

“PAINTING THE PORTRAIT OF JESUS” 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. It's okay to skip a few of the verses that are not the main verses for the lesson.
- 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.

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 begins community building.

Introduce the study

- Make sure everyone has a *Painting the Portrait of Jesus* book and a class schedule.
- Ask if anyone is new to the Bible. Look at pp. 1-2 "Bible Basics" and "New Testament Summary."
- Make sure everyone has a Bible and/or a Bible app (see p. 2).
- Tell them that John is the 4th book in the New Testament, written by 1 of Jesus' 12 disciples.
 - Read John 20:31. John wrote this book so the reader would believe what?
 - Read John 1:14. The "Word" is the embodied message of God. What do we learn about Him?
 - Read John 1:18. Who has seen God? What does He do for us?
- The big idea is this: **"The invisible God can be seen and known through His Son, Jesus Christ, who is both God and man."** John recorded a lot of Jesus' own words about himself. We are using those words to paint a portrait of Jesus so He can be seen and known by us.
- Read through the "Painting the Portrait of Jesus" section.
- Walk through the "Elements of Each Lesson" section, using Lesson 2 to show how it is arranged. Each lesson in this study covers one "I Am" that Jesus used to describe Himself. The "Deeper Discoveries" optional readings each week are from the gospel of John.
- Read and discuss the "Small Group Discussion" guidelines. Ask which women are okay reading aloud and remember that.

Overview of the "I Am's"

- Point out that these will be repeated at the beginning of each lesson. Talk about whether you want to learn the Bible verses together or individually.
- Read the italicized statement on page 6 together.
- Ask for any questions.
- Close in prayer.

LESSON 1: JESUS IS THE “I AM”

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.

Page 7—

- Read verse for lesson at the top of the page.
- Read 1st 2 paragraphs and discuss the 2 questions that follow.
- Read through explanatory paragraphs on pages 7-8 about the theme of this study.

Page 8—

Paint Color #1: White

- Read paragraphs.

Page 9—

- Emphasize bold statement at top of page.
- Read John 20:31. Ask 2 questions. Read paragraphs that follow.
- Read Exodus 3:13-14. Ask question. Read paragraph. What is “I am” in other languages?

Page 10—

- Read John 4:19-26. Ask questions.
- Read John 8:56-59. Ask questions.

Page 11—

- Read paragraphs.
- Read Mark 9:2-8. Ask questions. Read paragraphs.

Page 12—

- Read Hebrews 4:15. Ask questions. Read first paragraph. Read second paragraph together.

Following Jesus

- Read Matthew 11:28-29. Ask questions.

Page 13—

- Read paragraphs.
- *Review the Bible verse to learn if you are doing this together.*
- *Deeper Discoveries (optional): ask what they learned if your group is doing this and you have time.*
- Pray. Use prayer prompts given in the box and remember hurts already expressed.

Recommendation: Listen to a worship song.
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LESSON 2: JESUS IS THE BREAD OF LIFE

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.

Get acquainted: Ask, "What is your favorite color?"

Page 17—

- Start with prayer. Read verse for lesson at the top of the page.
- Review what they have learned so far.

Paint Color #2: Purple

- Ask question and read paragraph then ask the second question.

Page 18—

- Ask question and read paragraph.
- Read John 6:5-15. Ask question and read paragraphs that follow.
- Read John 6:25-34. Ask question.

Page 19—

- Ask question.
- Read John 6:35. Ask questions. Summarize the information that follows.
- Skip rereading John 6:35 but ask the 3 questions and read the paragraphs.
- Recite John 6:35. Ask question.

Page 20—

- Ask question.
- Read the paragraphs and ask the questions on this page.

Page 21—

- Read John 6:36-37. Ask question. Read the paragraphs that follow.

Following Jesus

- Read the paragraph. Ask the "Think about it" question. Let women share their answers.
- Cover the proper responses below that.

Page 22—

- *Review the Bible verse to learn if you are doing this together.*
- *Deeper Discoveries (optional): ask what they learned if your group is doing this and you have time.*
- Pray. Use prayer prompts given in the box and remember hurts already expressed.

Recommendation: Listen to a worship song.

LESSON 3: JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

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.

Page 25—

- Start with prayer. Read verse for lesson at the top of the page.
- Review what they have learned so far.

Paint Color #3: Yellow

- Discuss first paragraph.
- Read second and third paragraphs.

Page 26—

- Ask 2 questions and read paragraph that follows.
- Read John 8:12. Ask 2 questions. Read the paragraph below them.

Page 27—

- Read the paragraphs and ask the questions on this page.
- Read John 9:1-7.

Page 28—

- Ask the questions.
- Read John 9:8-34 in the sections listed. Ask the question after each section.

Page 29—

- Skip top paragraphs. Read John 9:35-39. Ask questions on this page and top of next page.

Page 30—

Following Jesus

- Read the paragraphs and ask the questions on this page.
- *Review the Bible verse to learn if you are doing this together.*
- *Deeper Discoveries (optional): ask what they learned if your group is doing this and you have time.*
- Pray. Use prayer prompts given in the box and remember hurts already expressed.

Recommendation: Listen to a worship song.

LESSON 4: JESUS IS THE GATE FOR THE SHEEP

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.

Page 33—

- Start with prayer. Read verse for lesson at the top of the page.
- Review what they have learned so far.

Paint Color #4: Orange

- Discuss first paragraph.
- Read second paragraph.

Page 34—

- Read John 10:1-10. Ask question.
- Read first paragraph. Summarize 2 description paragraphs. Read last paragraph.
- Reread John 10:9 in a different translation. Ask question.

Page 35—

- Read the paragraphs at the top of the page.
- Ask question. Read paragraphs that follow.
- Skip reading John 10:10 again. Ask 3 questions on this page and the next.

Page 36—

- Read paragraphs that follow the question.

Following Jesus

- Reread John 10:9, perhaps in different translations. Ask 2 questions.

Page 37—

- Ask question and read the paragraph that follows.
- *Review the Bible verse to learn if you are doing this together.*
- *Deeper Discoveries (optional): ask what they learned if your group is doing this and you have time.*
- Pray. Use prayer prompts given in the box and remember hurts already expressed.

Recommendation: Listen to a worship song.
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LESSON 5: JESUS IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD

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.

Get acquainted: Ask them to recall a time when they felt freedom from something.

Page 39—

- Start with prayer.
- Read verse for lesson at the top of the page.
- Review what they have learned so far.

Paint Color #5: Green

- Talk about the first paragraph and read the second paragraph.

Page 40—

- Read John 10:11-15. Ask 4 questions.
- Skim through the paragraphs that follow.

Page 41—

- Read top two paragraphs.
- Read John 10:3-4. Ask question. Read paragraphs that follow.
- Read John 10:27-30. Ask question and read paragraph.

Page 42—

- Read the paragraphs and ask the questions on this page.

Page 43—

- Read the 2 paragraphs and ask the question.
- Read Romans 8:38-39. Ask question. Read paragraph that follows.

Following Jesus

- Read paragraph and ask question.

Page 44—

- Ask the questions and read the paragraphs on this page. Emphasize the truths about being in a forever relationship with Jesus.

Page 45—

- *Review the Bible verse to learn if you are doing this together.*
- *Deeper Discoveries (optional): ask what they learned if your group is doing this and you have time.*
- Pray. Use prayer prompts given in the box and remember hurts already expressed.

Recommendation: Listen to a worship song.
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LESSON 6: JESUS IS THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

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.

Page 47—

- Start with prayer.
- Read verse for lesson at the top of the page.
- Review what they have learned so far.

Paint Color #6: Blue

- Ask the question and read the 3 paragraphs that follow.

Page 48—

- Ask 2 questions about death and dying. Read the paragraphs that follow.
- Read John 11:17-27. Ask 4 questions here and top of next page.

Page 49—

- Read John 11:28-35. Ask 2 questions. Read paragraph that follows.
- Read John 11:38-45. Ask 4 questions here and top of next page.

Page 50—

What Happens at the Death of a Believer

- Ask question and read paragraph below.

Page 51—

Following Jesus

- Read Psalm 30:11-12. Ask question. Read or skim through the paragraphs that follow.

Pray 52—

- Ask “What do you think?” Emphasize the statement that follows about our hope.
- *Review the Bible verse to learn if you are doing this together.*
- *Deeper Discoveries (optional): ask what they learned if your group is doing this and you have time.*
- Pray. Use prayer prompts given in the box and remember hurts already expressed.

Recommendation: Listen to a worship song.
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LESSON 7: JESUS IS THE WAY, THE TRUTH, & THE LIFE

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.

Page 55—

- Start with prayer.
- Read verse for lesson at the top of the page.
- Review what they have learned so far.

Paint Color #7: Red

- Read the paragraphs describing the meaning of red here and on the next page.

Page 56—

- Read John 14:1-6. Ask the questions. Read the paragraph.

Page 57—

- Ask the questions and read the paragraphs on this page.
- *Jesus Is the Way*: Read John 14:6. Ask the question.

Page 58—

- Read Acts 4:12. Ask question and read the paragraph that follows.
- Ask next question. Read the 3 paragraphs that follow.

Page 59—

- *Jesus Is the Truth*: Read John 14:7 and 10. Ask questions. Read the 2 paragraphs.
- Read John 8:31-32. Ask question.

Page 60—

- *Jesus Is the Life*: Read Romans 8:11. Ask question and read the paragraph that follows.
- Read Galatians 2:20. Ask question. Read the paragraph that follows.

Following Jesus

- Read paragraphs here and top of next page.

Page 61—

- Ask if anyone did anything creative to express their celebration of Jesus' life in you.
- *Review the Bible verse to learn if you are doing this together.*
- *Deeper Discoveries (optional): ask what they learned if your group is doing this and you have time.*
- Pray. Use prayer prompts given in the box and remember hurts already expressed.

Recommendation: Listen to a worship song.

LESSON 8: JESUS IS THE VINE

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.

Page 65—

- Start with prayer.
- Read verse for lesson at the top of the page.
- Review what they have learned so far.

Paint Color #8: Brown

- Read the paragraph.

Page 66—

- Read John 15:1-5. Ask 3 questions. Skim the paragraphs that follow and on the next page.

Page 67—

- Ask 3 questions. Read paragraph that follows.

Page 68—

- Reread John 15:5 in different translations.
- Ask 2 questions. Read the paragraphs, ask the next question, and read the paragraphs on this page and the next..

Page 69—

- Ask the 2 questions. Skim through the paragraphs that follow.
- Ask the next question.

Page 70—

Following Jesus

- Read paragraphs.
- Read Galatians 5:22-23. Ask question. Read paragraphs that follow.
- Read John 15:8. Ask question.

Page 71—

- Read paragraphs.
- *Review the Bible verse to learn if you are doing this together.*
- *Deeper Discoveries (optional): ask what they learned if your group is doing this and you have time.*
- Pray. Use prayer prompts given in the box and remember hurts already expressed.

Recommendation: Listen to a worship song.