

THE BIBLE IN 90 DAYS™
LEADER'S GUIDE



TED COOPER JR.



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The Bible in 90 Days™ | Leader's Guide

Edited by Ted Cooper Jr.

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WELCOME TO THE BIBLE IN 90 DAYS™

You are about to embark on a special journey.

The journey will start on the first page of the Bible and end on the last. You'll read just 12 pages a day and finish in 90 days.

Others will be on this journey with you. You'll gather with them once a week to ask questions, share insights and hear a lesson drawn from your reading. You'll encourage them and they'll encourage you.

I took this journey for the first time in 1999. In the beginning, I was agnostic. Halfway through reading the Bible, I became a believer. Your experience will differ from mine, because you won't start this journey with the same background or needs. But whatever your background, be prepared for an extraordinary experience.

Reading every word of the Bible is not the norm, nor is doing so in such a short time frame. Something just happens when you do this. In your case, this "something" might be obvious, or maybe it won't become apparent for a while.

This curriculum and its accompanying resources will continue to evolve, so we invite your suggestions and comments. We've always believed that a critical ingredient in this curriculum's effectiveness is the godly guidance we receive from its participants and leaders ... people like you.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ted". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a long horizontal stroke at the top of the "T" and a similar stroke at the top of the "d".

Ted Cooper Jr.

Creator | *The Bible in 90 Days™*

www.biblein90days.org

FOR STARTERS

Thanks for choosing this *Bible in 90 Days* small group DVD Leader's curriculum. Please take a few minutes to read this helpful information before you begin. It should answer most questions you may have.

WHAT'S ON THE DVDS?

The accompanying 3 DVD set features fourteen video sessions that include your choice of two different teachers for each session. The first video session (Session 1) is an introduction of B90 by *The Bible in 90 Days* founder, Ted Cooper, Jr. More will be stated about the videos in the following section.

TWO VIDEO TEACHING FORMATS AVAILABLE

As a leader, you have two teaching choices for the video segment of Sessions 2–14. One choice for teaching is Jack Modesett, Jr., a Houston businessman who has taught adult Sunday school for decades and whose lessons have been broadcast on Christian radio in Houston. He also served as chairman of the board for *Christianity Today* magazine. Jack Modesett's teachings are designed to give an overview of the readings, and he tends to focus on bringing different life lessons out of each session.

The second choice for teaching is Dr. John Walton (Sessions 2–10), professor of Old Testament at Wheaton College in Illinois, and Dr. Mark Strauss (Sessions 11–14), professor of New Testament at Bethel Seminary in San Diego. These gentlemen teach in slightly different settings, but with similar styles. They focus on supplementing the reading with overview information, pulling the different threads of Scripture together, and helping participants to weave the different stories together into one bright tapestry. They provide summary information from the Bible readings just accomplished and end each session with an overview of what participants should look for as they continue to read.

Sample a session or two from each of the choices and then decide which teaching style would be most appropriate for your group. (We suggest you stick to one set of teaching throughout the program.) Also, be aware that Modesett's video segments average 27 minutes each, while Walton's and Strauss's segments average 20 minutes each.

WHAT OTHER MATERIALS ARE NEEDED FOR A SUCCESSFUL EXPERIENCE?

- Television or large computer monitor or projector
- DVD player (stand, extension cord, etc.)
- Watch or clock for monitoring time
- B90 Participant's Guide (one per participant)
- B90 Leader's Guide (additional copies are available as a PDF file upon request)
- The *Bible in 90 Days* (one per participant)
- Pen or pencil for everyone
- Option: *The Essential Bible Companion*, a full color reference guide by Ted Cooper Jr., John H. Walton, and Mark L. Strauss

GOOD TO KNOW

- This curriculum can work equally well in church and home groups. Each of the 14 sessions is planned to be 60 minutes in length. In time-sensitive settings, leaders will likely need to closely follow the time frames provided in the session outline in order to finish the content. In less formal home settings, leaders can “round off” the time frames and still end up with about an hour of study material. In either case, remember that these are suggested time frames.
- Feel free to adapt each session to your particular group. Reword or add questions if you wish. If you sense that a certain statement or question is inappropriate for your group you may omit it or at least recognize that not everyone needs to answer every question. On the other hand, don't be afraid to tackle tough topics.

SMALL GROUP NOTES

This section is intended to be required reading for all leaders and leader teams of *The Bible in 90 Days*. It's based firmly in research, and comes out of our experience in leading groups of people through this curriculum many hundreds of times.

1. DETERMINE WHERE THE GROUPS SHOULD MEET

Each group is different and has access to different kinds of facilities, so the overall rule in all of the following information is that leaders must adapt our suggestions to their particular location and situation.

If the group meeting at any one time or place is 15 people or fewer, for the purposes of our leader's and Participant's Guide you have one group. That group will be considered both the small group and the large group in the guides. This will be the case for most cell church groups or home groups that plan to do the entire curriculum independent of any larger grouping.

Such groups can meet virtually anywhere: at a church, in a home, in a conference room at work, in a school classroom. We've even had *Bible in 90 Days* groups meet at fire stations and libraries. The two main criteria are (1) make sure it's a comfortable place that fosters discussion for the people in the group, and (2) have available a TV or projection screen and a DVD player.

If, however, the small group is part of a larger group that meets at the same time and physical location, then small groups should meet in close proximity to each other. This minimizes the time moving back and forth from small groups to large group. Depending on your facility, you may have several small groups meet for discussion in the same room that is later used for large group activities. The key is to balance the need for an environment that promotes discussion with the logistical need for quickly moving individuals to and from the small and large groups.

2. ORGANIZE DISCUSSION GROUPS AND SELECT FACILITATORS

If your *Bible in 90 Days* class or group has 15 or fewer participants, there is no need to break into smaller groups for discussion purposes. For the purposes of both the Leader's Guide and the Participant's Guide, your group of 15 or fewer is considered both the large group and the small group. In

this case the leader can also serve as the small group facilitator, unless the leader wants to delegate that task.

However, with more than 15 participants, we advise that the group break into smaller groups of 8 to 12 people each. By breaking into small groups, *The Bible in 90 Days* curriculum has been used effectively with groups as small as two people and with groups having over 1000 total participants.

Creating Effective Groups

Please keep the following guidelines in mind as you form groups:

- We suggest composing groups by age. For example, keep ages 35 and under together (both married and singles can be in one group) and intermix those over age 35. Or separate participants by these age categories: 20s, 30–45, 45–60, 60 plus.
- Attempt to place each participant with at least two others who are in a similar life stage.
- A group comprised entirely of women is fine. With any group that includes men, try to have a minimum of three men in the group.
- You may choose to put spouses together in a group, in order for them to feel most comfortable. However, since some spouses tend to dominate the discussion in small groups, you may wish to assign spouses to different groups. And some couples may even request to be assigned to different groups, so be prepared for that request.
- Size each group so that it has 8 or 9 members attending each week. This may mean initially assigning, say, 12 people to each group. Some of the groups may need to be combined as the weeks progress.

The discussion groups meet for the first time during Session 2 and continue to meet through Session 13 (the second-to-last meeting).

Selecting Facilitators

You will need at least one leader or facilitator for each discussion group; if at all possible, we recommend a co-leader for each group. Ideally, try to have one or two people committed to facilitate each group before you start Session 2. However, if you still are short a facilitator or two as Session 2 is about to begin, you can probably recruit, on the spot, a couple of individuals who are willing to lead.

The three most important characteristics your small group leaders should possess are:

- First, and most important, *a solid commitment to finish the program*. It is very deflating to other group members if the group leader drops out.
- The ability/demeanor to facilitate discussion rather than teach.
- A willingness to abide by the Discussion Group Rules of Engagement (see the top of page 25 in this Leader's Guide or page 11 in the Participant's Guide).

The rules set forth in the Discussion Group Rules of Engagement are important enough to the process that we recommend that the facilitator reread or encourage the participants to reread these rules at the beginning of small group time in Sessions 2, 3, and 4.

Preparing Group Rosters

After finalizing group assignments, prepare rosters that can be distributed to every participant at the beginning of Session 2. It is best if you prepare two rosters, one listing every participant alphabetically (see Sample 1) and the other listing the individuals within their groups (see Sample 2). Depending on the total number of participants, one roster can be printed on the front of a piece of paper, the other roster on the back. See samples on page 12.

3. CREATE AND USE ACCOUNTABILITY NAME BADGES

Many churches and groups that have successfully used *The Bible in 90 Days* program have found two-sided, two-color name badges an effective way to encourage accountability with the readings. Samples of how to create and use these name badges are on page 12.

Once a fairly final roster has been set, make a two-sided, two-color name badge for each participant following the steps below:

1. Gather or purchase the following supplies (quantities based on the size of the group):
 - sheets of two different colored paper;
 - sheets of white paper; and
 - three-inch by four-inch hanging name badges (e.g., Avery CS-4C, available from office supply stores).

2. Download “B90 Name Tags.doc” from:
<http://scriptureawakening.com/b90/resources/>
3. Open “B90 Name Tags.doc” in Microsoft Word.
4. Enter the name of each participant, replacing the [First name] and [Last name] place holders.
5. When all names have been entered, print out the file three times, first on one of the colored papers, then on the other colored paper, and finally on white paper.
6. Using paper cutter or scissors, cut the paper so that each name label fits properly in the plastic badge holder.
7. Upon completion, a name badge for sample participant “Gerald Smith” would show his name in one color facing one way and in another color facing the other way when the badge is flipped vertically.
8. Place the white copy of the participant’s name between the color copies so that it is not visible at this time.

For more information on presenting these name badges to your group participants, please see the opening portion of Session 2.

Maintaining Name Badges

Apart from the accountability aspect, name badges are a wonderful community-building tool, especially in larger groups in which people might not know everyone.

Be sure that people leave their name badges behind at the end of Sessions 2 through 13 so that they are available to pick up at the door the following week. Name badges that go home typically don’t return. However, people may keep their badges after the end of Session 14 as a remembrance of *The Bible in 90 Days*.

4. BE PREPARED WITH MATERIALS AND ADVICE FOR LATECOMERS

It is not uncommon for friends, coworkers or family members to want to join a B90 group after it has started. Our experience is that people who join by Session 2 have a good chance of catching up in the reading and completing the goal. Few people who start after Session 2 succeed. So be prepared with extra materials and a spot or two in the small groups for latecomers. Then, encourage them to start at the beginning and catch up either by:

- reading 14 or so pages a day until they get caught up, or
- setting aside a good chunk of time on one day (Sunday is usually ideal) to get caught up all at once.

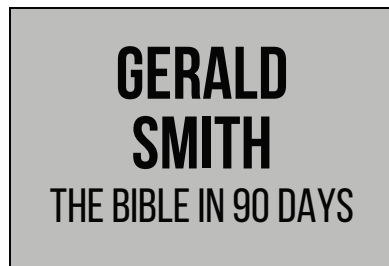
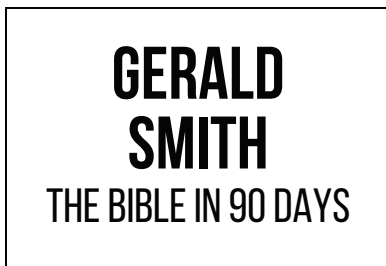
For a variety of reasons we do *not* recommend that latecomers be encouraged to skip up to the point where others are reading. Among other things, at the end of the reading they will find that they have not read the entire Bible from cover to cover.

Sample 1 Roster Page FRONT

Name	Group
Ames, Beth	A
Ames, Bill	A
Johnson, Pat	D
Jones, Fred	C
Jones, Jane	C
Miller, Don	D
Miller, Peg	D
Smith, Sam	A
Williams, Ron	B
Wood, Sue	B

Sample 2 Roster Page BACK

Group	Name
A	Ames, Beth
	Ames, Bill
	Smith, Sam
	<i>Meets in Circle A</i>
B	Williams, Ron
	Wood, Sue
	<i>Meets in Circle B</i>
C	Jones, Fred
	Jones, Jane
	<i>Meets in Circle C</i>
D	Johnson, Pat
	Miller, Don
	Miller, Peg
	<i>Meets in Circle D</i>



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Over time, a number of frequently asked questions have surfaced regarding this Bible reading program. Here are some of the more common queries and answers (these also appear in the Participant's Guide on page 9):

Q: Should I do anything before I start reading each day?

A: We recommend that you say a brief, silent prayer such as this: "Gracious Father, thank you for the gift I hold in my hands. May your Spirit fill me and interpret your precious words for me as I read. In your Son's name I pray. Amen."

Q: How much will I read each day?

A: Each day you'll read 12 pages in *The Bible in 90 Days*. On Day 1 you start with page 1 and read until you see a page marker* like this:



Continue to do likewise each day. At the end of 90 days, you'll have read the entire Bible from cover to cover. We encourage you to do what you can to alleviate distractions so that you can reach your goal of reading each word attentively. (*Note: the page marker displayed above is an example taken from the new paperback NIV B90 Bible.)

Q: When should I read?

A: That's completely up to you. Some will read first thing in the morning, before getting out of bed. Others will make it the last thing they do each night. Still others will read at various times during the day and/or night. Some will read their daily quota all in one sitting. Others will space their reading throughout the day, reading a page or two in several sittings. Try more than one approach; one of the benefits of doing this reading is becoming comfortable with reading your Bible at any time.

Q: What if I get behind?

A: Try your best not to get behind. But, if you do, there is one very important rule about catching up: Do not skip any pages! There are two reasons for this rule: (1) If you skip anything, by definition you will not have read from cover to cover, which is an important part of this process. (2) If you skip anything, our research shows that you are unlikely to go back and read what you skipped, so, again, you won't end up reading the entire Bible. If you get behind, just read some extra pages each day until you've caught back up to the class.

Q: What if I get *way* behind?

A: If you happen to get more than a day or two behind, set aside a large block of time during one day — Sundays are good for this — and just “plow through” the reading. This may seem more like a chore than a spiritual experience, but you will probably be surprised by the insights you glean from this. As importantly, after a day (or so) of reading this way, you’ll be caught up! Remember, too, that God’s work sometimes seems like, well, *work*. Reading the Bible from cover to cover *is* a challenge; however, when this challenge is met, you’ll be glad that you persevered.



SESSION 1

BEFORE YOU LEAD

For the best experience in leading your congregation, class or group through *The Bible in 90 Days*, it is important to preview Session 1 on the DVD. Familiarize yourself with the session outline and gather the necessary materials.

Also, if you have more than 15 people participating, you'll spend some time during each session in small discussion groups, starting with the second session. You will need at least one leader (facilitator) for each small group; if at all possible, we recommend a co-leader for each group. This week, be on the lookout for capable small group facilitators. (For more information on organizing small groups and selecting facilitators, see "Leader Preparation Between Sessions 1 and 2" in this Leader's Guide.)

SESSION OUTLINE

- I. Welcome Activities (5 minutes)
- II. Whole Group Discussion (15 minutes)
- III. Video Discovery (10–15 minutes)
- IV. Video Discussion (optional 5 minutes)
- V. General Reading Tips (3 minutes)
- VI. Administrative Issues (3 minutes)
- VII. Are You Committed? (5 minutes)
- VIII. Conclusion (1 minute)

WELCOME ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

"Welcome to *The Bible in 90 Days*. Yes, we are going to read the Bible, all of it, from cover to cover, in three months. In this session, we will

- cover the *whys, whens, wheres, and hows* of *The Bible in 90 Days* curriculum;
- discuss the materials that we'll be using;
- answer your questions; and
- wrap up the session with a prayer, which I'll begin aloud and you will finish silently.

“It is my hope, after hearing all about the process — and understanding that there is a challenge in doing this — that you’ll pray that God will help you modify your life just a bit for the next 90 days, so that you can read his Word from cover to cover. After [today’s/tonight’s] session is over, those of you who have not already received your materials (*The Bible in 90 Days*, the *B90 Participant’s Guide*, and [optionally] *The Essential Bible Companion*) can pick those up.

“Finally, before we start: Some of you may not believe in God or in Jesus Christ. Some of you may not believe that the Bible is the Word of God. That’s OK. Actually, the man who created this curriculum did not believe in any of these either — until he read the Bible. So, we understand. And we won’t push you. We just invite you to stick with us, and we’re very glad you’re here.

“Now, let’s get started with a prayer [open with your own prayer or with this one]:

“Dear Lord, thank you for inviting each of us here [today/tonight] and for opening our hearts to consider your invitation. Please fill each of us with your Spirit right now, and give me the ability to clearly and accurately communicate both the benefits and challenges of The Bible in 90 Days. I pray that upon understanding both the challenges and benefits, each group member will commit to this extraordinary, 90-day journey through your Word. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.”

“Please take one minute (just 60 seconds) to introduce yourself to someone next to you or close to you that you do *not* already know. If you know everybody, then be nice to them anyway!”

WHOLE GROUP DISCUSSION (15 MINUTES)

[Read aloud to the entire group the italicized story at the top of page 13 in the *B90 Participant’s Guide*.]

“In this session we are going to talk about some of the reasons that we want to become very familiar with the Bible. One of those reasons is so that we can have some sense of when God might be the one sending the boats and helicopters to rescue us. Right now, we want to consider as a group the questions in your *Participant’s Guide*.”

[Use the questions on pages 13–14 in the *Participant’s Guide* to lead the whole group through a discussion about why they are interested in reading

the Bible from cover to cover. Ask people to *keep responses brief*, and *encourage a variety of people to respond* (don't let the conversation be dominated by a few). It's not necessary to answer all of the questions or to have everyone speak. That said, the priority is to get as many people as is practical actively engaged in the discussion.]

[Wrap up the discussion by thanking everyone for sharing their thoughts. Then summarize by noting the following:]

“Some past participants of *The Bible in 90 Days* program have said that reading through the Bible in this deliberate, intensive manner has

- helped them achieve a long-held goal;
- provided an excellent overview of the sweeping story of Scripture;
- started a pattern of Bible reading that became a habit in their lives;
- enhanced their understanding of what they hear in worship services and Bible studies;
- significantly strengthened their relationship with God;
- changed their lives.

“Two of the many compelling reasons for us to read the Bible are as follows: First, the Bible gives important insights into an area of the world at the center of today's geopolitical activities. Second, because of what Paul tells us in 2 Timothy 3:16–17: ‘All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.’”

VIDEO DISCOVERY (10–15 MINUTES)

“Now that we have a good idea of why many of you are here, let's view a video that will give us a concise overview of *The Bible in 90 Days*. You may take notes on page 15 in your Participant's Guide.” [Show the DVD introductory session.]

VIDEO DISCUSSION (OPTIONAL 5 MINUTES)

“Based on the video, what questions do you have about *The Bible in 90 Days*?” [Answer any questions you can; offer to find answers by the next session for questions you cannot answer.]

“Let's do a quick recap of the video, and then we'll review some reading tips.”

[Discuss the answers to the questions on page 16 in the Participant's Guide.]

The creator of *The Bible in 90 Days* recommends a particular Bible because:

- It's a translation (not a paraphrase) in contemporary language.
- It's typeset in larger print, so it's easier on your eyes.
- It has few footnotes, so there are fewer distractions.
- It's thin, so it looks less daunting to read, plus it's easy to carry.
- In our discussions, we can refer to page numbers rather than chapters and verses.

What should I do if I get behind in my reading? (Circle only one)

- a. Spend a little more time reading each day until I catch up and/or set aside a special block of time to catch up
- b. Skip ahead
- c. Just quit

“Does everybody know that “a” is the right answer? Try not to get behind, but, if you do, keep reading until you catch up. *Don't* skip ahead, and *don't* quit. If you do, by definition you won't have read the entire Bible.”

What if I'm an atheist or agnostic, or I don't believe this is the Word of God? Can I still join in?

Absolutely!

GENERAL READING TIPS (3 MINUTES)

[Review the Reading Tips on pages 16–17 in the Participant's Guide with the group.]

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES (3 MINUTES)

[Address administrative issues, such as when and where you'll be meeting, your policies for starting and ending on time, and the costs of the curriculum. On this last point, we suggest that *The Bible in 90 Days*, the Participant's Guide and (optionally) *The Essential Bible Companion* be available for distribution to participants at the beginning and end of the first and second sessions. It is too disruptive to distribute them during the sessions.]

“Now, I’ll answer any remaining questions and after that I will start us in a prayer in which you’ll have the opportunity to silently pray to your Maker and come to a private decision about committing to reading the Bible in 90 days with us.”

[Spend a few minutes fielding questions. If this part of the session goes too long, offer to answer other questions after the class has been dismissed.]

ARE YOU COMMITTED? (5 MINUTES)

[Note: “Accountability” is one of the pillars of a successful experience with The Bible in 90 Days. There is no greater accountability than when one makes a commitment to God. Even atheists or agnostics typically respect such a solemn promise. Take a few minutes to prepare the group or class for the commitment prayer, either by reading or summarizing the following content and by answering any last-minute questions.]

“The journey we are about to take together is an extraordinary one. You clearly are intrigued by the notion, or you wouldn’t be here. Even if you came at the insistence of a family member or friend, aren’t you wondering, *Is there some greater purpose for my being here?* It’s OK if you’re not sure. It’s even OK if you are not a believer. At worst, by following this program you will become one of the minority of people who have read every word of the world’s most influential book. At best, you’ll have an experience that will change your life *forever*.”

“Any questions? [Allow two or three minutes for questions, but if this goes too long, offer to meet with participants after the session.]

“Ultimately, the decision is between you and God. Now I’ll pray, giving time during the prayer for you to pray silently.”

Commitment Prayer

“Lord, You’ve invited each of us here to sign up for this 14-week adventure. While we think we understand some of the parameters of this journey, and we have some idea where this will lead, we also know there will be unanticipated twists and turns along the way. We expect ups and downs in this adventure, and we know it will be a challenge. But we know too that You have brought us together to advance Your purposes in our lives. As each of us prays our silent decision to You regarding this effort, we ask that You will give us whatever resources we

need to respond to Your will. Hear us as we each pray silently for one minute.” [After 60 seconds] *“In Your Son’s name we pray. Amen.”*

CONCLUSION (1 MINUTE)

“I believe this is going to be a truly transformational experience. If you have friends, loved ones, even enemies (!) who you think might benefit from doing this, invite them to join us. They can start as late as the next session, Session 2, and should still be able to catch up.

“If you can, go home and get started on your reading right away, either [today/tonight] or tomorrow. Either way, we ask that you plan to have read seven days’ worth of the Bible by the time we meet next week. Please also note the activities entitled “On Your Own Between Sessions” on pages 16–19 in the Participant’s Guide. These notes will help you as you progress through the readings this week. Have a spectacular week!”



SESSION 2

LEADER PREPARATION BETWEEN SESSIONS 1 AND 2

Between Sessions 1 and 2 there are various steps that *The Bible in 90 Days* group leader and/or leadership team needs to accomplish that are integral to the long-term success of *The Bible in 90 Days* experience. If you have a large group (more than 15 people), we recommend that you plan ahead to organize separate small groups (of 8 to 12 people) to allow for more overall participation and a more meaningful experience. Please turn to the section entitled “Small Group Notes” on pages 8–12 in this Leader’s Guide for further direction and instructions. We also want you to try the accountability name badge exercise that is outlined in the same section. Also, please read what to do for individuals who want to join in this challenge during this session. (We don’t recommend allowing anyone to join after Session 2.)

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

For the best experience in leading your class or small group, it’s very important to **preview Session 2** on the DVD, especially to decide which video sessions you will use. (Reminder: There is information about each of the teachers on page 6 in this guide.) You should also read the week’s Bible reading assignment, Genesis 1:1 through Exodus 40:38, in the *Bible in 90 Days*. Familiarize yourself with the session outline and gather all the necessary materials.

PRESENTING NAME BADGES

As mentioned in Session 1, accountability is key to both individual and group success in *The Bible in 90 Days*. Although there are certainly a number of ways to practice accountability, a particularly effective method that many groups have used involves two-color name badges. The purpose of name badges is not only to familiarize the participants with each other but also to identify each participant’s weekly reading progress.

As people enter, have them pick up the name badges you prepared for them before the session. At this point, it does not matter which color shows. Just have each participant put their name badge on.

[You may choose to read or put in your own words the following presentation:]

“You may have noticed that there are two sides to your name badges; they are exactly the same except for the color. Here’s why.

“Would you please remove your name badge and hold it in your hand. Now, would those of you who have completed all of the Bible reading for this week please put your name badges back on with the [select one color] showing. [Wait a few moments for people to do this.]

“Now, would those of you who are a little behind on the reading please put your name badges back on with the [other color] showing.

“We realize that some of you may be a little uncomfortable right now, but let me assure you that our purpose is not to embarrass anyone. Our purpose is to help you — in a variety of ways, this being one — to fulfill your commitment to read, attentively, every word of the Bible over the next 90 days. While the name badge approach may seem a bit silly to some or a bit cruel to others, people who have used *The Bible in 90 Days* at other churches invariably say that these name badges played a *very positive role* in their completing the program.

“For those who prefer not to use a colored name badge, you’ll find a white one between the two colored ones that you can pull out and use instead — without guilt, no questions asked. However, we strongly suggest that you try the colored name badges, at least for a few weeks. Again, our purpose here is simply to help you succeed in achieving this life-changing goal.”

[Also, give each person the small group roster indicating to which group each person is assigned and where each group will meet.]

SESSION OUTLINE

- I. Welcome Activities (15 minutes)
- II. Small Group Discussion (20 minutes)
- III. Video Discovery (20–25 minutes, depending on the video segment chosen)
- IV. Video Discussion (optional 5 minutes)
- V. This Coming Week’s Reading (2 minutes)
- VI. Closing Prayer (1 minute)

WELCOME ACTIVITIES (15 MINUTES)

[Open in prayer, or you may wish to rotate the role of opening with prayer among the participants. After the prayer, begin with the following story or a humorous story of your own choosing:]

One day in the Garden of Eden, Eve calls out to God, “Lord, I have a problem!”

“What’s the problem, Eve?”

“Lord, I know you’ve created me and have provided this beautiful garden and all of these wonderful animals, and that hilarious comedy snake, but I’m just not happy.”

“Why is that, Eve?” comes the reply from above. “Lord, I’m lonely. And I’m sick to death of apples.”

“Well, Eve, in that case, I have a solution. I shall create a man for you.”

“What’s a man, Lord?”

“The man will be a flawed creature, with aggressive tendencies, an enormous ego and an inability to empathize or listen to you properly. All in all, he’ll give you a hard time. But there will be benefits to having him around. At the very least, you’ll have someone bigger than you to do some of the heavy lifting in the garden. Plus, there are other benefits that you’ll find out about later.”

“Sounds great,” says Eve, with an ironically raised eyebrow. “Yeah, well. He’s better than a poke in the eye with a burnt stick. But you can only have him on one condition.”

“What’s that, Lord?”

“You’ll have to let him believe that I made him first.”

“We are going to have fun on this journey; I think you’ll find it enjoyable in a number of ways. But one of the things we want to discover during this journey is what is in the Bible and what is not. The story I just read, as you’ve found out from your reading this week, is not. It must be from some other ‘bootleg’ version of Genesis.

“It’s great to have you back after a week of reading God’s Word. We’ll break up into small groups and talk about your reading in just a few minutes. But first, I want us to consider an overarching question — one

that we should keep in mind throughout our reading. Please turn to page 20 in your Participant's Guide. I'll read aloud to you. [Read the "Mrs. Hughes" story at the top of the page.]

"One difference between God and us is that he does know who his children will be. Yet he creates us and gives us a free will, despite that knowledge. A question we might ponder while reading the Bible from cover to cover is, 'Knowing what he knows, why would God create each of us? Why did God create me?'"

Revisiting What We Are Doing

- Remember what our mission is: "To read, attentively, every word of the Bible in 90 days."
- As you encounter repetition in the Bible, consider it an opportunity to more firmly plant important writings in your mind.
- Remember, do not obsess with capturing all that you are reading. Absorb what you can, and don't worry about the rest.
- If you have gotten behind in your reading, catch up by reading as long as necessary this Sunday.

Prepare to Break Up Into Small Groups

"We're just about to move into our small groups. Each week you'll meet in your small groups to discuss what you've been reading. In order to make this a good and helpful experience for everyone, we'll abide by something called the Discussion Group Rules of Engagement. You'll find these on page 11 in your Participant's Guide. Please turn to that page.

[Review the Discussion Group Rules of Engagement with the group. Either read the rules aloud yourself, or choose different people to each read one of the rules. Then allow people to ask questions about them.]

"Does anybody have any questions about these rules of engagement?
[Allow a minute for any questions.]

"OK, let's break into small groups. Use the roster that you were given when you came in. Please move into your small groups quickly, as we'll be more pressed for time than usual this week. Also, please be back here promptly in xx minutes to view this week's video lesson."

DISCUSSION GROUP RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

1. In each group, we've asked one or two people to serve as facilitators. These individuals will lead or guide the discussion, but will not teach.
2. Each small group member is invited to join into the discussion but is not required to do so. Even if a question is posed for everyone in the group to answer (for example, "Let's go around the table and find out what everyone thinks about..."), each participant should feel free to remain silent on the subject. In such a case, someone abstaining might simply say, "Thank you, but I'd like to pass on answering that question."
3. Alternatively, please do not dominate the discussion. Discussion time is limited, so please be sure that everyone who wants to speak has the opportunity to do so.
4. Be sure to respect one another's beliefs, whether new to the Bible or a lifetime student. We are not here to correct or even guide anyone's interpretation of what is being read. Rather, we are here to encourage each person as he/she struggles with its meaning.
5. Begin and end your small group sessions — and return to the large group — promptly.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (20 MINUTES)

[If your group is small enough that you are able to facilitate the group yourself, please read the discussion instructions to your group from page 20 in the Participant's Guide. If you have a larger group and have selected small group leaders, prepare each leader to read aloud those instructions to their groups before they begin their discussion.]

VIDEO DISCOVERY (20–25 MINUTES)

[Reassemble the entire group. Then show the DVD Session 2 teaching segment of your choice, reminding everyone that there is space to take notes on page 23 in the Participant's Guide. Then say the following or put it into your own words:]

"Please be aware that it is entirely possible that a video teacher will say something — or several things — during this series with which some of you may not agree. When this occurs, simply set aside the issue in question

and continue listening. The purpose of *The Bible in 90 Days* is not to promote a specific point of view but rather to engage people in the reading.”

VIDEO DISCUSSION (OPTIONAL 5 MINUTES)

[As time permits, the whole group or small groups may discuss the video, taking notes on page 24 in the Participant’s Guide.]

THIS COMING WEEK’S READING (2 MINUTES)

[Refer everyone to the section entitled “On Your Own Between Sessions” on pages 24–27 in the Participant’s Guide, encouraging them to use the tools provided there as they complete their Bible reading.]

CLOSING PRAYER (1 MINUTE)

[As this session ends, thank God for what you are discovering in his Word. Ask him to bless your reading during the coming week. After the closing prayer, if you are using name badges for accountability purposes, remind participants to leave them so they will be available for use next week.]



SESSION 3

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

For the best experience in leading your class or small group, it's very important to preview Session 3 on the DVD. You should also read the week's Bible reading assignment, Leviticus 4:27 through Deuteronomy 28:14, in the *The Bible in 90 Days*. Familiarize yourself with the session outline and gather the necessary materials.

For this week:

- Put out the accountability name badges in alphabetical order for participants to pick up at the beginning of the session.
- The session will start out in the small group discussion setting.
- On a white board, black board or flip chart, write: "Welcome to Session 3 of *The Bible in 90 Days*. Please go directly to your small group. We will reconvene at _____."

SESSION OUTLINE

- I. Welcome Activities (2 minutes)
- II. Small Group Discussion (15 minutes)
- III. Large Group Activity (10 minutes)
- IV. Video Discovery (20–25 minutes, depending on the teacher)
- V. Video Discussion (optional 5 minutes)
- VI. This Coming Week's Reading (2 minutes)
- VII. Closing Prayer (1 minute)

WELCOME ACTIVITIES (2 MINUTES)

[If you are using name badges, have participants pick theirs up as they arrive. Open the session with each person in his/her discussion group, where facilitators should invite everyone to briefly chat with the person next to them about a highlight of their reading this week: perhaps a fact they learned, a story that touched them, a characteristic of God, or a Biblical character with whom they identified. After a minute or so, offer a short prayer to formally begin.]

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (15 MINUTES)

[Turn to page 29 in the Participant’s Guide and work through the small group questions. Answers to the fill-in-the-blank question #4 follow.]

4. Refer to Leviticus and fill in the five main sacrifices below:

Chapter	Sacrifice
Leviticus 1	<i>The Burnt Offering</i>
Leviticus 2	<i>The Grain Offering</i>
Leviticus 3	<i>The Fellowship Offering</i>
Leviticus 4	<i>The Sin Offering</i>
Leviticus 5	<i>The Guilt Offering</i>

LARGE GROUP ACTIVITY (10 MINUTES)

[Gather the small groups together. On a white board, chalk board or flip chart, write the letters A, B and D. Turn to the group and say,]

“Assume that these are the only letters you know. What words can you spell with these letters?”

[Write down the answers as the group says them aloud. Answers should include: ad, add, bad, dad, baa and dab. Once responses are exhausted, say,] “Is that all we can spell? For instance, can we can spell the word ‘experience’ with those letters? Or ‘honor’? Or ‘Lord’?”

“Of course not. We’re limited as spellers because we know only a small subset of our alphabet. When we know only three letters, we can spell only a handful of words. Knowing 26 letters, we can spell hundreds of thousands of words.

“Think about this as you continue to read through God’s Word from cover to cover. In the past, many of us knew only bits and pieces of God’s Word. During this process, we’re experiencing all of it. It’s very much like the difference between knowing a small part of the alphabet and knowing all of it.”

VIDEO DISCOVERY (20–25 MINUTES)

[Reassemble the entire group. Then show the DVD Session 3 teaching segment of your choice, reminding everyone that there is space to take notes on page 32 in the Participant’s Guide.]

VIDEO DISCUSSION (OPTIONAL 5 MINUTES)

[As time permits, the whole group or small groups may discuss the video, taking notes on page 33 in the Participant’s Guide.]

THIS COMING WEEK’S READING (2 MINUTES)

[Refer everyone to the section entitled “On Your Own Between Sessions” on pages 33–36 in the Participant’s Guide, encouraging them to use the tools provided there as they complete their Bible reading.]

CLOSING PRAYER (1 MINUTE)

[As this session ends, thank God for what you are discovering in his Word. Ask him to bless your reading during the coming week. After the closing prayer, remind participants to leave their name badges.]



SESSION 4

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

For the best experience in leading your class or small group, it's very important to preview Session 4 on the DVD. You should also read the week's Bible reading assignment, Deuteronomy 28:15 through 2 Samuel 3:21, in the *Bible in 90 Days*. Familiarize yourself with the session outline and gather the necessary materials.

For this week:

- Put out the accountability name badges in alphabetical order for participants to pick up at the beginning of the session.
- The session will start out in the small group discussion setting.
- On a white board, black board or flip chart, write: "Welcome to Session 4 of *The Bible in 90 Days*. Please go directly to your small group. We will reconvene at _____."

SESSION OUTLINE

- I. Welcome Activities (2 minutes)
- II. Small Group Discussion (25 minutes)
- III. Video Discovery (20–25 minutes, depending on the teacher)
- IV. Video Discussion (optional 5 minutes)
- V. This Coming Week's Reading (2 minutes)
- VI. Closing Prayer (1 minute)

WELCOME ACTIVITIES (2 MINUTES)

[If you are using name badges, have participants pick theirs up as they arrive. Open the session with each person in his/her discussion group, where facilitators should invite everyone to briefly chat with the person next to them about a highlight of their reading this week: perhaps a fact they learned, a story that touched them, a characteristic of God, or a Biblical character with whom they identified. After a minute or so, offer a short prayer to formally begin.]

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (25 MINUTES)

[Take a few minutes to read with the class, or have your small group leaders read with their groups, the commentary on Life's Little Instruction Book on page 37 in the Participant's Guide as the warm-up activity. Then have your small group members work through the questions found on the following pages in the Participant's Guide.]

VIDEO DISCOVERY (20–25 MINUTES)

[Reassemble the entire group. Then show the DVD Session 4 teaching segment of your choice, reminding everyone that there is space to take notes on page 40 in the Participant's Guide.]

VIDEO DISCUSSION (OPTIONAL 5 MINUTES)

[As time permits, the whole group or small groups may discuss the video, taking notes on page 41 in the Participant's Guide.]

THIS COMING WEEK'S READING (2 MINUTES)

[Refer everyone to the section entitled "On Your Own Between Sessions" on pages 41–44 in the Participant's Guide, encouraging them to use the tools provided there as they complete their Bible reading.]

CLOSING PRAYER (1 MINUTE)

[As this session ends, thank God for what you are discovering in his Word. Ask him to bless your reading during the coming week. After the closing prayer, remind participants to leave their name badges.]



SESSION 5

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

For the best experience in leading your class or small group, it's very important to preview Session 5 on the DVD. You should also read the week's Bible reading assignment, 2 Samuel 3:22 through 1 Chronicles 5:26, in the *Bible in 90 Days*. Familiarize yourself with the session outline and gather the necessary materials. Note especially that this session involves a visually powerful large group activity after the video viewing, so please have your small groups work through the questions quickly. This session will move along at a faster pace than some of the others.

For this week:

- Put out the accountability name badges in alphabetical order for participants to pick up at the beginning of the session.
- The session will start out in the small group discussion setting.
- On a white board, black board or flip chart, write: "Welcome to Session 5 of *The Bible in 90 Days*. Please go directly to your small group. We will reconvene at _____."

SESSION OUTLINE

- I. Welcome Activities (2 minutes)
- II. Small Group Discussion (15 minutes)
- III. Video Discovery (20–25 minutes, depending on the teacher)
- IV. Video Discussion (optional 5 minutes)
- V. Large Group Activity (20 minutes)
- VI. This Coming Week's Reading (2 minutes)
- VII. Closing Prayer (1 minute)

WELCOME ACTIVITIES (2 MINUTES)

[If you are using name badges, have participants pick theirs up as they arrive. Open the session with each person in his/her discussion group, where facilitators should invite everyone to briefly chat with the person next to them about a highlight of their reading this week: perhaps a fact they learned, a story that touched them, a characteristic of God, or a Biblical

character with whom they identified. After a minute or so, offer a short prayer to formally begin.]

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (15 MINUTES)

[Take a few minutes to read with the class, or have your small group leaders read with their groups, the humorous story about the airline pilots on page 45 in the Participant's Guide. Then have your small group members work through the questions found on the following pages in the Participant's Guide. Again, ask that they move through this activity fairly quickly.]

VIDEO DISCOVERY (20–25 MINUTES)

[Reassemble the entire group. Then show the DVD Session 5 teaching segment of your choice, reminding everyone that there is space to take notes on page 48 in the Participant's Guide.]

VIDEO DISCUSSION (OPTIONAL 5 MINUTES)

[As time permits, the whole group or small groups may discuss the video, taking notes on page 49 in the Participant's Guide.]

LARGE GROUP ACTIVITY (20 MINUTES)

“Today we will have a simple but compelling closing that will give participants a powerful visual experience of the end of the divided kingdom and the destruction of Jerusalem. This visual will be carried forward into Session 6.”

“First, let me ask you to please take off your name tags and pass them to your left. The person on the end of each row should bring them up to me now. Also, please split the occupied chairs in the room roughly in half, with an aisle down the middle of the two halves.

[Ask younger people to help any of the elderly move their chairs, as necessary. Once the chairs have been split roughly in two with an aisle down the middle, continue:]

“We’re going to quickly review 1 and 2 Kings, then preview the books you’ll read this coming week. It will require you to listen, think and move. So gather up your belongings and we’ll get started.”

[Give everyone 30–60 seconds to gather their belongings.]

“Now that you’re prepared to go, I want you to know that [one side of the room] is Israel, the northern kingdom, and [the other side of the room] is Judah, the southern kingdom.

“Let’s start with what happened to the northern kingdom, that is, Israel. We talked about this in small groups earlier. How many northern kings were there? *Answer: 20*

“How many of them ‘did what was right in the eyes of the Lord’? *Answer: none*

“What happened to them?

[At this point ask one or two people (a clear minority), to move from the Israel side to the Judah side.]

“One thing that happened was that some people from Israel moved to Judah. Among them were the Levities. Then, between 734 and 722 B.C., the Assyrians conquered Israel. The Assyrians deported most of the survivors, leaving only a remnant of the poor underclass. Would everyone in Israel except [name one or two people, again a clear minority] please get up and move to the end of the room [point to one end]. Take your things with you. Everything left behind will be destroyed. [Smile.]

[As people leave their chairs, turn the chairs over in a random pattern suggesting destruction of the building and land. Only the chairs holding the “remnant” should be left standing.]

“Assyria repopulated Israel, to some extent, but with exiles from other countries that it had conquered. The rest of the Israelites from the northern kingdom disappeared from history. The remaining Israelites intermarried with other peoples, often worshiping their gods in addition to the true God. Their descendants became the hated Samaritans that gained their greatest Biblical fame in Jesus’ parable of the Good Samaritan.

“Now, what happened to Judah, the southern kingdom, where Jerusalem was the capital? Judah was defeated by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon in 586 B.C.

“Everybody except [name one or two people, again a clear minority] please get up, take your things with you, and move to the side of the room [any side is fine, as long as they have a good view of the chairs].

[Begin knocking down all of the “Judah” chairs, except the few that remain occupied.]

“All of you leaving are going into exile. Most of you are going to Babylon, although some of you will end up in Egypt.

[Finish knocking down the chairs in silence as everyone watches. Once you’ve finished, turn to the audience and continue:]

“This is where we are at the end of 2 Kings. [Pause.] Now I’m going to move forward from where we are, to preview what we’ll be reading this week.”

THIS COMING WEEK’S READING (2 MINUTES)

- “Babylon rules the world for the same 70 years as Judah is exiled to Babylon. Then, in 539 B.C., King Cyrus of Persia defeats Babylon. That same year, Cyrus authorizes the return of the people of Judah to their own land.
- “Imagine the psyche of the Judahites at this point. On the one hand, they are returning to their home. On the other hand, they have no real nation, so they’re very concerned. Many are thinking that God has let them down.
- “So, for this reason, 1 and 2 Chronicles are written. They recount much of the same history that we’ve read in 2 Samuel and in 1 and 2 Kings, but these next two books emphasize the positives and focus primarily on Judah.
- “As the Judahites return to Jerusalem, first they want to begin rebuilding the city and some of its infrastructure. This is undertaken by Ezra, a priest and scribe.
- “Then they want to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, for protection. This is spearheaded by Nehemiah.

“Take a final look.”

CLOSING PRAYER (1 MINUTE)

[As this session ends, thank God for what you are discovering in his Word. Ask him to bless your reading during the coming week. After the closing prayer, remind participants to leave their name badges.]



SESSION 6

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

For the best experience in leading your class or small group, it's very important to preview Session 6 on the DVD. You should also read the week's Bible reading assignment, 1 Chronicles 6:1 through Esther 10:3, in the *Bible in 90 Days*. Familiarize yourself with the session outline and gather the necessary materials.

For this week:

- Put out the accountability name badges in alphabetical order for participants to pick up at the beginning of the session.
- The session will start out in the small group discussion setting.
- On a white board, black board or flip chart, write: "Welcome to Session 6 of *The Bible in 90 Days*. Please go directly to your small group. We will reconvene at _____."

Note that this week the leader has some responsibilities for rearranging the chairs while all the teams are in their small groups. If you only have one group of people, place a small pile of overturned chairs in the center of the circle, and ask participants to sit around the pile for this session. This will remind participants of the activity they did in Session 5.

SESSION OUTLINE

- I. Welcome Activities (2 minutes)
- II. Small Group Discussion (25 minutes)
- III. Large Group Activity (10 minutes)
- IV. Video Discovery (20–25 minutes, depending on the teacher)
- V. Video Discussion (optional 5 minutes)
- VI. This Coming Week's Reading (2 minutes)
- VII. Closing Prayer (1 minute)

WELCOME ACTIVITIES (2 MINUTES)

[If you are using name badges, have participants pick theirs up as they arrive. Open the session with each person in his/her discussion group, where facilitators should invite everyone to briefly chat with the person next to

them about a highlight of their reading this week: perhaps a fact they learned, a story that touched them, a characteristic of God, or a Biblical character with whom they identified. After a minute or so, offer a short prayer to formally begin.]

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (25 MINUTES)

[Take a few minutes to read with the class, or have your small group leaders read with their groups, the humorous story about the three sons who buy a gift for their mother on page 53 in the Participant's Guide. Then have your small group members work through the questions found on the following pages in the Participant's Guide. While the groups are in their meetings, take a few minutes to rearrange the chairs in the room around a small pile of overturned chairs.]

LARGE GROUP ACTIVITY (10 MINUTES)

[The activity today is designed as a follow-up to the activity at the end of the last class. Ideally you arrange the chairs in a circle large enough to accommodate the large group. If your group is too large for this, try having an inner circle and an outer circle. If these options don't work, arrange the chairs as you do normally.]

[Whatever the configuration of your chairs, try to have the participants' chairs face the "destruction of Jerusalem" (similar to how it looked at the end of the last session), that is, chairs knocked over to, in a minimalist way, demonstrate the destruction of the promised land. Then say the following:]

"Please turn in your Participant's Guides to page 56, where there begins a reading that summarizes where we've been in the Old Testament to this point. Please read this silently. I'll give you five minutes to read. If you finish early, please sit quietly and reflect on the wreckage of Jerusalem at this point in the Bible, and what it means for God's people.

[After five minutes, please say the following:] "Just as we ended the last class with the destruction of Jerusalem, I want us to spend a few minutes here focusing on that again, because, in the plot of the Old Testament, the destruction of Jerusalem is the climax.

"What we read this past week (1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah), was really kind of an epilogue. We think that these books were written after the

exiles returned to Jerusalem. First and Second Chronicles were written to encourage people about their past leaders. Ezra and Nehemiah focus on the rebuilding of Jerusalem, both physically and spiritually. And the period they cover is the end of Old Testament history in the Bible.

“But this is not the end of the Old Testament story. For instance, this week, we read Job and Psalms. Job actually may have been the first book ever written in the Bible. It is set roughly in the time of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Some scholars have speculated that Job was the king of Edom. As for the Psalms, many of them were penned by David and/or his musicians, though some may have been written after the fall of Jerusalem.

“The point I want everyone to be clear on is that by the end of Nehemiah we have covered the latest point in the history that is covered in the Old Testament. Everything beyond Nehemiah will either fill in some information along the timeline that we didn’t have before, or it will elaborate on events or provide an artistic, philosophical or prophetic view of what, for the most part, we’ve already read about.

VIDEO DISCOVERY (20–25 MINUTES)

“At this point, please silently move your chairs into position to view this week’s video. [Begin the video without introduction.]

VIDEO DISCUSSION (OPTIONAL 5 MINUTES)

[As time permits, the whole group or small groups may discuss the video, taking notes on page 59 in the Participant’s Guide.]

THIS COMING WEEK’S READING (5 MINUTES)

[Refer everyone to the section entitled “On Your Own Between Sessions” on pages 60–63 in the Participant’s Guide, encouraging them to use the tools provided there as they complete their Bible reading.]

CLOSING PRAYER (1 MINUTE)

[As this session ends, thank God for what you are discovering in his Word. Ask him to bless your reading during the coming week. After the closing prayer, remind participants to leave their name badges.]



SESSION 7

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

For the best experience in leading your class or small group, it's very important to preview Session 7 on the DVD. You should also read the week's Bible reading assignment, Job 1:1 through Psalm 102:28, in the *Bible in 90 Days*. Familiarize yourself with the session outline and gather the necessary materials.

For this week:

- Put out the accountability name badges in alphabetical order for participants to pick up at the beginning of the session.
- The session will start out in the small group discussion setting.
- On a white board, black board or flip chart, write: "Welcome to Session 7 of *The Bible in 90 Days*. Please go directly to your small group. We will reconvene at _____."

SESSION OUTLINE

- I. Welcome Activities (2 minutes)
- II. Small Group Discussion (25 minutes)
- III. Large Group Activity (5 minutes)
- IV. Video Discovery (20–25 minutes, depending on the teacher)
- V. Video Discussion (optional 5 minutes)
- VI. This Coming Week's Reading (2 minutes)
- VII. Closing Prayer (1 minute)

WELCOME ACTIVITIES (2 MINUTES)

[If you are using name badges, have participants pick theirs up as they arrive. Open the session with each person in his/her discussion group, where facilitators should invite everyone to briefly chat with the person next to them about a highlight of their reading this week: perhaps a fact they learned, a story that touched them, a characteristic of God, or a Biblical character with whom they identified. After a minute or so, offer a short prayer to formally begin.]

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (25 MINUTES)

[Take a few minutes to read with the class, or have your small group leaders read with their groups, the bumper sticker slogan on page 64 in the Participant's Guide as the warm-up activity. Then have your small group members work through the questions found on the following pages in the Participant's Guide.]

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION (5 MINUTES)

[This week there are no special group activities, leaving additional time for small group discussion. If you can, spend a little time now asking the groups if their discussion this week led to any new discoveries.]

VIDEO DISCOVERY (20–25 MINUTES)

[Reassemble the entire group. Then show the DVD Session 7 teaching segment of your choice, reminding everyone that there is space to take notes on page 67 in the Participant's Guide.]

VIDEO DISCUSSION (OPTIONAL 5 MINUTES)

[As time permits, the whole group or small groups may discuss the video, taking notes on page 68 in the Participant's Guide.]

THIS COMING WEEK'S READING (2 MINUTES)

[Refer everyone to the section entitled "On Your Own Between Sessions" on pages 68–71 in the Participant's Guide, encouraging them to use the tools provided there as they complete their Bible reading.]

CLOSING PRAYER (1 MINUTE)

[As this session ends, thank God for what you are discovering in his Word. Ask him to bless your reading during the coming week. After the closing prayer, remind participants to leave their name badges.]



SESSION 8

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

For the best experience in leading your class or small group, it's very important to preview Session 8 on the DVD. You should also read the week's Bible reading assignment, Psalm 103:1 through Isaiah 14:32, in the *Bible in 90 Days*. Familiarize yourself with the session outline and gather the necessary materials.

For this week:

- Put out the accountability name badges in alphabetical order for participants to pick up at the beginning of the session.
- The session will start out in the small group discussion setting.
- On a white board, black board or flip chart, write: "Welcome to Session 8 of *The Bible in 90 Days*. Please go directly to your small group. We will reconvene at _____."

SESSION OUTLINE

- I. Welcome Activities (2 minutes)
- II. Small Group Discussion (25 minutes)
- III. Large Group Discussion (10 Minutes)
- IV. Video Discovery (20–25 minutes, depending on the teacher)
- V. Video Discussion (optional 5 minutes)
- VI. This Coming Week's Reading (2 minutes)
- VII. Closing Prayer (1 minute)

WELCOME ACTIVITIES (2 MINUTES)

[If you are using name badges, have participants pick theirs up as they arrive. Open the session with each person in his/her discussion group, where facilitators should invite everyone to briefly chat with the person next to them about a highlight of their reading this week: perhaps a fact they learned, a story that touched them, a characteristic of God, or a Biblical character with whom they identified. After a minute or so, offer a short prayer to formally begin.]

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (25 MINUTES)

[Take a few minutes to read with the class, or have your small group leaders read with their groups, the proverbs on page 72 in the Participant's Guide as the warm-up activity. Then have your small group members work through the questions found on the following pages in the Participant's Guide. Following are answers to question 4:]

Identify the following proverbs as one of the types from above:

- B *The truly righteous attain life,
but whoever pursues evil finds death.*
Proverbs 11:19
- D *As a door turns on its hinges,
so a sluggard turns on his bed.*
Proverbs 26:14
- C *Those who flatter their neighbors
are spreading nets for their feet.*
Proverbs 29:5
- B *Whoever heeds discipline shows the way to life,
but whoever ignores correction leads others astray.*
Proverbs 10:17
- A *Whoever brings ruin on their family will inherit only wind,
and the fool will be servant to the wise.*
Proverbs 11:29
- A *The Righteous One takes note of the house of the wicked
and brings the wicked to ruin.*
Proverbs 21:12
- D *Better to live in the desert
than with a quarrelsome and nagging wife.*
Proverbs 21:19

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION (10 MINUTES)

[Have each small group share either the proverb it created or its favorite proverb from the Bible.]

VIDEO DISCOVERY (20–25 MINUTES)

[Reassemble the entire group. Then show the DVD Session 8 teaching segment of your choice, reminding everyone that there is space to take notes on page 76 in the Participant’s Guide.]

VIDEO DISCUSSION (OPTIONAL 5 MINUTES)

[As time permits, the whole group or small groups may discuss the video, taking notes on page 77 in the Participant’s Guide.]

THIS COMING WEEK’S READING (2 MINUTES)

[Refer everyone to the section entitled “On Your Own Between Sessions” on pages 77–79 in the Participant’s Guide, encouraging them to use the tools provided there as they complete their Bible reading.]

CLOSING PRAYER (1 MINUTE)

[As this session ends, thank God for what you are discovering in his Word. Ask him to bless your reading during the coming week. After the closing prayer, remind participants to leave their name badges.]



SESSION 9

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

For the best experience in leading your class or small group, it's very important to preview Session 9 on the DVD. You should also read the week's Bible reading assignment, Isaiah 15:1 through Jeremiah 31:22, in the *Bible in 90 Days*. Familiarize yourself with the session outline and gather the necessary materials.

For this week:

- Put out the accountability name badges in alphabetical order for participants to pick up at the beginning of the session.
- The session will start out in the small group discussion setting.
- On a white board, black board or flip chart, write: "Welcome to Session 9 of *The Bible in 90 Days*. Please go directly to your small group. We will reconvene at _____."

SESSION OUTLINE

- I. Welcome Activities (2 minutes)
- II. Small Group Discussion (25 minutes)
- III. Video Discovery (20–25 minutes, depending on the teacher)
- IV. Video Discussion (optional 5 minutes)
- V. This Coming Week's Reading (2 minutes)
- VI. Closing Prayer (1 minute)

WELCOME ACTIVITIES (2 MINUTES)

[If you are using name badges, have participants pick theirs up as they arrive. Open the session with each person in his/her discussion group, where facilitators should invite everyone to briefly chat with the person next to them about a highlight of their reading this week: perhaps a fact they learned, a story that touched them, a characteristic of God, or a Biblical character with whom they identified. After a minute or so, offer a short prayer to formally begin.]

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (25 MINUTES)

[Have your small group members work through the questions found on pages 80–82 in the Participant’s Guide.]

VIDEO DISCOVERY (20–25 MINUTES)

[Reassemble the entire group. Then show the DVD Session 9 teaching segment of your choice, reminding everyone that there is space to take notes on page 83 in the Participant’s Guide.]

VIDEO DISCUSSION (OPTIONAL 5 MINUTES)

[As time permits, the whole group or small groups may discuss the video, taking notes on page 84 in the Participant’s Guide.]

THIS COMING WEEK’S READING (2 MINUTES)

[Refer everyone to the section entitled “On Your Own Between Sessions” on pages 84–89 in the Participant’s Guide, encouraging them to use the tools provided there as they complete their Bible reading.]

CLOSING PRAYER (1 MINUTE)

[As this session ends, thank God for what you are discovering in his Word. Ask him to bless your reading during the coming week. After the closing prayer, remind participants to leave their name badges.]



SESSION 10

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

In Session 10 your small group time will be devoted to each group preparing a lesson on one of four prophets. Most small groups will have to do this exercise using process B, due to time constraints. However, we strongly suggest that you use process A for this exercise if time and other constraints permit. Process A in particular is powerful as an educational and community building tool, and for most people it is also a lot of fun. Even people who grumble about it at first usually come to enjoy the exercise, and they are proud of what they learn while developing the lesson.

Process A may require supplies in addition to what you routinely have available for your sessions. It is helpful if every group has their own flip chart, flip chart pens and tape. Alternate resources can be used (black boards, white boards, etc.), but this activity works best if these resources are portable, since the small groups may need to develop the lessons in one place and present them in another.

Prior to the session, please read the participant guide instructions regarding process A and process B, and decide which process your group(s) will be using. Then be sure to have the appropriate resources available.

Again, for the best experience in leading your class or small group, it's very important to preview Session 10 on the DVD. You should also read the week's Bible reading assignment, Jeremiah 31:23 through Daniel 5:30, in the *Bible in 90 Days*. Familiarize yourself with the session outline and gather the necessary materials.

For this week:

- Put out the accountability name badges in alphabetical order for participants to pick up at the beginning of the session.
- The session will start out in the small group discussion setting.
- On a white board, black board or flip chart, write: "Welcome to Session 10 of *The Bible in 90 Days*. Please go directly to your small group. We will reconvene at _____."

SESSION OUTLINE

- I. Welcome Activities (2 minutes)
- II. Small Group Activity (25 minutes)
- III. Large Group Discussion (5–20 minutes)
- IV. Video Discovery (20–25 minutes, depending on the teacher)
- V. Video Discussion (optional 5 minutes)
- VI. This Coming Week’s Reading (2 minutes)
- VII. Closing Prayer (1 minute)

WELCOME ACTIVITIES (2 MINUTES)

[If you are using name badges, have participants pick theirs up as they arrive. Ask participants to move quickly into their groups, as each group will be working on making a presentation to the larger group. Offer a short prayer to formally begin.]

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY (25 MINUTES)

[Take a few minutes to read with the class, or have your small group leaders read with their groups, process A or process B notes on pages 90–92 in the Participant’s Guide. Then have your small groups get to work. If you have only one small group, you may want to assign one or two people with the task of creating a lesson on the prophets for the rest of the group using either process A or process B. However, be careful to gauge each participant’s comfort level with regard to presenting in front of the larger group, and accommodate wherever you feel it’s necessary.]

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION (5–20 MINUTES)

[If your groups chose to follow process A, have each group share per the process A instructions. If they chose to follow process B, take five or so minutes to debrief the groups on what they learned from developing the lessons. If you have 10 minutes, invite one group to present its lesson.]

VIDEO DISCOVERY (20–25 MINUTES)

[Show the DVD Session 10 teaching segment of your choice, reminding everyone that there is space to take notes on page 95 in the Participant’s Guide.]

VIDEO DISCUSSION (OPTIONAL 5 MINUTES)

[As time permits, the whole group or small groups may discuss the video, taking notes on page 96 in the Participant's Guide.]

THIS COMING WEEK'S READING (2 MINUTES)

[Refer everyone to the section entitled "On Your Own Between Sessions" on pages 96–99 in the Participant's Guide, encouraging them to use the tools provided there as they complete their Bible reading.]

CLOSING PRAYER (1 MINUTE)

[As this session ends, thank God for what you are discovering in his Word. Ask him to bless your reading during the coming week. After the closing prayer, remind participants to leave their name badges.]



SESSION 11

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

For the best experience in leading your class or small group, it's very important to preview Session 11 on the DVD. You should also read the week's Bible reading assignment, Daniel 6:1 through Matthew 23:39, in the *Bible in 90 Days*. Familiarize yourself with the session outline and gather the necessary materials.

For this week:

- Put out the accountability name badges in alphabetical order for participants to pick up at the beginning of the session.
- The session will start out in the small group discussion setting.
- On a white board, black board or flip chart, write: "Welcome to Session 11 of *The Bible in 90 Days*. Please go directly to your small group. We will reconvene at _____."

SESSION OUTLINE

- I. Welcome Activities (2 minutes)
- II. Small Group Discussion (15 minutes)
- III. Large Group Discussion (15 minutes)
- IV. Video Discovery (20–25 minutes, depending on the teacher)
- V. Video Discussion (optional 5 minutes)
- VI. This Coming Week's Reading (2 minutes)
- VII. Closing Prayer (1 minute)

WELCOME ACTIVITIES (2 MINUTES)

[If you are using name badges, have participants pick theirs up as they arrive. Open the session with each person in his/her discussion group, where facilitators should invite everyone to briefly chat with the person next to them about a highlight of their reading this week: perhaps a fact they learned, a story that touched them, a characteristic of God, or a Biblical character with whom they identified. After a minute or so, offer a short prayer to formally begin.]

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (15 MINUTES)

[Take a few minutes to read with the class, or have your small group leaders read with their groups, the quote on page 100 in the Participant's Guide as the warm-up activity. Then have your small group members work through the questions found on the following pages in the Participant's Guide.]

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION (15 MINUTES)

[Reconvene the group and spend a few minutes reviewing the question asked on pages 101–102 in the Participant's Guide:]

“Did any of you find the ‘trick’ in the ‘Find the Error’ exercise?”

1. Hosea (not Obadiah) marries Gomer.
2. Jonah does bring God's word to the Ninevites.
3. Like Job, Habakkuk features a discussion with God regarding suffering and justice.
4. Haggai 1:5–11 does suggest that God reacts to the actions of people.
5. Fifth error: there are only four errors!!

“OK, we've wrapped up the Old Testament and are moving into the New Testament. So we want to spend a few minutes putting the changes in some context, because there are some big differences between the Old and the New Testaments — politically, culturally, intellectually, socially and religiously.

“One thing that doesn't change is the geography. We're still talking about the same corner of the world. But between the end of the Old Testament and the beginning of the New Testament, there was a 400-year period of silence. During this time, here are some of the changes that occurred:

- “Politically: Control of Israel passed from the Persians to the Romans. Local control was exerted by the Sanhedrin (the Jewish supreme council).
- “Religiously: Three notable groups arose to exert their influence on the faith of God's people:
 1. “Sadducees: This group, drawn largely from the rich, land-owning families, was the conservative party. High priests, who controlled the temple, were chosen from this group. They ac-

cepted no revelation beyond the five books of Moses. At the time of Jesus, their influence was declining, but they were still the dominant party in the Sanhedrin.

2. “Pharisees: This group enjoyed more widespread popular support than the Sadducees. They were the religious purists; they were committed to preserving and obeying the law. More liberal in their views than the Sadducees, they believed in immortality, resurrection, and angels and demons. Jesus chastised them because they tended to place a higher value on ritual observance than on broad principles such as love and mercy.
3. “Zealots: These first-century Jewish freedom fighters vigorously opposed Roman rule.

“Following are some other differences between the Old Testament and the New Testament:

OT — 39 books covering 2000 years

NT — 27 books covering 100 years

OT — 809 pages in B90 Bible

NT — 235 pages in B90 Bible

OT — Originally written primarily in Hebrew

NT — Originally written primarily in Greek

VIDEO DISCOVERY (20–25 MINUTES)

[Please show the DVD Session 11 teaching segment of your choice, reminding everyone that there is space to take notes on page 104 in the Participant’s Guide.]

VIDEO DISCUSSION (OPTIONAL 5 MINUTES)

[As time permits, the whole group or small groups may discuss the video, taking notes on page 105 in the Participant’s Guide.]

THIS COMING WEEK’S READING (2 MINUTES)

[Refer everyone to the section entitled “On Your Own Between Sessions” on pages 105–109 in the Participant’s Guide, encouraging them to use the tools provided there as they complete their Bible reading.]

CLOSING PRAYER (1 MINUTE)

[As this session ends, thank God for what you are discovering in his Word. Ask him to bless your reading during the coming week. After the closing prayer, remind participants to leave their name badges.]



SESSION 12

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

For the best experience in leading your class or small group, it's very important to preview Session 12 on the DVD. You should also read the week's Bible reading assignment, Matthew 24:1 through Acts 4:37, in the *Bible in 90 Days*. Familiarize yourself with the session outline and gather the necessary materials.

For this week:

- Put out the accountability name badges in alphabetical order for participants to pick up at the beginning of the session.
- The session will start out in the small group discussion setting.
- On a white board, black board or flip chart, write: "Welcome to Session 12 of *The Bible in 90 Days*. Please go directly to your small group. We will reconvene at _____."

SESSION OUTLINE

- I. Welcome Activities (2 minutes)
- II. Small Group Discussion (25 minutes)
- III. Large Group Discussion (5 minutes)
- IV. Video Discovery (20–25 minutes, depending on the teacher)
- V. Video Discussion (optional 5 minutes)
- VI. This Coming Week's Reading (2 minutes)
- VII. Closing Prayer (1 minute)

WELCOME ACTIVITIES (2 MINUTES)

[If you are using name badges, have participants pick theirs up as they arrive. Open the session with each person in his/her discussion group, where facilitators should invite everyone to briefly chat with the person next to them about a highlight of their reading this week: perhaps a fact they learned, a story that touched them, a characteristic of God, or a Biblical character with whom they identified. After a minute or so, offer a short prayer to formally begin.]

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (25 MINUTES)

[Take a few minutes to read with the class, or have your small group leaders read with their groups, the J.B. Phillips quote on page 110 in the Participant's Guide as the warm-up activity. Then have your small group members work through the questions found on the following pages in the Participant's Guide.]

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION (5 MINUTES)

[Lead the group in a discussion of the following:]

1. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John give four different accounts of the life of Jesus. Discuss the possible reasons for these different accounts.

Answer: As in regular conversation, different people tend to emphasize different aspects of the same story to address the needs of their audience or to simply emphasize the point that they want to make. For example, one can tell the story of Noah and the ark in very different ways for adults and, say, for children. Each of the Gospel writers wrote to a different audience and customized his account to highlight aspects of Jesus' life that would be more meaningful to their intended readers. For further information, see the book summary of Matthew on page 98 in the Participant's Guide and summaries of the other Gospels on page 107 in the Participant's Guide.

2. On pages 106–107 in the Participant's Guide is a chart entitled "Comparing the Resurrection Accounts." How would you account for the discrepancies in these different books?

Answer: See the answer above for more information.

VIDEO DISCOVERY (20–25 MINUTES)

[Please show the DVD Session 12 teaching segment of your choice, reminding everyone that there is space to take notes on page 114 in the Participant's Guide.]

VIDEO DISCUSSION (OPTIONAL 5 MINUTES)

[As time permits, the whole group or small groups may discuss the video, taking notes on page 115 in the Participant's Guide.]

THIS COMING WEEK'S READING (2 MINUTES)

[Refer everyone to the section entitled “On Your Own Between Sessions” on pages 115–119 in the Participant’s Guide, encouraging them to use the tools provided there as they complete their Bible reading.]

CLOSING PRAYER (1 MINUTE)

[As this session ends, thank God for what you are discovering in his Word. Ask him to bless your reading during the coming week. After the closing prayer, remind participants to leave their name badges.]



SESSION 13

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

For the best experience in leading your class or small group, it's very important to preview Session 13 on the DVD. You should also read the week's Bible reading assignment, Acts 5:1 through Titus 3:15, in the *Bible in 90 Days*. Familiarize yourself with the session outline and gather the necessary materials.

For this week:

- Put out the accountability name badges in alphabetical order for participants to pick up at the beginning of the session.
- The session will start out in the small group discussion setting.
- On a white board, black board or flip chart, write: "Welcome to Session 13 of *The Bible in 90 Days*. Please go directly to your small group. We will reconvene at _____."

SESSION OUTLINE

- I. Welcome Activities (2 minutes)
- II. Small Group Discussion (15 minutes)
- III. Large Group Discussion (15 minutes)
- IV. Video Discovery (20–25 minutes, depending on the teacher)
- V. Video Discussion (optional 5 minutes)
- VI. This Coming Week's Reading (2 minutes)
- VII. Closing Prayer (1 minute)

WELCOME ACTIVITIES (2 MINUTES)

[If you are using name badges, have participants pick theirs up as they arrive. Open the session with each person in his/her discussion group, where facilitators should invite everyone to briefly chat with the person next to them about a highlight of their reading this week: perhaps a fact they learned, a story that touched them, a characteristic of God, or a Biblical character with whom they identified. After a minute or so, offer a short prayer to formally begin.]

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (15 MINUTES)

[Take a few minutes to read with the class, or have your small group leaders read with their groups, “Children’s Letters to God” on pages 120–121 in the Participant’s Guide as the warm-up activity. Then have your small group members quickly work through the questions found on the following pages in the Participant’s Guide.]

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION (15 MINUTES)

[The following is intended to encourage participants — both those who are current in their reading and those who are behind — to finish their reading, ideally by next week. Make your encouragement strong, but be sure to ultimately show grace to those who may be unable to finish next week and encourage them to set a date when they can finish. Regardless of where they are in the reading, be sure to encourage all participants to come to the last meeting, whether or not they have actually finished their reading.]

“This is the last week of reading, and a few of you may be thinking that you might not finish by next class. There are two things to know as you consider how far you’ve come in reaching your goal. First, come to class next week — whether or not you finish. We love you, God loves you, and the main thing we want to help you do is to set a goal to finish your reading at some date in the near future.

“That said, we haven’t thrown in the towel yet on everybody here finishing on time. If I’m you, considering whether or not I can finish the mission, here are some of the things I might be thinking about:

- God doesn’t care if I read this in 90 days or not.
- People tell me that it’s not the reading that’s important, but rather it’s studying it.
- People tell me, ‘Wow, you got a lot further than I would have.’

“In response to those thoughts, all things considered, I’d say that God probably doesn’t care whether or not we read the entire Bible in 90 days. However, the goal of this course, and our prayer at the beginning of the class, was that everyone would finish the reading in 90 days. Did you commit to that 90 day goal? If so, what can you do to make that a reality?

“Most people haven’t read all of God’s Word, and certainly not in this way. Studying the Word is important, but experiencing all of God’s Word

can be life-changing. That certainly seems important. If you're still with us, you have read much more of the Bible than most people, including most Christians. But, if you are this close to the end, why stop now?

“By human standards, what you've already done is great. Every one of you. But what about in God's terms? Every day we make decisions on what other people are doing. It seems that God makes it clear in the reading we've done during the past three months that he wants us to look to him before we look to others. He wants our firstfruits. I'm not saying that you haven't already done this, but I suspect that you'd feel a great sense of accomplishment if you made this mission your highest priority this week.

“If you need motivation, you might consider your finishing on time

- a spiritual milestone or holy mission or rite of passage;
- a personal test of your commitment and endurance; or
- a gift to God.

“If you need help, ask me or someone in your small group to help you respond to the challenge. Some people have read up to 200 pages a day to complete this reading. Now, this is not necessarily the ideal way to do it, but you can always go back and reread once you are finished. However, be sure that you are reading, attentively, every single word. No skimming.

Finally, let me read excerpts from a letter written by one of the participants in the very first *Bible in 90 Days* class.

Dear Ted,

You may not know this, but I had never read the Bible before this class. When you offered the class to our congregation, it caught my attention for several reasons.

The last two years have been very difficult for me. I lost my mother suddenly to a stroke, and there were some traumatic issues surrounding her death. I was searching but did not know how to deal with the whole experience. You were right when you told us that reading the Bible is comforting. It offered me that many days. It helped me deal with my mother's death. She was my best friend.

There have been many practical benefits as well. First, my son just attained the rank of Eagle Scout, and I was struggling to find the right thing to say to him in a card at his ceremony. How could I possibly express my feelings to him, all the pride I felt for his accomplishment? Well, it happened that a month before the cere-

mony I came across Isaiah 40:29–31 (I will make you read it). It was unbelievable how perfect the words were. I marked it and used it on his card. Later on, at the beginning of Lent, a teacher asked my young daughter to draw a response to the question “What does Lent mean to you?” She drew a picture of me reading the Bible with a caption of “My family reads the Bible, 12 pages every day.”

Ted, I have to tell you, Easter has never meant more to me or my family. The timing of reading the Bible during the week before Good Friday impacted me greatly. In fact, it was the first time that our family went to Friday service — which, by the way, was incredibly moving. The congregation left the sanctuary in silence on Friday only to return Sunday morning to rejoice!

My plan for the future? I want to continue to read the Bible every day. Now that it has been a part of my life for the last 90 days, I won’t let go. Thank you for taking this on and leading our group through this course. It has become a life-changing experience for me.

Sincerely, K

“My prayer is that, having gone through this course, each of you have had a life-changing experience as well.”

VIDEO DISCOVERY (20–25 MINUTES)

[Please show the DVD Session 13 teaching segment of your choice, reminding everyone that there is space to take notes on page 124 in the Participant’s Guide.]

VIDEO DISCUSSION (OPTIONAL 5 MINUTES)

[As time permits, the whole group or small groups may discuss the video, taking notes on page 125 in the Participant’s Guide.]

THIS COMING WEEK’S READING (2 MINUTES)

[Refer everyone to the section entitled “On Your Own Between Sessions” on pages 125–128 in the Participant’s Guide, encouraging them to use the tools provided there as they complete their Bible reading.]

CLOSING PRAYER (1 MINUTE)

[As this session ends, thank God for the persistence that each participant has shown throughout the last few weeks. Pray for those who have resolved to make the completion of their reading a priority in the coming week. After the closing prayer, remind participants to leave their name badges.]



SESSION 14

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

For the best experience in leading your class or small group, it's very important to preview Session 14 on the DVD. You should also read the week's Bible reading assignment, Philemon 1:1 through Revelation 22:21, in the *Bible in 90 Days*. Familiarize yourself with the session outline and gather the necessary materials. Please also preview the two different celebration options below, and prepare yourself with the proper supplies and materials for the celebration. We encourage providing refreshments at this last session; quite often the participants themselves are ready to contribute to such a celebration!

For this week:

- Put out the accountability name badges in alphabetical order for participants to pick up at the beginning of the session.
- The session will start out in the large group discussion setting.

SESSION OUTLINE

- I. Welcome Activities (2 minutes)
- II. Whole Group Celebration/Discussion (25–30 minutes)
- III. Video Discovery (20–25 minutes, depending on the teacher)
- IV. Closing Prayer (1 minute)

WELCOME ACTIVITIES (2 MINUTES)

[Congratulate everyone on being here, whether or not they have completed the reading, and tell them that a little later in the session they will have an opportunity to talk about their *The Bible in 90 Days* experience. If you have used accountability name badges, encourage participants to take theirs home today as a “badge of honor.”]

WHOLE GROUP CELEBRATION/DISCUSSION (25–30 MINUTES)

[Session 14 is intended primarily to be a celebration. You want to achieve three things during this session:

- Give participants an opportunity to celebrate their journey through the Bible.
- Give participants an opportunity to witness before the entire group what this experience has meant to them personally.
- Encourage those who have not yet finished their reading to set a date by which they will finish.

Following are some of the ways you may choose to celebrate during your last session:]

Celebration Option 1

[If possible, have all participants sit in chairs in a circle, so they can see each other. Some groups may require two or three layers of circles. If more than three layers are required, you probably should sit classroom style or move to an auditorium.]

“I want to start this last session by reading the prayer I prayed 13 weeks ago:

“ ‘Lord, you’ve invited each of us here to sign up for this 14-week adventure. While we think we understand some of the parameters of this journey, and we have some idea where this will lead, we also know there will be unanticipated twists and turns along the way. We expect ups and downs in this adventure, and we know it will be a challenge. But we know too that you have brought us together to advance your purposes in our lives. As each of us prays our silent decision to you regarding this effort, we ask that you will give us whatever resources we need to respond to your will. Hear us as we each pray silently for one minute.’

“During that one-minute silence, each of you prayed about making a decision to read God’s Word. Now that you’ve reached the end of that commitment, reflect for a second on what you did to live up to that commitment or on what you plan to do to live up to that commitment.

“Now, here’s the plan for our celebration:

- We’re going to give each participant [or, if your group is too large, “some of our participants”] the opportunity to talk to the group about our experience over these last 14 weeks. Share big things or little things. How did this impact your life? Will you recommend that others do this? If you haven’t finished the reading yet, when do you plan to finish? Should we offer this course again? If so,

should we make changes in how we offer it? Is there something that you are changing in your life as a result of reading all of God's Word?

- We're going to take a class picture.
- We're going to enjoy some refreshments.
- We're going to watch the final video.
- We're going to say a final prayer.

[Then, proceed to lead your graduates through the steps outlined above.]

[When you come to the final prayer, read the final prayer at the end of this session or use one of your own.]

Celebration Option 2

[Follow a meeting format similar to Option 1 above, but add the following flourishes:]

- During this last meeting, give each participant a signed certificate signifying successful completion of this journey. Or give the certificates out during Sunday worship service as a way to recognize the graduates and encourage others in the congregation to participate in future classes. You can download and print blank B90 certificates at: <http://scriptureawakening.com/b90/resources/>
- Invite prospective participants in future *The Bible in 90 Days* courses to attend this celebration, so they may hear how graduates benefited from the reading.
- Discuss what's next. This is a common question. If your church or organization has something planned, be sure to announce it. Visit <http://scriptureawakening.com/bnext/> for BNEXT resources.
- If the participating group is particularly large, you may want to ask several individuals representing a good cross section of the group to prepare short talks about their experiences. These talks could be given at a special worship service, at a large celebration party, etc.
- Have volunteers prepare "Biblical" food for the celebration. Be creative and have fun with it!
- Encourage participants who had life-changing experiences to share them with others. Imagine if reading all of God's Word in this manner became the normal thing to do!

VIDEO DISCOVERY (20–25 MINUTES)

[Show the DVD Session 14 teaching segment of your choice, reminding everyone that there is space to take notes on page 131 in the Participant's Guide.]

CLOSING PRAYER (1 MINUTE)

Use the following prayer or feel free to say one of your own:

“Dear Lord, how can we adequately thank you for the Word that you have inspired and for the circumstances that brought us all together to read it in this fashion? We pray that this crossing through your Word will be a milestone event in the spiritual journey of each individual who participated. It’s with some sadness that we conclude this stretch of the journey; we’re sad that we may not be seeing our new friends each week, sad that we won’t be meeting in this forum to discuss your Word. Yet our overwhelming feeling at the end of this program is one of gratitude. We’re so grateful that you’ve given us this book, and we’re grateful that you warmed our hearts to read it and to make it ours. In Jesus’ name we humbly pray. Amen.”

FREE Bible in 90 Days™ Resources at
www.ScriptureAwakening.com/B90/resources