

## Group Meeting

### Welcome!

Welcome to Session 13 of *Believe*. If there are any new members in your group, take a moment to introduce yourselves to each other. Then spend a couple of minutes sharing insights or questions about this session's personal study. Now start the video!

#### VIDEO TEACHING NOTES

As you watch the video segment for Session 13, use the following outline to record some of the main points. (The answer key is found at the end of the session.)

- Key Question: \_\_\_\_\_ do I study God's Word?
- Key Idea: I study the Bible to \_\_\_\_\_ God and his \_\_\_\_\_ and to find \_\_\_\_\_ for my daily life.
- "Whoever has ears to hear, let them \_\_\_\_\_." (Matthew 13:9)
- Key Verse: "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and \_\_\_\_\_ of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12)
- The Bible can go deep if the \_\_\_\_\_ is willing to receive it.
- (Key Application) Keep your heart soft and \_\_\_\_\_ to God's Word.
- (Key Application) Understand the one \_\_\_\_\_ of the Bible.
- (Key Application) Study God's Word in \_\_\_\_\_.
- (Key Application) \_\_\_\_\_ God's Word.

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**GETTING STARTED**


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*Begin your discussion by reciting the Key Verse and Key Idea together as a group. On your first attempt, use your notes if you need help. On your second attempt, try to state them completely from memory.*

**KEY VERSE:** "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12)



**KEY IDEA:** I study the Bible to know God and his truth and to find direction for my daily life.

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**GROUP DISCUSSION**


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*As a group, discuss your thoughts and feelings about the following declarations. Which statements are easy to declare with certainty? Which are more challenging, and why?*

- I read the Bible daily.
- I regularly study the Bible to find direction for my life.
- I seek to be obedient to God by applying the truth of the Bible to my life.
- I have a good understanding of the contents of the Bible.

*Based on your group's dynamics and spiritual maturity, choose the 2–3 questions that will lead to the best discussion about this week's Key Idea.*

1. As a group, make a list of reasons or motivations someone could possess for studying the Bible. Discuss which reasons are most compelling.
2. What obstacles usually hinder a person from practicing consistent Bible study? Discuss ways to overcome these challenges.

3. In what ways has the Bible proven a trustworthy map for navigating decisions in your life?
4. Many tools — devotionals, commentaries, reading plans, etc. — can help people get the most out of their Bible reading. As a group, discuss some of the tools that you have found helpful.

*Read Psalm 119:9–24 (see the section "The Road Map for Living" in Believe) and choose 1–2 questions that will lead to the greatest discussion in your group.*

1. What are some practical ways to "hide God's word in your heart"?
2. In what ways has God's Word been a "lamp for your feet and a light on your path"?
3. The psalmist declares that he loves God's laws and precepts. Why do you think he feels this way?

CASE STUDY

Use the following case study as a model for a real-life situation where you might put this week's Key Idea into practice.

Parker is a promising collegian—smart, talented, and charming. Unfortunately, his compulsive, free-spirited nature often leads him to make foolish decisions. Now that he is entering manhood, the consequences of his actions have become more severe.

He grew up going to church but confesses that he has never been committed to reading the Bible for himself. Because he considers you a role model, he asks, "Can you help me? I don't know what I need to do to get my life on track, but I know that what I'm doing isn't working."

Using the Key Applications from this session, what could you say or do to help Parker find the direction he is looking for in life? (If needed, refer to your video notes for a reminder of this session's Key Applications.)

CLOSING PRAYER

Close your time together with prayer. Share your prayer requests with one another. Ask God to help you put this week's Key Idea into practice.

JOURNAL

If your church is doing the Believe church-wide campaign, bring this study guide with you to church and use the following space to take notes from the pastor's or teacher's message. If your church provides an outline, consider keeping it with this guide so you will have all of your notes and thoughts from your Believe journey in one place.

Journal writing area with horizontal lines.

VIDEO NOTES ANSWER KEY

How / know, truth, direction / hear / attitudes / heart / receptive / story / community / Memorize