

## GRACE OVERFLOWING SUGGESTED DISCUSSION GUIDE

The following guide is designed for groups that meet for about 1½ hours or less.

### GENERAL SUGGESTIONS FOR LEADING THIS STUDY:

- Start the study time within 5 minutes of your scheduled beginning even if all aren't there yet. Ask a general get-acquainted question that might be related to the study that day or just to help them get to know one another. But don't let this take too much time.
- Then, pray and get started on the study.
- Always read the Bible verses as directed in the book whether they have done the study at home or not. I asked specific women to read them as we got there. That saves time.
- You can read the question aloud as written in the study and give them time to answer, or ask specific people to read and answer them.
- Choose ahead of time the explanation paragraphs you will read. I called on specific women to read the chosen paragraphs. That prevents awkward silence and wasted time if you are time crunched.
- Consider ending with a worship song. You can find most anything you want to use on YouTube.

## INTRODUCTION

*It isn't necessary to have a separate "Introduction" lesson. You can incorporate these into your first lesson if needed.*

### **Group Stuff:**

- Do necessary group stuff, such as introducing yourself and your co-leader (if applicable). Talk about when and how you will share prayer requests. Ask if anyone does not want to read aloud and remember her name so as not to accidentally call on her. Ask about sharing each other's contact information with the group. Ask them to contact you if they need help with anything.
- Make sure everyone has a *Grace Overflowing* book, a class schedule, and a Bible or Bible app.

### **Pray:**

- Ask the Lord Jesus to teach you what He wants you to know in this study. Ask Him to bind your group together as a community.

### **Get acquainted with each other.**

- Introduce yourselves and answer a general question or two such as, "*Share your name, where you live, for how long, where did you live before this?*" These questions are easy to answer on the spur of the moment and begin building community.

### **Introduce the study**

- Table of Contents: 13 lessons / 1 per week.

### **Pages 1 & 2—Introduction**

- Anyone new to the Bible? Read through the "Bible Basics." Offer to come alongside them during the week to help them do their lesson at least once.

### **Pages 3—**

- "Grace Overflowing"—In his letters, Paul presents this big idea: "**Christ is everything we need for life.**" Rest of paragraph at top of page.

### **Pages 5 & 6—**

- Overview of the "Christ is..." Truths. These will be progressively reviewed in each lesson. We'll go through them every week.
- End result is the italicized statement on page 6. Read this statement together.

### **Page 4—**

- "Small Group Discussion" guidelines— Read and discuss these.
- Any questions? Show them Lesson One. The *Deeper Discoveries* at the end are optional, but you may draw from some of that as you discuss the lesson.
- Share prayer requests and pray.

**Recommendation:** Listen to a worship song.

## LESSONS 1-13

Start with prayer. Ask the Lord Jesus to teach you what He wants you to know in this study.

### ***Lesson***

- Read the verse for lesson at the top of the page.
- Go through the review each time to reinforce what they have learned about each letter.
- Always read the Bible verses as directed in the book whether they have done the study at home or not. Ask specific women to read them as you get there. Choose ahead of time the explanation paragraphs to be read aloud as you proceed through the discussion.
- Ask what they learned through the “Deeper Discoveries” section if you are choosing to do that.

### ***Prayer time.***

- Pray. Use prayer prompts given in the box and remember needs expressed.

### ***Worship***

Suggested worship songs for each lesson.

- Introduction:
- Lesson 1: Be Exalted, O God.
- Lesson 2: Lord, I Need You
- Lesson 3: He Lives
- Lesson 4: Blessed Be the Name of the Lord
- Lesson 5: Lord, I Need You
- Lesson 6: What a Beautiful Name It Is
- Lesson 7: Be Unto Your Name
- Lesson 8: You Are God Alone
- Lesson 9: Even So Come, Lord Jesus Come
- Lesson 10: Before the Throne of God Above
- Lesson 11: In Christ Alone
- Lesson 12: Even So Come, Lord Jesus Come
- Lesson 13: Amazing Love (You Are My King)

## LESSON 2: THE LETTER TO THE ROMANS

Always read the Bible verses as directed in the book whether they have done the study at home or not. Ask specific women to read them as you get there. Choose ahead of time the explanation paragraphs to be read aloud as you proceed through the discussion. My suggestions are below.

Start with prayer. Ask the Lord Jesus to teach you what He wants you to know in this study.

### Page 7—

- Read verse for lesson at the top of the page.

### Getting the Big Picture

- Ask question and discuss paragraph that follows.
- Reader: last paragraph on the page.

### Page 8—

- Read Acts 9:1-9. Ask 3 questions. Read paragraphs that follow.
- Read Acts 9:15. Ask question.
- Read Acts 9:20. Ask question.

### Page 9—

- Read paragraphs at the top of page.

### The Journeys

- Read the "First Journey."

### Pages 10 & 11—

- Read through the journeys and the imprisonments. Emphasize which letters were written during each.

### The Letters

- Read the two paragraphs at the bottom of page 11.

### Page 12—

- Read the verses and discuss how Paul identified himself in each.
- Read the last paragraph at the bottom of the page and do some praising.

### Page 13—

- Read the first paragraph at the top of the page and do some praising.

### Christ Is Everything We Need

- Read the two paragraphs.
- Read Philippians 1:21, ask question, and read paragraph that follows.

### Pages 14 & 15—

- Read 1 Timothy 1:12-17. Ask 2 questions and read paragraph that follows.
- Share answers to next question.

- Ask questions at bottom of page 14 and top of next page.
- Read paragraphs on page 15.
- Personalize the italicized sentence (my life, I learn, to me) and say it together.
- State the next question. Have them think of their biggest challenges, hold out their hands (palms up), and mentally place those challenges in their hands facing up to heaven. Give them to God. Pray the prayer prompt in the box that follows on **page 16**.
- *Deeper Discoveries (optional): Anything else they learned about Paul's life and mission from those chapters if you have time.*

**Prayer time.**

- Pray. Use prayer prompts given in the box and remember needs expressed.

**Recommendation:** Listen to a worship song, such as "Be Exalted O God."