

Leader's Guide

Trusting God

...in all things

*a journey of heart and
hope through the
Book of Job*

Jennifer Brown

Hope in the Lord Women's Ministries
www.HopeintheLord.org

LEADER'S GUIDE FOR TRUSTING GOD IN ALL THINGS

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Hope in the Lord Women's Ministries

1557 Oak Drive

Blair, NE 68008-2236

402-960-3670

jennifer@hopeintheLord.org

www.hopeintheLord.org

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Leaders Guide

Welcome Leaders!

I cannot tell you how excited I am to embark on this Bible study journey with you! I'm so blessed by your obedience to serve God in this way, and your willingness to shepherd those He gives you to lead. My prayer team was overwhelmed with how powerfully God used this study with the live group of 120 women and also with the DVD pilot group of 100 women. And, now, we're just giddy to be able to put the study in the hands of women world-wide to see God's power continue to work and change lives – the lives in your very group!

If you have this Leaders Guide in your hands, it must mean that you are at least considering being a leader for this study. I praise God for that and pray that He will show you exactly where He is calling you to serve. I pray that this guide will help you prepare for your role and give you confidence as you move forward.

If you have already heard and obeyed God's call to be a leader, I want to thank you. I praise God for your willingness to serve Him and be used by Him. I know there are a lot of things vying for your time and that it's not always easy to be a servant, but I am certain you will be blessed for the time that you dedicate to helping your study group grow in the Lord and in relationship with each other.

Know that the Lord WILL provide everything you need. He will stretch your time and bless you and your family greatly for this service. I pray that He will give you a glimpse of the great works He is doing through you.

Leading a study can be a tough job at times. I know that when I have led small groups, I have felt very incompetent. It was probably because I was too focused on what the women thought about me instead of being focused on God! Just do your best and trust God to provide. Be kind, compassionate, honest, prepared, and prayerful. And, be yourself.

Because your time is valuable, I'm going to keep this guide as short as I possibly can, so let's get started!

May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. Hebrews 13:20-21

Study Layout

About the Workbook

The workbook is divided into nine weeks. Each week contains five daily lessons. The lessons are in-depth and will take approximately 30-45 minutes to complete.

In each daily lesson, there are questions marked with a small heart, typically two questions per day. These are the questions designated as discussion questions for your group time. You can use these questions or choose your own.

About the DVD

The video portions last between 38 and 62 minutes, depending on the week. The lengths of the weekly sessions are below. The videos are not necessary to complete the lesson, but include additional teaching and enhance the lessons in the workbook. The DVD teaching covers the scripture the participants have just spent the week studying.

A Typical Study Schedule

This is just a basic schedule. If you have not put together a Bible study before and would like more detailed information, please contact our Ministry.

Before the study:

2-4 months prior	Pray for and recruit leaders and child care helpers
1-2 months prior	Bulletin announcements, posters, flyers, mailers, newspaper notices
	Distribute leader's guides and ask leaders to start praying
	Start registration
	Determine local Christian counseling resources for suicide, depression, and marriage
1-2 weeks prior	Assign groups
	Meet with the leadership team to pray, review materials, hand out books

During the study:

Week	Discussion Time	DVD	Assignment
Week 1	Pass out books; introductions	Introduction (37:57)	Complete Lesson 1
Week 2	Lesson 1	Lesson 1 (48:43)	Complete Lesson 2
Week 3	Lesson 2	Lesson 2 (50:29)	Complete Lesson 3
Week 4	Lesson 3	Lesson 3 (53:52)	Complete Lesson 4
Week 5	Lesson 4	Lesson 4 (59:34)	Complete Lesson 5
Week 6	Lesson 5	Lesson 5 (56:02)	Complete Lesson 6
Week 7	Lesson 6	Lesson 6 (59:07)	Complete Lesson 7
Week 8	Lesson 7	Lesson 7 (61:44)	Complete Lesson 8
Week 9	Lesson 8	Lesson 8 (60:42)	Complete Lesson 9
Week 10	Lesson 9		
Week 11	Fellowship	Lesson 9 (55:27)	

Many groups end with a potluck fellowship and offer an open microphone or discussion time for the ladies to share how the study has affected them. Some also take a week off to meet in homes for fellowship in the middle of the study. These are great options to encourage group bonding and friendships.

A Typical Meeting-Time Schedule

Again, this is just a basic schedule for a two hour study. If you need additional information to determine your group's schedule, please contact Hope in the Lord Women's Ministries and we'll be happy to assist you.

I strongly encourage you to be timely. Start on time; end on time. Most women will appreciate this and the late-arrivers will usually adapt their schedule to arrive on time.

This sample schedule uses a 9:00 start time as an example. Because of the length of the DVD lessons, it's recommended that you do this study with two hour sessions.

Sample Schedule:

Start	Stop	Activity
8:45	8:55	Leader prayer meeting
9:00	9:10	Welcome, any announcements, opening prayer, possibly a song
9:10	10:00	Discussion Group
10:00	11:00	DVD Viewing

In this study, the DVD and discussion times can be reversed if that works better for your group. The DVD contains both an opening and closing prayer.

Leader Information

Prayer: The most important component

Yes, it is very important that you do your lesson and come to Bible study prepared each week, but prayer is every bit as important. I have participated in Bible studies that fell apart and Bible studies that God used to greatly transform lives. The difference that I could see was the presence or absence of prayer.

God already knows what you need, from a meeting time and place, to childcare workers, to how to temper the woman who takes over the group while, at the same time, encouraging the quiet woman to speak. He already knows everything you will encounter and He has a plan. As a leader, this is an incredible opportunity for you to build your trust in God and see how abundantly He provides for every need you have.

Start praying now. Pray for all your needs and watch to see how God is answering your prayers. If you are the class leader, commit to praying for your group leaders daily, by name. If you are a group leader, commit to praying for your ladies daily, by name. Ask your childcare workers to pray for the children daily, by name, also. You will be amazed at His guidance and provision.

Be specific in your prayers. Pray for bonding and for each woman to find a friend in the group. Pray for the quiet women to be more willing to share and the talkative women to be more willing to listen. Pray for the roads to be clear and for the women to attend. Pray for healthy leaders. Pray for salvation and break-through. Pray for the DVD player to work. Pray for everything!

Preparation & Organization

It's important for you, as a leader to have your lesson completed and to come prepared. This study has longer lessons, so you'll need to set aside time each day to do the daily lesson.

After you've completed your lesson, decide which questions you will use. The heart questions are marked for group discussion, but there might be others that you feel led to discuss. Use a highlighter to mark the questions in your book so you can quickly find them. Determine how much time you want to spend on each question and how many women you want to answer so you will be able to get through all the questions in your allotted discussion time.

Guiding Your Group

You are in a unique position to guide and encourage these women. Focus on building relationships with them. When they're gone, give them a call to see if they need anything. Some leaders will have all the ladies sign a card to be mailed to an absent member.

On the outside, we women are great at putting on a smiling face and "I'm fine" mask. But many of the women in your group are going to be dealing with insecurities that will threaten to keep them from the study. My heart has broken at some of the reasons why women have dropped out of studies I've attended: some believe they are unworthy to do Bible study, others worry that they don't know enough, some let shame of marital or family problems keep them away.

Encourage your ladies to attend each week. Open your welcoming arms to let them know that their presence is a blessing, even if their lesson isn't done, even if they happen to be sinners like the rest of us, even if their life is upside down. I believe the women who are not attending just might be the ones who most need to attend.

In guiding your group discussion time, don't be afraid to call on people for answers. Each week, mark a few of the discussion questions that aren't personal and use them to call on the quiet ladies.

My final advice comes on fragile ground, so I'm praying the heart of what I am saying will be communicated here: Job's friends are a great example of the damage done when we mix our opinions with God's truth and present it all as truth. Keep your ears open for "I think" statements by the ladies about the Lord or His Word. We want them to learn to rely less on "I think" and more on "the Bible says." That is a delicate thing to encourage and correct at the same time.

Pray for God to show you how to redirect those conversations from opinions and false truths to the truth of God, both each morning before study and again even as you hear false truth. You will be amazed at how He provides the words you need. Sometimes it won't feel like they were the correct words, but you can trust Him to work in them. I'm talking about statements that directly oppose the Word of God; we don't want to get into arguments over general beliefs. A great way to handle this is to encourage them to give scriptural references with their answers.

The Tough Stuff of Job

This journey tackles some difficult topics: suicide, depression, marital strength. In the pilot group, the leaders were concerned that they didn't have the resources to deal with women struggling in some of these areas. I spoke with Christian counselors and they advised me to not to put a national hotline number or resource in the study, but to have leaders seek out local resources that provide Christian counseling in these areas. Likely, your church will offer these services or be able to point you in the right direction.

There are also tough questions about God that come up in this study. When you're not sure what scripture says, tell the ladies that. Let them know you'll do some searching and get back to them. Ask God for wisdom in guiding them to appropriate scriptures that will help with their questions. Discuss the questions with other discussion group leaders. And remember, we just won't know everything this side of Heaven.

The First Week

Here are some items to cover with your ladies the first week:

- There are five daily lessons to complete each week. The goal is to develop the habit of daily prayer and study. The lessons are not short, so don't wait until the night before to do them all.
- If you don't get your entire lesson done, we still want you to come to study.
- The questions marked with hearts will be used for group discussion.
- If you go outside of the referenced scripture for an answer, be sure to note the scripture address (book, chapter, verse) so you can share it with the group.
- Don't use commentaries or read ahead in the workbook to answer the questions. When you're doing your lesson, let God and His Word speak to you. Don't worry

about right or wrong. After you have completed your lesson, feel free to explore commentaries.

- What is discussed in Bible study is confidential.
- We will be respectful of each other in Bible study and encourage each other.
- Don't be afraid to be real here.

What Matters Most

The most significant thing that this study can do is lead women to Christ or deepen their relationship with Him. The message of salvation is woven throughout this study. Please be sure that you read "What Matters Most" and the end of this study and that you are prepared to assist others in choosing Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. And, when that happens, please be sure to email me or encourage the ladies to email me so we can all celebrate together! My email address is jennifer@hopeintheLord.org.

Thank You, Ladies!

I pray that you have a grand time during this study. I pray that you are stretched and strengthened and Spirit-filled. Our God is good and I join you in praising Him now for what He is going to do through you... Amen.