

# LEADER'S GUIDE

If you are reading this, you have likely agreed to lead a group through ***The GREAT Morning Revolution Bible Study***. Thank you! What you have chosen to do is important, and much good fruit can come from studies like this. The rewards of being a leader are different from those of participating, and we hope you find your own walk with Jesus deepened by this experience.

***The GREAT Morning Revolution*** is a six-session prayer-practice Bible study built around video teaching content and small-group interaction. As the group leader, imagine yourself as the host of a dinner party . . . without dinner, unless, of course, that's your thing. Your job is to take care of your "guests" so that as they arrive, they feel comfortable and welcomed and excited to learn straightaway.

As the group leader, you are more of a facilitator than a teacher. Your role is NOT to answer all the questions or reteach the content. I, Tara Beth, am the teacher on video, and the study guide will prompt how the group experience will flow. Your job is to guide the experience and cultivate your small group into a learning and growing community. This will make it a place for members to process, question, reflect, and grow ***together***.

There are several elements in this leader's guide that will help you as you structure your study and reflection time, so follow along and take advantage of each one.

## BEFORE YOU BEGIN

### ***Materials***

Before your first meeting, make sure the participants have a copy of this study guide. Alternatively, you can hand out the study guides at your first meeting and give the group members some time to look over the material and ask any preliminary questions. During your first meeting, be sure to send a sheet around the room and have each member write down their name, phone number, and email address so you can keep in touch with them during the week.

## ***Free Streaming Video Access***

Additionally, spend a few minutes going over how to access the FREE streaming video using the code printed on the inside front cover of each study guide. Helping everyone understand how accessible this material is will go a long way if anyone (including you) has to miss a meeting or if any member of your group chooses to lead a study after the conclusion of this one!

A few commonly asked questions and answers:

**Do I have to subscribe to StudyGateway?** NO. If you sign up for StudyGateway for the first time using **studygateway.com/redeem**, you will **not** be prompted to subscribe, then or after.

**Do I set up another account if I do another study later?** NO. The next time you do a HarperChristian Resources study with FREE streaming access, all you need to do is enter the new access code, and the videos will be added to your account library.

There is a short video available walking you through how to access your streaming videos. You can choose to show the video at your first meeting or simply direct your group to the HarperChristian Resources YouTube channel to watch it at their convenience.

**How to Access Free Streaming Videos:** <https://youtu.be/JPhG06ksOn8>

## ***Group Size***

Generally, the ideal size for a group is between eight to ten people, which ensures everyone will have enough time to participate in discussions. If you have more people, you might want to break up the main group into smaller subgroups. Encourage those who show up at the first meeting to commit to attending for the duration of the study, as this will help the group members get to know each other, create stability for the group, and help you know how to prepare each week.

## ***Opening***

Each of the sessions begins with an opening icebreaker, a theological reflection, opening prayer, and a portion of Scripture that will be the focus of the teaching to read as a group.

Whenever prompted to select a volunteer to read a passage of any sort, please take the temperature of the room, as it were. Note the members of your group who do not readily raise their hand to volunteer. Reading Scripture aloud can incite anxiety or nervousness in some people. Please take the time in Week One to communicate the value of reading Scripture aloud as a community, in community. Encourage all your group members to try it at some point. Be clear that there is no bad reading of God's Word, rather it is **meant** to be read and shared with others. So, consider your group space a safe place to try and grow in this practice. One goal of this study is to grow participants in their overall engagement of God's Word, which includes feeling comfortable and confident with the words on the pages!

### ***Preparing Your Group for the Study***

Before watching your first video at your first meeting, let the group members know that each session in this study guide contains four days' worth of Bible study and a specific prayer practice on day five to complete during the week between group meetings. While we never want to make anyone feel obligated to engage with the personal study, it is written intentionally to help each person grow more comfortable with these aspects of daily morning prayer and will help your group members try all the practices presented to continue to shape their GREAT Morning Revolution experience. One of the most common aspects of all Christian life that people struggle with is prayer. It is my prayer and hope that you and your group will find new life in and desire for prayer to begin your every day through this study.

As always, invite your group members to bring any questions or insights they

uncovered

while studying or practicing each aspect of prayer to your next meeting, especially if they had a breakthrough moment or answered prayer or restored communication with God.

### **WEEKLY PREPARATION**

As the leader, there are a few things you should do to prepare for each meeting:

**Watch the video to become familiar with the content you are presenting and give you foresight of what may or may not be brought up in the discussion time.**

***Read through the group discussion section. This will help you to become familiar with the questions you will be asking, the focus Scripture, and the context. These***

question prompts are written in an intentional order for the greatest learning and growth potential. If possible, plan to work through all the prompts as a group. Plan for the prompts you definitely want to cover if you run short on time.

***Be prepared for potential responses or lack of engagement.*** Every group has times when there are no respondents and the question falls flat out of the gate. This is normal and okay! Be prepared with YOUR answer to the questions so you can always offer to share as an icebreaker and example. What you want to avoid is always answering the questions and therefore speaking for the group. Foremost, encourage members of the group to answer questions.

***Remind your group there are no wrong answers or dumb questions.*** Note that in many cases there will not be one “right” answer to the question. Answers will vary, especially when the group members are being asked to share their personal experiences.

***Pray for your group.*** Pray for your group members throughout the week and ask God to lead them as they study His Word.

***Bring extra supplies to your meeting.*** The members should bring their own pens for writing notes, but it’s a good idea to have extras available for those who forget. You may also want to bring paper and additional Bibles. If you find group members who are without a personal copy of the Bible, please invite them to let you know. There are a lot of great resources for low-cost outreach Bibles. You do not want anyone to be without a copy of the Bible if you can help it!

# STRUCTURING THE DISCUSSION TIME

You will need to determine with your group how long you want to meet each week so you can plan your time accordingly. Generally, most groups like to meet for either sixty minutes or ninety minutes, so you could use one of the following schedules:

Section	60 minutes	90 minutes
● Introduction (members arrive and get settled; leader reads or summarizes introduction)	2 minutes	2 minutes
● Opening Activity	10 minutes	10 minutes
● Video Notes (watch the teaching video together and take notes)	20 minutes	20 minutes
● Group Discussion (discuss the Bible study questions)	25 minutes	55 minutes
● Closing Prayer (pray together as a group and dismiss)	3 minutes	3 minutes

As the group leader, it is up to you to keep track of the time and keep things moving along according to your schedule. You might want to set a timer for each segment so both you and the group members know when your time is up. (Note that there are some good phone apps for timers that play a gentle chime or other pleasant sound instead of a disruptive noise.)

Don't be concerned if the group members are quiet or slow to share. People are

often

quiet when they are pulling together their ideas, and this might be a new experience for them. Just ask a question and let it hang in the air until someone shares. You can then say, "Thank you. What about others? What came to you when you watched that portion of the video?"

## GROUP DYNAMICS

Leading a group through *The GREAT Morning Revolution* will prove to be highly rewarding both to you and your group members. However, this doesn't mean you will not encounter any challenges along the way! Discussions can get off track. Group

members may not be sensitive to the needs and ideas of others. Some might worry they will be expected to talk about matters that make them feel awkward. Others may express comments that result in disagreements. To help ease this strain on you and the group, consider the following ground rules:

**When someone raises a question or comment that is off the main topic, suggest you deal with it another time, or, if you feel led to go in that direction, let the group know you will be spending some time discussing it.**

**If someone asks a question you don't know how to answer, admit it and move on. At your discretion, feel free to invite group members to comment on questions that call for personal experience.**

**If you find one or two people are dominating the discussion time, direct a few questions to others in the group. Outside the main group time, ask the more dominating members to help you draw out the quieter ones. Work to make them a part of the solution instead of the problem.**

**When a disagreement occurs, encourage the group members to process the matter *in love*. Encourage those on opposite sides to restate what they heard the other side say about the matter, and then invite each side to evaluate if that perception is accurate. Lead the group in examining other Scriptures related to the topic and look for common ground.**

When any of these issues arise, encourage your group members to follow these words from the Bible: “Love one another” (John 13:34), “If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone” (Rom. 12:18), and “Be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry” (James 1:19). This will make your group time more rewarding and beneficial for everyone who attends.

## SESSION-BY-SESSION OVERVIEWS

### WEEK 1

#### JOY COMES IN THE MORNING

Scripture covered in this session: **Lamentations 3:19–26** Inductive Study Scripture

this week: **Lamentations 3:19–26; Psalm 5:1–8; Mark 1:29–39; Psalm 143:1–12**

Discussion Question choices / notes:

#### *Prayer requests:*

### WEEK TWO

#### G RATITUDE: THE FOUNDATION OF MORNING PRAYER

Scripture covered in this session: **Psalm 92:1–2; 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18**

Inductive Study Scripture this week: **1 Thessalonians 5:16–18; Psalm 92:1–15; Philippians 4:4–9; Romans 1:18–25**

Discussion Question choices / notes:

***Prayer requests:***

**WEEK THREE**

**R EFLECT: LOOKING WITHIN AND LOOKING BACK**

Scripture covered in this session: **Psalm 139:23–24; Lamentations 3:40** Inductive

Study Scripture this week: **Psalm 139:1–24; Psalm 77:1–20; Lamentations 3:37–42; James 1:19–25**

Discussion Question choices / notes:

***Prayer requests:***



## WEEK FOUR

### EXALT: LIFTING GOD'S NAME HIGH

Scripture covered in this session: **Psalm 34:1–3; Isaiah 6:1–5** Inductive Study

Scripture this week: **Psalm 34:1–10; 2 Corinthians 3:7–18; Habakkuk 3:17–19; Isaiah 6:1–8**

Discussion Question choices / notes:

#### *Prayer requests:*

## WEEK FIVE

### ASK: BRINGING OUR NEEDS TO GOD

Scripture covered in this session: **Matthew 7:7–11; Philippians 4:6–7** Inductive

Study Scripture this week: **Matthew 7:7–11; James 4:1–3; 1 Peter 5:5–11; Mark 11:20–25**

Discussion Question choices / notes:

***Prayer requests:***

## WEEK SIX

### T RUST: SURRENDERING OUR DAY TO GOD

Scripture covered in this session: **Proverbs 3:5–6; Isaiah 26:3–4** Inductive Study

Scripture this week: **Proverbs 3:5–7; Isaiah 26:1–4; Habakkuk 3:16–19; Matthew 6:25–34**

Discussion Question choices / notes:

***Prayer requests:***



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