we are opposed to false teaching, is it possible for us to still allow it into our lives? If so, how? What might be evidence we're allowing false teaching to influence us? How do we silence the false teaching we're listening to?

Explain what is meant by the term "tiered theology"? Why is it essential that we agree on primary issues?

What are possible consequences to the body of Christ if we make it a test of fellowship for everyone to agree on secondary or tertiary issues?

How does getting a grasp on tiered theology help us understand that just because someone disagrees with us does not mean they are a false teacher or embracing falsehood?

How does this passage call you to display the gospel of grace?

CLOSE. Remind your group to work on their memory verses this week and to complete the Session Five personal study before the next group session. Pre-enlist a group member to pray for members of your group to have discerning hearts and minds to be able to recognize false teaching and to love the truth of God's Word.

Session Five

Adorning the Gospel

GATHER. Welcome participants back to the study. Use the following questions to get your group talking and to briefly review the Session Five personal study.

Who was your hero growing up? Why did you look up to this character or person?

What day of personal study was your favorite and why?

What stood out to you from this week of personal study? What has stuck with you? What surprised you or was new information?

What questions did you have from your personal study?

WATCH. Play the teaching video for Session Five. Encourage participants to take notes or jot down questions on the Session Five Video Viewer Guide (page 96 in the Bible study book).

DISCUSS. Use the following questions to debrief the Session Five video teaching. You can also find these questions on page 97 in the Bible study book.

What part of Courtney and Hunter's conversation resonated with you the most? Why?

If a new in the faith believer asked you what is discipleship and why should she be involved in it, what would you say?

Discipleship can happen formally and informally. What does that mean and how have you seen both take place?

Who are some older-in-the-faith believers that have poured into your life? What was their impact on you?

Currently, how is discipleship taking place in your life? Who is helping you grow in the faith? Who are you helping to grow in the faith? Why is it important that both of these things are happening?

What are the evidences that you are maturing in your faith?

What are some of your biggest obstacles to growing in your faith?

How does discipleship involve both words and actions?

How does this passage call you to display the gospel of grace?

CLOSE. Remind your group to work on their memory verses this week and to complete the Session Six personal study before the next group session. Encourage group members to take a few minutes in prayer, thanking God for the people who have spiritually impacted their lives. Voice a prayer to close.

*Session Six***Believing the Gospel**

GATHER. Welcome participants back to the study. Use the following questions to get your group talking and to briefly review the Session Six personal study.

Share one or two big changes you've made in your life—such as relocation, career path, or even hairstyle. How have those changes shaped you?

What day of personal study was your favorite and why?

What stood out to you from this week of personal study? What has stuck with you? What surprised you or was new information?

What questions did you have from your personal study?

WATCH. Play the teaching video for Session Six. Encourage participants to take notes or jot down questions on the Session Six Video Viewer Guide (page 118 of the Bible study book).

DISCUSS. Use the following questions to debrief the Session Six video teaching. You can also find these questions on page 119 in the Bible study book.

What part of Courtney and Hunter's conversation resonated with you the most? Why?

What is your definition of grace?

How did grace first appear in your life? How do you experience the grace of God in your daily life?

How would you define godliness and how is godliness displayed in your life?

How does godlessness rear its ugly head in your life? What is your biggest struggle in living a godly life?

How is the power and work of the Holy Spirit in your life essential to you living a godly life?

We are living in between the first and second coming of Christ. Would you say you are waiting well for His return? Explain.

What does it mean to turn your *what ifs* into *even ifs*? How does remembering the character and promises of God help you do this?

How can we help one another wait well and face the future with hope?

How does this passage call you to display the gospel of grace?

CLOSE. Remind your group to work on their memory verses this week and to complete the Session Seven personal study before the next group session. If time permits, allow a couple of group members to briefly share how they came to faith in Christ. Then remind your group you're available to pray or talk with anyone who has not yet placed faith in Jesus. Close with prayer.

Session Seven

Insisting on the Gospel

GATHER. Welcome participants back to the study. Use the following questions to get your group talking and to briefly review the Session Seven personal study.

Who was the strictest teacher you ever had? What were some rules the teacher insisted you follow?

What day of personal study was your favorite and why?

What stood out to you from this week of personal study? What has stuck with you? What surprised you or was new information?

What questions did you have from your personal study?

WATCH. Play the teaching video for Session Seven. Encourage participants to take notes or jot down questions on the Session Seven Video Viewer Guide (page 140 in the Bible study book).

DISCUSS. Use the following questions to debrief the Session Seven video teaching. You can also find these questions on page 141 in the Bible study book.

What part of Courtney and Hunter's conversation resonated with you the most? Why?

The passage we're memorizing for our study of Titus is covered in this session. What part of the memory passage stands out to you and why?

Share what it was like when you first realized your need for Christ. What was your life like before Christ? How did the Holy Spirit bring you to the point of understanding your need for the Savior?

Courtney and Hunter talk about how we should be singing the song of the gospel in our lives. What does that mean to you? Are you singing the song of the gospel on a regular basis? If so, how? If not, what's hindering you?

How does the power of the gospel continue to transform you beyond just the moment you were saved?

How should your life as a follower of Jesus look different than the lives of those around you who don't know Him? Are you currently giving evidence of that difference? If so, in what ways? If not, why not?

What does it mean to rehearse the good news of the gospel? How does doing so shape the way you live your life—the way you face trials, the decisions you make, the way you view your purpose, etc.?

What does it mean that you were not saved by good works but were saved for good works? What are some Spirit-powered, Spirit-led good works you see being exhibited by women in this group? By others in your community of faith?

How does this passage call you to display the gospel of grace?

CLOSE. Remind your group to work on their memory verses this week and to complete the Session Eight personal study before the next group session. Direct the participants to get in groups of 3-4 and spend time praying for each other to display the gospel in the good works they are doing.

Living the Gospel

GATHER. Welcome participants back to the study. Use the following questions to get your group talking and to briefly review the Session Eight personal study.

What was one of the best team experiences you've ever had? This could be a sports team, fine arts group (chorus, band, theatre), academic team, work project team, etc. What made that team experience special?

What day of personal study was your favorite and why?

What stood out to you from this week of personal study? What has stuck with you? What surprised you or was new information?

What questions did you have from your personal study?

WATCH. Play the teaching video for Session Eight. Encourage participants to take notes or jot down questions on the Session Eight Video Viewer Guide (page 164 in the Bible study book).

DISCUSS. Use the following questions to debrief the Session Eight video teaching. You can also find these questions on page 165 in the Bible study book.

What part of Courtney and Hunter's conversation resonated with you the most? Why?

Why is it important for you to consider the people in your community of faith as family? Is it easy or difficult for you to do that? Explain. What can you do to foster an atmosphere of family in your church?

How have the people in your church been family to you? How have they shown that kind of love, support, and encouragement?

Paul warned Titus to avoid foolish debates, quarrels, and disputes. Why do those kinds of things still take place in church? And how can we avoid being drawn into them?

Why is discipline sometimes needed in the church family? How can this be done in a healthy, redemptive way?

There is unity in the message of the gospel and diversity in how we accomplish the mission of making disciples through the gospel. What do you see as your part in the mission? How are you using your gifts and skills to make disciples?

How does this passage call you to display the gospel of grace?

How has this study affected the way you see the church and your place in it?

What is your main takeaway from this study and how will you apply it? Use your insights from the list on page 162 of the Bible study book to help you answer.

CLOSE. Close by leading a season of prayer, inviting members of the group to pray aloud, thanking God for what they have experienced in this study.

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 the members can participate in individually or as a group to apply what they have learned through this study.



VIDEO
ACCESS
STUDY

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?

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 members watch video sessions outside of 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 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.