



THE KEYS TO A

BLESSED LIFE



DAILYHOPE
WITH RICK WARREN

The Keys to a Blessed Life

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UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDY GUIDE



Here is a brief explanation of the features of this study guide.

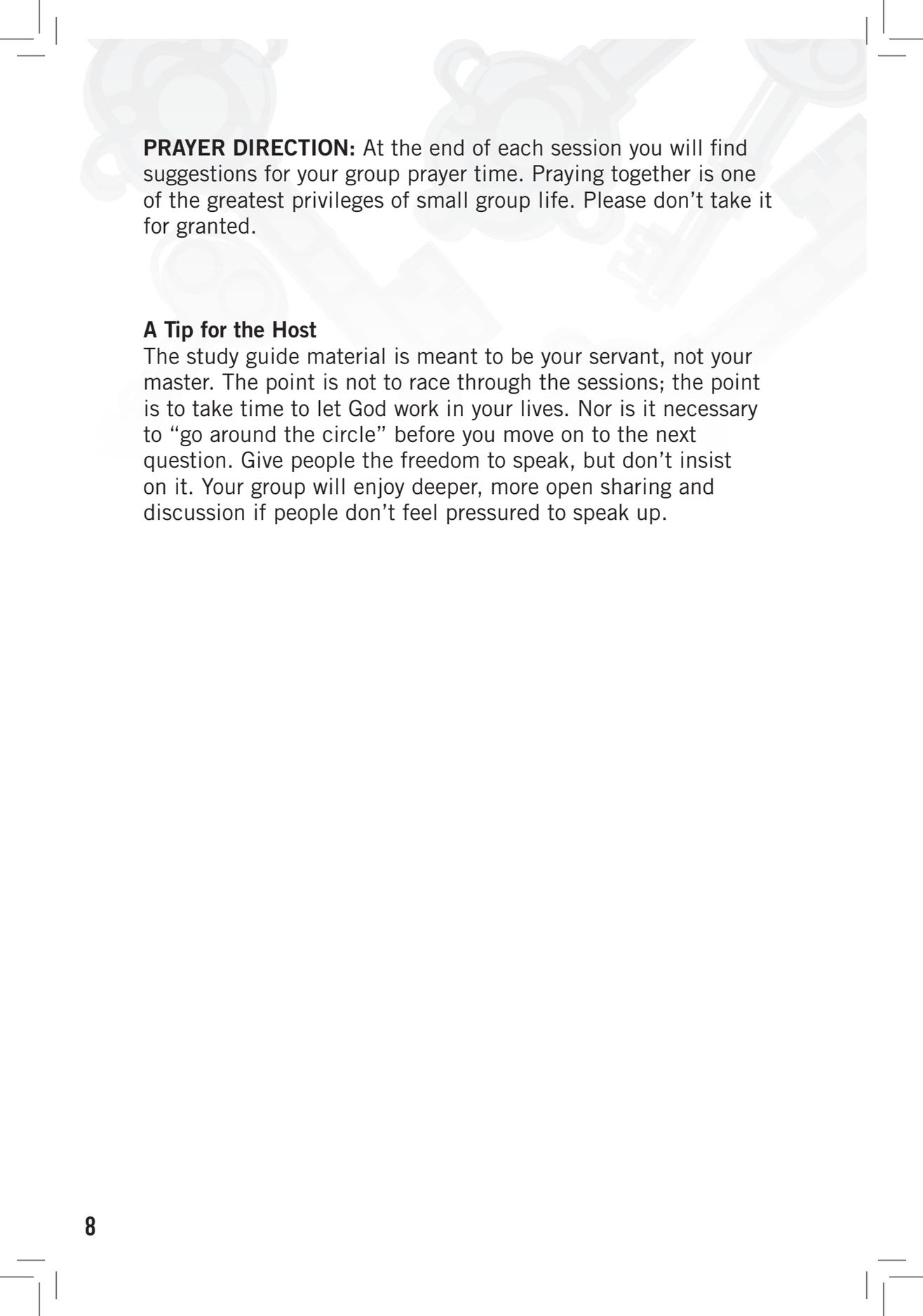
CHECKING IN: You will open each meeting with an opportunity for everyone to check in with each other about how you are doing with the weekly assignments. Accountability is a key to success in this study!

KEY VERSE: Each week you will find a key verse or Scripture passage for your group to read together. If someone in the group has a different translation, ask them to read it aloud so the group can get a bigger picture of the meaning of the passage.

VIDEO LESSON: There is a video lesson for the group to watch together each week. Fill in the blanks in the lesson outlines as you watch the video, and be sure to refer back to these outlines during your discussion time.

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS: Each video segment is complemented by several questions for group discussion. Please don't feel pressured to discuss every single question. There is no reason to rush through the answers. Give everyone ample opportunity to share their thoughts. If you don't get through all of the discussion questions, that's okay.

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE: This is where the rubber meets the road. We don't want to be just hearers of the Word. We also need to be doers of the Word (James 1:22). These assignments are application exercises that will help you put into practice the truths you have discussed in the lesson.



PRAYER DIRECTION: At the end of each session you will find suggestions for your group prayer time. Praying together is one of the greatest privileges of small group life. Please don't take it for granted.

A Tip for the Host

The study guide material is meant to be your servant, not your master. The point is not to race through the sessions; the point is to take time to let God work in your lives. Nor is it necessary to “go around the circle” before you move on to the next question. Give people the freedom to speak, but don't insist on it. Your group will enjoy deeper, more open sharing and discussion if people don't feel pressured to speak up.

HOW TO USE THIS VIDEO CURRICULUM



Follow these simple steps for a successful small group meeting:

- Open your group meeting by using the **Checking In** section of your study guide.
- Watch the video lesson together and follow along in the outlines in this study guide. Each video lesson is about fifteen minutes long.
- Complete the rest of the discussion materials for each session. Be sure to review the **Putting It Into Practice** section and commit to fulfilling any action steps before your next session.
- Close your time together by following the **Prayer Direction** suggestions.



SESSION 1

IT DEPENDS ON WHO YOU DEPEND ON



CHECKING IN

If this is your first time to meet as a group, or if you have any new group members, be sure to introduce yourselves.

This series is about the Beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount. Take a minute to share what you know about this section of the New Testament and what questions you have about these verses that you hope will be answered in this series.

KEY VERSE

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 5:3 (NIV)

“God blesses those who . . . realize their need for him . . .”

(New Living Translation)

“ . . . who recognize they are spiritually helpless . . .”

(God’s Word Translation)

“ . . . who depend only on him . . . ”
(Contemporary English Version)

“ . . . who know they have great spiritual needs . . . ”
(New Century Version)

*“The Lord God . . . blesses everyone who trusts
him and depends on him.”*
Psalm 146:5 (CEV)

••

TO BE “POOR IN SPIRIT” MEANS

••

5 WAYS TO EXPRESS MY DEPENDENCE ON GOD

1. _____

*“There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end
it leads to death.”*
Proverbs 14:12 (NIV)

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own
understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will direct your paths.
Don’t be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, respect the Lord and
turn your back on evil.”*
Proverbs 3:5-7 (NLT)

••

How do you get God's wisdom?

- Pray
- Read

"If any of you lack wisdom, you should pray and ask God, who give sit generously and graciously to all."

James 1:5

2. _____

"You bless all who depend on you for their strength."

Psalm 84:5a (CEV)

"Those who trust in the Lord for help will find their strength renewed. They will rise on wings like eagles; they will run and not get weary; they will walk and not grow weak."

Isaiah 40:31 (GNT)

3. _____

While you're waiting, God is working.

••

"I trust in you, O Lord; I say, 'You are my God. My times are in your hand.'"

Psalm 31:14-15a (ESV)

"[God] has set the right time for everything."

Ecclesiastes 3:11 (GNT)

"I am the Lord, and when it is time, I will make these things happen quickly."

Isaiah 60:22 (NCV)

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A delay is not a denial.

4. _____

“God blesses and protects everyone who runs to him.”

Psalm 2:12b (CEV)

“I depend on God alone; I put my hope in him. He alone protects and saves me; he is my defender, and I shall never be defeated. My salvation and honor depend on God; he is my strong protector; he is my shelter!”

Psalm 62:5-7 (GNT)

5. _____

“And my God will supply all my needs from his abundant wealth because of what Christ Jesus has done for us.”

Philippians 4:19

••

Your job is a channel, but God is your source.

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. One of the ways to express your dependence on God is to depend on God's wisdom, which can come from both praying and reading the Bible. Which of these is the most challenging for you? Why?

2. Pastor Tom shared the phrase, "While you're waiting, God is working." Looking back on your life, has there been a time of waiting that was frustrating in the moment, but now you see that God was working the whole time?

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

Rate yourself on the "5 Ways to Express My Dependence on God."

Give yourself a "+" (I'm trusting God pretty well in this area) or a "-" (I need to work on this one this week).

- Depending on God's wisdom _____
- Depending on God's strength _____
- Depending on God's timing _____
- Depending on God's defense _____
- Depending on God's wealth _____



Focus on one area where you need to become more dependent on God. What are some steps you can take that will require you to trust God more?

PRAYER DIRECTION

As you pray together in your small group, ask God to help you depend more on him. Expect God to answer your prayers, and be prepared to take a step of faith.

Now pray for guidance for how to give up control in the areas where you are living independent of God. Tell God you want to trust him and become dependent upon him.