



# COME HOME

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Tracing God's Promise  
*of Home Through Scripture*

*Leader Guide*

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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.

*Come Home* is a video- and discussion-based Bible study from Caroline Saunders. The teaching videos were filmed at The Country Place in Moscow, Tennessee.

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

We encourage you to use this leader guide however it works best for you and your group. If you want to follow this guide to the letter, do that! If you want to do your own thing, feel free! Our hope 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

Seven 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.

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

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

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

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

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

**SESSION SEVEN**—Review the Session Six personal Bible study. Watch the Session Seven 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 (15 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)** During this time play the teaching video, encouraging the women to take notes on the Viewer Guide page for that specific session.

**DISCUSS (30 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 these ideas 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/comehome](https://www.lifeway.com/comehome).

Each video is intended to be viewed before 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. Visit [lifeway.com/comehome](https://www.lifeway.com/comehome) 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.

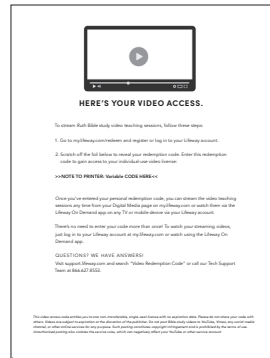
**GET COZY.** Make an effort to create a comfortable environment for group meetings. Arrange chairs in a circle to encourage conversation. If your group is large, you may want to watch the teaching video together and then split into smaller groups for the discussion time. If you choose to do so, enlist discussion leaders for each group to keep the conversation moving and focused.

**CHILDCARE.** Be sure to 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 information 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 theme of home in Scripture.

**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

### GATHER

Welcome women to the first session of *Come Home*. Provide name tags and distribute Bible study books if participants don't have them yet. MEET AND GREET one another! (We highly recommend snacks, coffee, and tea!) Spend a few minutes discussing these introductory prompts and icebreaker questions:

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

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

**How would you describe the ideal home?**

**What's the difference between a house and a home?**

### WATCH

Play the teaching video for Session One. Encourage participants to take notes or jot down questions on the Session One Viewer Guide on page 10.

### DISCUSS

Use the following questions to debrief the Session One video teaching. You can also find these questions on page 11 in the Bible study book.

**What is one thing in the video teaching that stood out to you? Why?**

**How would you finish this statement "To me, home is . . . "?**

**What does the goodness and abundance of the first home teach us about God? Does that challenge your thoughts on God in any way? Explain.**

**In what areas of your life do you currently see God's goodness on display?**

**Generally speaking, how have you seen sin wreak havoc on homes around you?**

**How does Satan tempt you to doubt God? How does he tempt you to be suspicious of God's life-giving boundaries?**

**How do you see God speak and act redemptively in the closing part of this story? How does that give you hope in your struggles with sin?**

**If someone asked you what you learned in our time together today, what would you say?**

## **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 complete Session One of the Bible study book before your next group gathering.

Close with prayer. Ask how the group can be praying for one another over the coming week, and then do that now.





# DISCUSSION GUIDE

## Session Two

### GATHER

Welcome participants back to the study. Allow a time of introductions for any newcomers. Use the following questions to get your group talking and to review the personal Bible study from Session One.

**If you're a reader, what book have you read recently that captured your attention within the first few pages?**

**Does God's story of home have the same effect? Why or why not?**

**Which day was your favorite day of study? 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 are some things you learned about God and humanity in this first week of study?**

**How has the enemy of sin affected your story of home?**

**What from the Day Five letter most resonated with you and why?**

### WATCH

Play the teaching video for Session Two. Encourage participants to take notes or jot down questions on the Session Two Viewer Guide on page 36.

### DISCUSS

Use the following questions to debrief the Session Two video teaching. You can also find these questions on page 37 in the Bible study book.

**What is one thing in the video teaching that stood out to you? Why?**

**What does it mean to walk by faith? How did Abraham display it?**

Would you say you are currently walking by faith? If not, why not? If so, what is the evidence?

Jacob had a life-changing encounter with God at Bethel. What is one "Bethel" moment you've had in your relationship with God? How did it impact you?

What does it mean that God was not just bringing Israel home but was *being* Israel's home? How is He doing the same for you?

Why is the journey home an important part of going home? What's your favorite part of the journey?

Like Jacob, do you ever find yourself fighting to secure your own blessings rather than trusting God to keep His promises? Explain.

If someone asked you what you learned in our time together today, what would you say?

## CLOSE

Provide a few minutes for group members to share how the study is affecting their daily walk with God and their time alone with Him. Lead the group to spend some time quietly thanking God for the journey He has each of them on. Voice a prayer to close.



# DISCUSSION GUIDE

## Session Three

### GATHER

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

What are some big promises people have made to you that they've kept? Which ones have they broken?

How have you seen God keep His big promises in your life?

Which day was your favorite day of study? Why?

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

How do the Genesis narratives help you understand what it looks like for God to keep watch over His people? How has God kept watch over you?

What do you learn about being a person of faith from Abraham? Would you consider yourself a person of faith? Explain.

What from the Day Five letter most resonated with you and why?

### WATCH

Play the teaching video for Session Three. Encourage participants to take notes or jot down questions on the Session Three Viewer Guide on page 64.

### DISCUSS

Use the following questions to debrief the Session Three video teaching. You can also find these questions on page 65 in the Bible study book.

What is one thing in the video teaching that stood out to you? Why?

How was Moses's relationship with home complicated? Would you say you've had a complicated relationship with home? Explain.

God told Moses His name is "I AM WHO I AM." How would you explain what that means and how that name shapes how you see God?

How have you experienced God's compassion and faithful love in recent days?

What are some things that keep us from trusting God when He's calling us to move forward in life, home, ministry? Are you currently struggling with any of these? Explain.

Is it hard for you to accept that God did not permit Moses to enter the promised land? Explain.

Even though Moses did not enter the promised land, he lacked nothing when it came to receiving God's promise of home. How is this truth helpful for you when you do not receive what you desire?

If someone asked you what you learned in our time together today, what would you say?

## **CLOSE**

Ask a few group members to share times they've struggled to trust God in their own stories of home and how they worked through the struggle. You may need to go first to encourage others to share. After some have shared, ask if there are members of the group currently experiencing a difficulty in trusting God. Gather around those who indicate this is a current struggle and pray for them.



# DISCUSSION GUIDE

## Session Four

### GATHER

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

How would you explain the saying "Home is where the heart is"?

Would you say your heart is currently at home with God right now? Explain.

Which day was your favorite day of study? Why?

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

When was a time you experienced a heightened level of awareness that God was with you? How did that impact the way you lived in that season? Are you currently in that kind of season? Explain.

How often do you think about the character of God and how does His character inform the way you pray, plan, and live?

What from the Day Five letter most resonated with you and why?

### WATCH

Play the teaching video for Session Four. Encourage participants to take notes or jot down questions on the Session Four Viewer Guide on page 90.

### DISCUSS

Use the following questions to debrief the Session Four video teaching. You can also find these questions on page 91 in the Bible study book.

What is one thing in the video teaching that stood out to you? Why?

When was a time you were the most homesick?

Do you think God treated the people of Israel too harshly with the exile? Explain.

In those times when sin was having its way in your life, how did God get your attention and call you back to Him?

What are your thoughts and feelings about Psalm 137, especially verses 8-9? Can you understand the sentiment? Can you learn from it? Explain.

How would you define lament? Do you feel freedom to express your hurt, pain, and even your anger and hate to the Lord? If not, what's hindering you from being able to lament?

What strikes you the most about Daniel's prayer in Daniel 6:10—his posture, his direction, his words, his discipline? How should his prayer shape your own prayer life?

If someone asked you what you learned in our time together today, what would you say?

## **CLOSE**

Model your closing prayer time after Daniel's prayer time in Daniel 6:10, including the posture and content of your praying. Allow several group members to voice prayers to close.



# DISCUSSION GUIDE

## Session Five

### GATHER

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

**What's the farthest place you've ever traveled away from home?**

**Think of the time you were farthest from God. What were your thoughts and emotions at that time?**

**Which day was your favorite day of study? 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 does it mean to want God's promises without God's presence? Why are we prone to that? How does that show up in your life?**

**What are your thoughts about Psalm 137? Did it shock you? Resonate with you? Why do you think it's included in this story of home?**

**What from the Day Five letter most resonated with you and why?**

### WATCH

Play the teaching video for Session Five. Encourage participants to take notes or jot down questions on the Session Five Viewer Guide on page 116.

### DISCUSS

Use the following questions to debrief the Session Five video teaching. You can also find these questions on page 117 in the Bible study book.

**What is one thing in the video teaching that stood out to you? Why?**

**Ever been through a time when it felt like God was silent? Explain.**

How does the genealogy in Matthew show us God was working out His plan the whole time? When you look back over your life history and beyond, how do you see God at work?

Does it seem absurd to you that the people of Jesus's day missed that He was the Messiah? How could that be? How do people today miss who Jesus is and their need for Him?

How is Jesus the fulfillment of Genesis 3:15?

How would you explain to someone who is not a Christian that Jesus is only the way home?

How has death been a cruel and terrifying enemy of home for you? How has Jesus given hope in this darkness?

If someone asked you what you learned in our time together today, what would you say?

## **CLOSE**

Provide a time of quiet prayer for group members to pray for unsaved friends, family, neighbors, and others. Encourage them to pray that God would draw those they are praying for and make their hearts tender to the gospel. Challenge them to pray that God would open a door for them to share the gospel with their loved ones. After this time of silent prayer, voice a prayer to close.





# DISCUSSION GUIDE

## Session Six

### GATHER

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

**Have you ever been lost? In the woods? In a car? In a big city?  
What was that experience like?**

**What are your thoughts and emotions knowing Jesus has made the way for you to spiritually come home?**

**Which day was your favorite day of study? 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 things readily become a distraction in your walk with God? This could even be good things that come between you and Him. How does this happen and how does it affect your worship?**

**What are your anxieties and worries about the future? How does knowing Jesus is preparing a place for you and will return for you make a difference in your journey?**

**What from the Day Five letter most resonated with you and why?**

### WATCH

Play the teaching video for Session Six. Encourage participants to take notes or jot down questions on the Session Six Viewer Guide on page 140.

### DISCUSS

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

**What is one thing in the video teaching that stood out to you? Why?**

Do you ever spiritually get the feeling of not quite being home yet? If so, explain.

Is it a little strange to think about the Holy Spirit living inside you? How would you explain what that means to a child or a brand new Christian?

How has the Holy Spirit been a helper to you in the past few days and weeks?

How does Jesus's promise to bring you home impact the way you think, speak, and act in your current home?

As God's people, we are the "go and tell" temple. What does that mean and does that describe your church?

What are you currently doing to keep both the individual temple and the collective temple healthy and functioning for God's purpose and His glory?

If someone asked you what you learned in our time together today, what would you say?

## **CLOSE**

Take a few minutes for group members to silently pray for the churches they attend. Challenge them to pray for unity and boldness and for God to make their churches "go and tell" temples. After a few minutes of silent prayer, provide a time for some of the group to voice prayers.

(OPTION: Either before or after your prayer time, point out to the group that next week is your final group meeting, during which they will hear God's story of home in one sitting. Discuss ways to make that final time together special.)



# DISCUSSION GUIDE

## Session Seven

(If you made plans last week with your group to celebrate this final session and hearing the full story together, incorporate those plans into this guide however it works best for you.)

### GATHER

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

**What would be your ideal house? Include location, square feet, type of structure, and other features.**

**How do you feel about eternity? Excited? Terrified? Apathetic? Explain your answer.**

**Which day was your favorite day of study? Why?**

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

**How do we continue to walk faithfully with God in this world when we've failed? When we're exhausted? When life is hard?**

**How does the promise of our ultimate home in the new heaven and new earth affect how you walk out your story of home?**

**What from the Day Five letter most resonated with you and why?**

### WATCH

Play the teaching video for Session Seven. Encourage participants to take notes or jot down questions on the Session Seven Viewer Guide on page 168.

### DISCUSS

Use the following questions to debrief the Session Seven video teaching. You can also find these questions on page 169 in the Bible study book.

What is one thing in the video teaching that stood out to you? Why?

How does hearing the story of home in Scripture told in one sitting help you better understand God's character and purpose?

What session of this study has been your favorite? Why?

What is one thing you've learned in your journey home that you'd love to pass on to someone younger in age or younger in the faith than you? Who's a person you can share that with?

What do you most look forward to in our forever home? Why?

If someone asked you what you learned in this Bible study what would you say?

How do you need to apply what you've learned from this study?

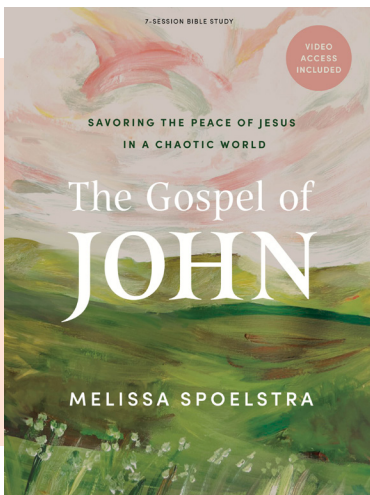
## **CLOSE**

Take a few moments to debrief the study. Discuss the highs and lows and the main takeaways. Close with a time praying for each other, that you would continue to walk in faithfulness to God together as you make your way home.

# 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.



## What's Next?

If you enjoyed this study, check out *The Gospel of John* by Melissa Spoelstra.

[lifeway.com/gospelofjohn](https://lifeway.com/gospelofjohn)



**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 with video access?**

There is a unique access code printed in each Bible study book. They will access their video content at [my.lifeway.com](http://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 group members watch video sessions outside of group 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 who are 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.