

## **Pathways to a Joyful Walk 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 are not 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 do not let this take too much time. I generally used the “describe a walk” question at the beginning of the study for this.
- 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 let the one who read the Bible verses also read and answer the questions that follow.
- 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.
- Discuss the “Joyful Walk” teaching sessions (podcasts). Pull out any specific bits that you want to make sure they understand and know. I give my suggestions in this guide.
- Consider ending with a worship song. You can find most of them on YouTube with lyrics. Look for the shortest version.
- If you are doing an online study, you can play that song through Zoom. Have it already open and ready to play before you start Bible Study. Click screen share, choose the video on your computer, check both boxes at the bottom, then click share. Mute everyone including yourself! Time delays do not make for good harmony. :)

## INTRODUCTION

*If you choose to have an introductory session before Lesson One, this is a suggested format.  
Otherwise, go to the next page.*

Get acquainted with each other. Ask a general question or two such as, "Share your name, where you live, and one hobby."

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

### **Introduce the study**

- Ask if anyone does not want to read aloud and remember not to call on those people to read.
- Is anyone new to the Bible? Look at pages 1-2 "Bible Basics." Read through the "New Testament Summary."
- Walk through the "Elements of Each Lesson" section (page 3), looking at lesson 1 for an example. Tell them they can find the podcasts on any podcast provider but especially on my website at [melanienewton.com/pathways-to-a-joyful-walk-bible-study](http://melanienewton.com/pathways-to-a-joyful-walk-bible-study).
- Go over "Small Group Discussion Guidelines" (pages 3-4).
- Ask for any questions.

### **Pathways to a Joyful Walk (page 5, 7-8)**

- Take turns reading through this section.
- You can ask them to listen to the first podcast as an introduction to the whole study before coming to this Introduction session. If they did, you can ask what grabbed their attention and go to pages 7-8 to cover anything you want to highlight. I had our group read through all of this.
- Ask them to work through Lesson 1 for next time.
- Close in prayer and a worship song.

**Recommendation:** Listen to a worship song such as "Trust and Obey," which fits very well with this study.

## **LESSON 1: START WITH JESUS**

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 someone to read the Bible verse at top of page 7.

### ***The Promise of a Joyful Walk***

#### ***Pages 7-8***

- Readers: If you did not cover this already in an Introduction session, ask several readers to take turns reading through these pages.

#### ***Page 9***

##### ***Pathway #1***

- Ask question about the enjoyable walk.
- Reader: Paragraph below question.

##### ***Christianity Is Christ***

- Readers: Each take one paragraph to read through this section.
- Page 10
- You ask question, "What questions do you have ...?"

##### ***Who is Jesus?***

- Read first paragraph.
- Reader: Jesus is fully human. Read Luke 1:28-33 and answer 2 questions.

#### ***Page 11***

- Reader: Luke 2:1-7, 21, 51-52 and answer first 2 questions.
- Reader: Answer third question and read 2 paragraphs below it.
- Reader: Jesus is fully God. Read John 5:17-21 and answer question at bottom of page.

#### ***Page 12***

- Reader: Answer 2 questions at top of page.
- Reader: Paragraph after those questions.
- Reader: John 6:38-40 and answer question.
- Ask for other answers.
- Reader: John 8:42 and question below it.

#### ***Page 13***

- Reader: John 14:6-14 and questions below that.
- Reader: Mark 2:1-12 and question.
- Reader: 2 paragraphs at bottom of page.

#### ***Page 14***

- Reader: Jesus is God the Son. Read 2 paragraphs at top of page.
- Reader: Luke 3:21-22 and answer 2 questions. Read Matthew 28:19-20, answer question, and read paragraph after it.

#### ***Page 15***

- Reader: 2 paragraphs at top of page.

### ***What others recognized about Jesus***

- Reader: John 1:1-2, 14 and answer questions.
- Reader: 2 Peter 1:16-18 and answer question.
- Reader: 1 John 1:3 and answer question.
- Page 16
- Reader: 2 paragraphs at top of page.

### ***The Pathway to Joy***

- You read the first paragraph.
- Reader: Matthew 16:13-17, answer question, and read paragraph that follows.
- You ask “Who do you say...?” Read last paragraph on page.

### ***Knowing Jesus Christ***

#### ***Pages 17-20***

- Skip first 2 paragraphs because they repeat what is in the lesson.
- Ask what grabbed their attention from the podcast teaching. Highlight what you want them to know and take turns reading through that.
- Read together the italicized sentence at top of page 20. This is the theme for the study.
- Read through the “Reflect” lyrics and ask the question. We listened to the song instead of reading through it.
- Pray. Use prayer prompts and remember needs already expressed.

**Recommendation:** Listen to a worship song such as “What a Beautiful Name” which fits very well with this lesson.

## LESSON 2: BASK IN THE GRACE OF GOD

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 21*

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

### **Pathway #2**

- Ask the walk question.
- You read the paragraph that follows.

### **Understanding the Gospel Message**

- Reader: paragraphs at the bottom of the page.

### *Page 22*

- Reader: Points 1 and 2 at top of page.
- Reader: quote

### **The sin disease**

- Reader: Read paragraph, Jeremiah 17:9, and question after it.
- Reader: Romans 3:23 and answer question.
- Reader: Romans 1:18-25 and question at bottom of page.

### *Page 23*

- Reader: Answer question at top of page and read paragraph that follows it.

### **God's wrath against sin**

- Readers: Take turns to read 4 paragraphs.

### *Page 24*

- Reader: First paragraph and question that follows.
- You ask for other answers to that question and read paragraph after it.

### **The Cross: God's solution to the sin issue**

- Reader: Paragraph below heading.
- Reader: Mark 8:31 and answer that follows.

### *Page 25*

- Reader: Mark 10:45 and question.
- Reader: 1 Peter 2:24 and question.
- Reader: Romans 5:8 and question.
- Reader: First paragraph after question.
- Reader: 2 paragraphs at bottom of page.

### *Page 26*

- The Resurrection: God's solution to the life and death issue
- Reader: Paragraph, 1 Corinthians 15:3-8, and 2 questions.
- Skip summary paragraph.
- You read the next paragraph.
- Reader: Romans 8:11 and question after it.

*Page 27*

- Reader: 1 Peter 1:3 and question.
- Reader; 2 Corinthians 5:17, answer question, and paragraphs that follows.

***The Pathway to Joy***

- Reader: 1 John 5:11-13 and 2 questions that follow on this page and next.

*Page 28*

- You ask the next 2 questions. Then, read the summary paragraph that follows them.

***Basking in God's grace***

*Pages 29-32*

- What grabbed their attention from the podcast teaching? Highlight what you want them to know. I had my group read all of the grace, saved, and faith sections on pages 30-31.
- Read together the theme statement on page 32.
- You read the "Reflect" questions. Ask if anyone wants to share an answer.
- Pray. Use prayer prompts and remember needs already expressed.

**Recommendation:** Listen to a worship song such as "Trust and Obey," which fits very well with this lesson.

### LESSON 3: GRASP WHO YOU ARE

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 33*

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

#### **Pathway #3**

- Ask the walk question. Read the sentence that follows.
- Reader: First paragraph.
- Reader: Next 2 paragraphs.

#### *Page 34*

#### ***A New Identity that Rocks the World***

- Reader: 2 paragraphs.
- Reader: The basis of identity. You read paragraph and ask question. Read paragraph that follows.
- Reader: 1 Corinthians 15:21-22 and question that follows.

#### *Page 35*

- Reader: Romans 5:12, 15-19 and answer the first question.
- Reader: Answer the second question.
- Reader: Paragraphs at bottom of page.

#### *Page 36*

#### ***God has given you a new identity.***

- Reader: Romans 6:1-6, paragraph that follows, and the question.
- Reader: 2 Corinthians 5:17 and question.

#### ***Benefits of Being Identified with Christ***

- Reader: 2 paragraphs at bottom of page

#### *Page 37*

- You read first full paragraph at top of page.
- Reader: Romans 5:9-10 and 2 questions that follow.
- Reader: paragraph after questions.
- Reader: Titus 2:11-14 and question after that.

#### *Page 38*

- Reader: Colossians 1:13-14 and question.
- Reader: Colossians 1:21-22 and question.
- Reader: 1 Corinthians 6:11 and question.
- Reader: paragraphs at the bottom of the page.

#### *Page 39*

- Reader: Ephesians 5:1 and question.
- You read the paragraph below. Make sure they know this.

### ***The Pathway to Joy***

- Reader: first 2 paragraphs.
- Reader: Rest of page.

### ***Page 40***

- Reader: Song lyrics and sentence that follows.
- You read the next paragraphs and ask if anyone wants to share their response.

### ***Grasping Your Identity Sets Your Free***

### ***Pages 41-45***

- What grabbed their attention from the podcast teaching? Highlight what you want them to know. I had the group read through almost everything.
- Read together the theme statement on page 32.
- You read the “Reflect” questions. Ask if anyone wants to share an answer.
- Pray. Use prayer prompts and remember needs already expressed.

**Recommendation:** Listen to a worship song such as “In Christ Alone,” which fits very well with this lesson.



## **LESSON 4: CHOOSE WHOM YOU WILL SERVE**

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 47*

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

### **Pathway #4**

- Ask walk question.
- Reader: First paragraph.
- Reader: Second paragraph.

### *Page 48*

#### **Living by the Flesh**

- You read the top paragraph.
- Reader: 1 John 2:16 and question.
- Reader: Galatians 5:16-17, question, and paragraph that follows it.
- Reader: Last paragraph on page.

### *Page 49*

- Reader: Romans 6:6-14 and first 2 questions.
- Reader: third question and paragraphs that follow.
- Reader: Romans 6:15-18 and 2 questions (this page and top of next)

### *Page 50*

- Reader: Romans 8:5, question, and first paragraph after it.
- Reader: next 2 paragraphs.
- Reader: Galatians 5:19-26 and 2 questions (this page and top of next).

### *Page 51*

- Reader: Top 2 paragraphs.
- Reader: Section (1)
- Reader: Section (2)

### *Page 52*

#### **Living by the Spirit**

- You read the first paragraph.
- Reader: Second paragraph and italicized sentence.
- Reader: Titus 3:4-6 and question.
- Reader: John 14:15-20 and question.
- Reader: 1 Corinthians 2:12 and question.

### *Page 53*

- Reader: Ephesians 3:16-20 and 2 questions.
- Reader: 2 paragraphs after the questions.

#### **The Pathway to Joy**

- Reader: paragraphs at bottom of page

*Page 54*

- Reader: Romans 13:14, question, and paragraph that follows it.
- Ask if anyone wants to share answers to the question about choosing.

**Choosing to Serve Jesus**

*Pages 55-59*

- What grabbed their attention from the podcast teaching? Highlight what you want them to know. I had the group take turns reading through options 1 and 2.
- Read together the theme statement on page 59.
- Reader: Psalm 139:23-24. You ask if anyone wants to share an answer.
- Pray. Use prayer prompts and remember needs already expressed.

**Recommendation:** Listen to a worship song such as “Trust and Obey,” which fits very well with this lesson.

## **LESSON 5: CLAIM YOUR FREEDOM IN CHRIST**

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 61*

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

### **Pathway #5**

- Ask about walk.
- Reader: 2 paragraphs below question.

### **Law and Grace**

- Reader: Paragraph at bottom of page and first one at top of next page.

### *Page 62*

- You introduce the 3 questions. Ask for a different person to read each one.
- You read the paragraph that follows and the question.

### *Page 63*

### **The bondage of legalism**

- Reader: 2 paragraphs at top of page.
- Reader: Galatians 1:6-7 and question.
- Reader: Galatians 3:1-3 and question.
- Reader: Galatians 5:1 and question.

### *Page 64*

- Reader: Paragraph at top of page

### **The danger of legalism**

- Reader: paragraph about legalism
- You ask the next question. After answers, read the next paragraph.
- Reader: Colossians 2:16-23, question, and paragraph at top of next page.

### *Page 65*

- Reader: Answer three questions.
- Reader: 2 paragraphs at bottom of page.

### *Page 66*

- Reader: Paragraph at top of page.
- Reader: Ephesians 2:8-9 and question.

### **Living by Grace**

- Reader: paragraph.
- Reader: Romans 5:8 and question.
- Reader: Ephesians 2:4-5 and question.

### *Page 67*

- Reader: 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 and question.
- Reader: Galatians 2:20 and question.
- You read the paragraph that follows.

- Reader: Colossians 1:29 and question.
- Reader: Titus 2:11-14 and 2 questions.

*Page 68*

- Reader: 2 paragraphs at top of page

***The Pathway to Joy***

- Take turns reading the 3 questions and responses.
- Reader: paragraph at bottom of the page.

*Page 69*

- You read sentence and question. Ask if anyone has something to share.

***Pursuing Godliness to Avoid Legalism***

*Pages 70-73*

- What grabbed their attention from the podcast teaching? Highlight what you want them to know. I had the group read through the legalism feeds hypocrisy and hopelessness sections.
- Read together the theme statement on page 73.
- You read the “Reflect” paragraph. Ask if anyone wants to share their response.
- Pray. Use prayer prompts and remember needs already expressed.

**Recommendation:** Listen to a worship song such as “Trust and Obey,” which fits very well with this lesson.

## **LESSON 6: KEEP MOVING FORWARD**

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 75*

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

### **Pathway #6**

- Ask walk question. Emphasize having to keep moving forward.

### ***Suffering Has a Purpose***

- Reader: Paragraph at bottom of page, top of next page.

### *Page 76*

- Reader: John 16:33 and 2 paragraphs that follow.
- Reader: Romans 5:1-5 and first question. Ask for any other answers.
- Reader: last question at bottom of page. Different translations use different words for sufferings and perseverance.

### *Page 77*

- Reader: Answer top 2 questions
- You ask "How does...?"
- You highlight paragraph that follows.
- Reader: Answer bottom question and top of next page.

### *Page 78*

- You read paragraph at top of page.

### ***Perseverance Is Good for Us***

- Reader: First 2 paragraphs
- Reader: last 2 paragraphs

### *Page 79*

- Reader: Hebrews 12:1-3 and first 2 questions.
- Reader: next 2 questions.
- Reader: Paragraph at bottom of page.

### *Page 80*

- Reader: Paragraph at top of page
- You ask the two questions that follow.
- Reader: First paragraph after questions.
- Reader: Last 2 paragraphs at bottom of page.

### *Page 81*

- Reader: 2 paragraphs at top of page.

### ***Live Dependently on Jesus***

- Reader: 2 Corinthians 1:8-9 and first 2 questions.
- Reader: third question and paragraph that follows.

*Page 82*

- Reader: 2 Corinthians 12:8-10, paragraph, and first question.
- Reader: Next 2 questions.
- You read next sentence.
- Reader: 3 paragraphs at bottom of page and top of next page.

*Page 83*

***The Gift of Hope in This Difficult World***

- Reader: Paragraph
- Reader: Romans 15:4-5 and question.
- You read the paragraph after it.

***The Pathway to Joy***

- Reader: paragraph at bottom of page.

*Page 84*

- Reader: Paragraph at top of next page.
- You ask the perseverance question and read the paragraph that follows it.
- Read through and / or listen to the song lyrics. Ask for responses.

***Asking for Perseverance to Move Forward***

*Pages 85-90*

- What grabbed their attention from the podcast teaching? Highlight what you want them to know. We talked about what grabbed their attention on each page.
- Discuss “Reflect” questions.
- Pray. Use prayer prompts and remember needs already expressed.

**Recommendation:** Listen to a worship song such as “Trust and Obey,” which fits very well with this lesson.