

**BIBLE
STUDIES
FOR LIFE®**

Advanced Bible Study

TEACHER GUIDE | SUMMER 2022 | CSB

STUDY 1:
*Never Alone:
The Holy Spirit
in Our Lives*

STUDY 2:
*How to Love
Your Neighbor*



LEADING SOMEONE TO THE GREATEST DECISION OF ALL

One of the great joys of leading a group in Bible study is seeing group members deepen their walk with Christ. Everyone's walk with Christ begins with an initial decision to follow Him in repentance and faith. There may be people in your group who have not made that decision yet. Take advantage of your time with them to talk about becoming a Christian.

As you tell your own story about coming to Christ, share these key truths:

1. We are all sinners, and each of us needs to acknowledge before God that we are sinners. That acknowledgement involves repentance, which is a genuine turning from sin toward God. Refer to Romans 3:23; 6:23; and Acts 3:19.
2. The only way a person can receive the gift of forgiveness is by faith in Jesus as God's Son. Use verses like Acts 4:12; Ephesians 2:8-9; and John 14:6 when talking about faith in Christ.
3. Confessing your faith in Jesus Christ means confessing Him as Savior and Lord. Share Romans 10:9-10,13.

Invite the person to pray a prayer similar to this:

“Dear God, I know I am a sinner. I believe Jesus died on the cross to forgive me of my sins. I’m sorry for all the wrong I’ve done and ask You to forgive me. I now accept Your gift of eternal life. Thank You for Your love, forgiveness, and a new life in Jesus Christ. From this day forward, I choose to follow You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

TABLE OF CONTENTS

How to Use 5

NEVER ALONE: THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR LIVES

Suggested for
the week of

		Introduction	6
June 5	Session 1	Convicted by the Spirit	7
June 12	Session 2	Born Again by the Spirit	11
June 19	Session 3	Indwelt by the Spirit	15
June 26	Session 4	Filled with the Spirit	19

SPECIAL FOCUS

		Introduction	
July 3	Special Focus	Interdependent Independence	23

July 10	Session 5	Walking with the Spirit	27
July 17	Session 6	United Through the Spirit	31
	Article	The Work of the Holy Spirit	35

HOW TO LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

		Introduction	38
July 24	Session 1	Who is Your Neighbor?	39
August 1	Session 2	What Does Love Look Like?	43
August 8	Session 3	Pray for Your Neighbor	47
August 15	Session 4	Honor Your Neighbor	51
August 22	Session 5	Forgive Your Neighbor	55
August 29	Session 6	Share Christ with Your Neighbor	59
	Article	Who Is My “Neighbor”?	63
		Coming Next Quarter	66

DON'T MISS THIS!

NEW!! eBook NOW AVAILABLE!!

Bible Studies for Life is also available as an eBook. You can order a copy at lifeway.com/bsflebook.



EXTRA!

Every week, you'll find additional discussion questions and creative teaching ideas to help you tailor each session to the needs of your group. You'll also find links to magazine articles and the *Family Connection* page for parents.

www.BibleStudiesforLife.com/AdultExtra

PODCAST

Get free weekly insights for every session of *Bible Studies for Life: Adults* with our podcast. Each 20-minute episode will help you get the most out of your upcoming study. Listen at the gym, on the drive home, or wherever is best for you. Just search *Bible Studies for Life Adults* on your favorite podcast app to start listening today.

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Advanced Bible Study Teacher Guide sometimes lists websites that may be helpful to our readers. Our staff verifies each site's usefulness and appropriateness prior to publication. However, website content changes quickly, so we encourage you to approach all websites with caution. Make sure sites are still appropriate before sharing them with participants, friends, and family.

HOW TO USE

WHAT'S INSIDE

Teaching Plan—Each session has a two-page teaching plan. Use it in accordance with Advanced Bible Study, utilizing the teaching outline to guide your class through the passage and its key emphases as detailed in the Advanced Bible Study commentary. Engage class members by leading a discussion of key points, asking questions, and inviting their insights.

Optional Idea—We learn in a variety of ways. This additional teaching idea will encourage your class members to use different senses, enhancing their learning and deepening their understanding.

Dig Deeper—This is an illustration or fact not readily drawn from the passage that can add depth and meaning as you teach.

PRAY

Because the Holy Spirit is the guide for your study, invite Him to show you how to “rightly divide the word of truth” as you teach your class. Read the Bible passage several times, asking the Holy Spirit to show you its meaning and application.

PREPARE YOUR CLASS MEMBERS

Encourage your class members to read Advanced Bible Study prior to class time. In addition, you may consult one of the following Personal Study Guides or commentaries:

- ▶ Herschel Hobbs Commentary
- ▶ Bible Studies for Life: Young Adult
- ▶ Bible Studies for Life: Adult
- ▶ Bible Studies for Life: Senior Adult
- ▶ Bible Studies for Life: KJV Adult
- ▶ Bible Studies for Life: Daily Discipleship Guide

Some class members may prefer to read their book after class as a way to follow up and reflect on what they have learned and discussed.

Introduction

NEVER ALONE: THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR LIVES

The beauty of the Christian life is that we are never on our own. Just as we cannot save ourselves by our own power, we cannot live the Christian life in our own power. God comes to us through His Holy Spirit, leading us to faith in Christ and empowering us to walk daily in His strength.

How This Study Supports the Discipleship Plan:

Seek God. We seek God and come to know Him because His Holy Spirit is at work in us. He draws us into a relationship through our faith in Christ, and the Holy Spirit guides us to walk with Him.

WRITERS:

Leslie Hudson wrote the Teaching Plans and Options for “Never Alone: The Holy Spirit in Our Lives.” She is passionate about studying, knowing, teaching, and writing about God’s Word. Leslie was educated at Belmont University as a musician by trade but finds herself wearing many hats these days: writer, homeschool mom, high school girls’ Sunday school teacher, Women’s ministry volunteer, and coffee connoisseur. She lives with her family in White Bluff, Tennessee.

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SESSION 1

Convicted by the Spirit

THE POINT

The Holy Spirit convicts of sin and points to the truth of salvation.

THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

There's no question that we are fallen, sinful people who have chosen to go our own way. We often excuse or rationalize our wrong behavior, but when the Holy Spirit reveals the truth to us, we can't escape the fact that we have sinned. God doesn't stop there. The Holy Spirit also convinces us of the truth of salvation. By His convicting work, we can't deny what He has shown us about ourselves and about Christ.

JOHN 15:26-27; 16:7-15

^{15:26} “When the Counselor comes, the one I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father—he will testify about me. ²⁷ You also will testify, because you have been with me from the beginning. [...] ^{16:7} Nevertheless, I am telling you the truth. It is for your benefit that I go away, because if I don't go away the Counselor will not come to you. If I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ When he comes, he will convict the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment: ⁹ About sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see me; ¹¹ and about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged. ¹² “I still have many things to tell you, but you can't bear them now. ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth. For he will not speak on his own, but he will speak whatever he hears. He will also declare to you what is to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ Everything the Father has is mine. This is why I told you that he takes from what is mine and will declare it to you.

Teaching Plan

GET INTO THE STUDY

OPENING QUESTION: *What's something you've been convicted to do—or not do—lately?*

- ▶ At different stages of life, we feel convicted to be healthier, become more financially responsible, be a better friend, follow through on parenting philosophies, and more.
- ▶ If we're convicted through guilt or peer pressure, we don't often last long in our convictions.
- ▶ However, when God's Holy Spirit convicts us, we see our sin and the truth of salvation. Display **Pack Item 1: Never Alone** poster to introduce the theme of the study and focus of this session.

STUDY THE BIBLE

JOHN 15:26-27

Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to us.

The Holy Spirit came from Jesus.

- ▶ Use The Setting (p. 8 in *Advanced Bible Study*) to show that Jesus was delivering His final words to His apostles just before His death.
- ▶ Describe how the disciples were certainly concerned: Jesus had just explained that He was leaving and they would be hated.
- ▶ How does the Holy Spirit serve as our counselor in daily life?

The Holy Spirit testifies about Jesus.

- ▶ Refer to the paragraph that begins “Jesus had ...” (p. 9 in *Advanced Bible Study*) to show how the disciples were uniquely qualified to testify about Jesus.
- ▶ Emphasize we do not testify alone; the Holy Spirit walks with us. Make copies of **Pack Item 2: The Holy Spirit** handout and distribute to students for your discussion.

The Holy Spirit helps us understand and remember.

- ▶ Use John 14:26 and 1 Corinthians 2:12 to emphasize that the Spirit empowers us to remember and understand; we are not dependent upon our own minds or memories.
- ▶ How do these verses encourage you when you feel overwhelmed?

JOHN 16:7-11

The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin.

Jesus anchored His words to His truthfulness.

- ▶ Direct students back to Jesus's words in 16:1-4, pointing to His honesty and candor. Jesus always spoke truth, even when it was hard to hear.
- ▶ Guide students see the disciples didn't see how Jesus's departure was good, but He was truthful.

The Holy Spirit convicts about sin and righteousness.

- ▶ Use the paragraph that begins “The primary action ...” (p. 13 in *Advanced Bible Study*) to describe the word “convict” and how, although the Spirit's conviction is carried out in the world, it is for the benefit of the disciples.
- ▶ Contrast sin and righteousness in the context of belief; point out that belief in Jesus's identity is required.
- ▶ Say: False righteousness is not righteousness.

The Holy Spirit convicts the world about judgment.

- ▶ Use the paragraph that begins “Judgment conjures ...” (p. 15 in *Advanced Bible Study*) to explain what is meant by “judgment.”
- ▶ In what ways did the world mis-assess Jesus? In what ways have you mis-assessed Jesus?

See OPTIONAL IDEA on page 10 to discuss how Jesus reveals His truth.

Optional Idea

Dig through your old board games or your children's toys and find one example of fake paper money. Place the intentional counterfeit bill alongside a genuine dollar bill in a small box and bring them to class.

As students arrive, enlist the assistance of someone in your class who is in the field of finance: perhaps a bookkeeper, banker, cashier, or anything close to one of those fields. Invite your volunteer up to the front and say something like, "I'm having trouble telling the difference between real money and fake money; I need your expertise here." Open the box where only the volunteer can see the two bills. Ask of your volunteer, "Can you tell which is real? How? What clued you in to the counterfeit?" Reveal the two bills to the class, revealing that the difference was not as slight as you might have indicated.

Explain, "Of course we can all tell the difference between the two types of money; we've seen enough dollar bills to know what is real and what isn't. But if you gave these two bills to a two-year-old and told her she could go buy some gum in the store, she may try to use either one to pay for it. Children need someone

to guide them through wise financial decisions. It's like that with the Holy Spirit: we need a guide to help us make wise spiritual decisions. And that guide is the Holy Spirit."

As you go through the lesson, point out how the Spirit reveals Jesus, truth, salvation, sin, righteousness, and more. Without the Spirit, we can easily be led astray by counterfeits of each of those things.



Dig Deeper

One of the fascinating features of the Bible is its assumption that God exists. Though abounding with internal evidence of the reality of God, it offers no argument. The Bible simply begins, "In the beginning God ..." (Gen. 1:1) and declares the one who does not acknowledge His existence is a "fool" (Ps. 14:1; 53:1).

This same assumption extends to the existence of a trinity of Persons in the Godhead—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. No argument is offered—just affirmations. In the focal passage for this lesson, Jesus affirmed the Trinity's existence by promising, "When the Counselor comes, the one I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father—He will testify about me" (John 15:26). God the Son sends God

the Spirit from God the Father. Similarly, in a parallel passage in John, Jesus said, "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor" (14:16). God the Son prays to God the Father for the gift of God the Spirit.

In the John 14 passage, Jesus further affirms the personage of the Holy Spirit when referring to Him as "another Counselor." He used the Greek word *allos*, "another of the same kind," rather than *heteros*, "another of a different kind" (Vines Expository Dictionary). The Counselor Jesus promised is not some spiritual dynamic of God, nor is He some lesser divine being. He is fully God and equal in every way with the Father and the Son.