

Leader's Prep Guide

The Leader's Prep Guide is a one-page glimpse of the stuff you need to know to begin preparing to teach the Large Group Session.

Session Overview

The Session Overview is a glance at some of the big picture details of each session.

- **Session Title:** Knowing The Bible
- **Session Purpose:** To both give students a big picture understanding of some of the primary roles the Bible plays in their lives, and to set up the application in Small Group Session 3 of practicing Bible study in *The Pause*.
- **Main Scriptures:** Jeremiah 9:23-24, Psalm 119:9-11, Matthew 7:24-27
- **Supplemental Scriptures:** John 5:39, Romans 11:33
- **Session Snapshot:** Knowing the Bible is huge when it comes to hitting pause! Prayer is essential. But knowing God's Word is vital! This will be fleshed out really well in the third Small Group Session. This Large Group Outline will help support the application that will happen in Small Group while at the same time challenging students with a message about the essential nature of the Bible. Similar to how the Large Group Session 2 Outline treated prayer, this outline will take a big picture view of the Bible and its role in our lives and in learning to hit pause.

Session Specifics

Session Specifics are just that: important aspects of the session outline that you need to keep in mind as you prepare.

Details on Large Group Session Outlines

- Here's the overall flow of each Large Group Session. (This way you'll know where you're headed as you think about tailoring this outline to fit your needs.)
 - **Session 1:** Theme pitch: Why it's so important that we seek to know God more
 - **Session 2:** The importance of prayer in our lives
 - **Session 3:** Why knowing the Bible is vital to our relationship with God
 - **Session 4:** Examining God's call on our lives

A note about Small Groups

- In Small Group Session 3, students will be learning the importance of knowing God's Word.
 - Students will actually learn two different Bible study techniques in their Small Group time and will have the chance to practically apply them.
 - You can feel comfortable taking a "big picture" look at the importance of knowing the Bible in this Large Group time.
- You can allude to the Psalm 119:97-104 if you choose. But mostly just keep it in mind, so if you "freelance" a bit you won't steal any of the Small Group Leader's thunder.

DETAILED Large Group Speaker Outline: Session 3: Knowing The Bible

*This DETAILED outline is specifically designed to give lots of tools to craft a great Large Group talk. For every talking point, we've provided some optional content for you to use, if you choose. (If you'd like a more streamlined outline, please see the **SIMPLE Large Group Speaker Outline**.)*

Session Intro

In this section you'll see some **suggestions** to help you intro the session. Use as is, add to them, or come up with your own!

• Intro Option 1: Pause Intro

- Remind students of the definition you gave for what it means to hit pause.
 - **Explain that hitting pause means seeking God in silence and solitude through prayer and Bible Study.**
 - Remind students that you already have the first part covered.
- Explain that this session is all about the benefits of knowing God through His Word.
- Explain to students that you'll really dig in to how to study the Bible when you get in Small Group Session 3.
 - Let them know in this session you'll be taking a big picture look at knowing God's Word.

• Intro Option 2: Knowing Us

- If you really want to sell this, take a picture of the one object or possession that best expresses who you are.
 - This could be any possession of yours that communicates something about your identity.
 - Arrange to display this picture as you are talking.
- Explain to students that we can tell a lot about people by what they value.
- Ask students to think hard for a moment about one specific object or possession that speaks very directly to their identity.
 - It might be an electric guitar, a baseball glove, or a pair of ballerina shoes.
 - If you're in a setting that allows it, ask for volunteers to name what their object is.
 - If you've arranged for it, show your object or possession to the group and explain why it represents your identity.
- Explain to students that we can tell a great deal about us as individuals by looking at these objects and the various aspects of our personalities they represent. But at the end of the day, very few if any of us would have a possession or object that completely expresses who we are.
- Lead students to understand that this session will focus on the Bible as God's primary way of making Himself known to us, His children. The best part? The Bible is perfectly capable of teaching us exactly who God is. Which is a good thing for us!

Bible Study

In this section you'll find the heart of your Large Group Session content, the Bible Study. This section gives three Teaching Points with supporting, optional content suggestions. All of the optional content is designed to help you **customize** how you will teach the session. Teach it as is or tailor it to allow for your personality and experience.

Teaching Point 1: The Bible is God's plan so that we can know Him.

- Instruct students to turn to John 5:39.
 - Provide a glimpse of the context of this passage. Explain to students that Jesus found Himself increasingly the object of the religious leaders' persecution.
 - Here, the Pharisees were confronting Jesus both because He was healing people on the Sabbath and because Jesus was equating Himself with God the Father.
- The Pharisees were asking where Jesus' authority came from. Here we see Jesus make a bold statement not only about Himself, but also about the Bible.

- **Read aloud John 5:39.**
- **Then, say something like:** *What Jesus did here was remarkable in His day, and equally bold in ours. Jesus was not talking about the New Testament. He was saying that the Old Testament, that the Pharisees would have seen as Scripture, actually testified that Jesus was who He is. Wow! That's pretty awesome. But for our purposes today, what we see is that the Bible is God's main way to teach us about Him, His character, and His work in setting in place His plan to redeem humankind.*
- Help students see that this fact, that God can be known, is remarkable.
- Instruct students to turn to Jeremiah 9:23-24.
- Explain that Jeremiah was a great prophet tasked with speaking God's Word to the people of Israel.
 - **Read Jeremiah 9:23-24 aloud.**
 - **Then, say something like:** *This is really amazing! We don't focus on this enough. The God who has always existed, who spoke creation into existence, and who set in motion a plan to save all who would accept His grace and salvation . . . this God has made it so that we could know Him. Look what God says here through Jeremiah: wisdom, and strength, and money are nothing. What counts in this life is that we can truly know God. We can have a relationship with Him, an intimate relationship with the one true God. This should knock our socks off!*
- Explain to students that the main way we know God is through His Word.

We've provided some options for you to use to supplement this **Teaching Point**, if you choose. Use the ones we've provided, or provide your own!

Option 1: Family History

- Lead students to use their imaginations for a moment.
 - Encourage students to pretend they had a grandparent whom they never met. Maybe some of them can relate to this analogy.
 - Lead them to imagine that they had a strong, strong desire to know their grandparent. More than just a curiosity—it was yearning to know him or her.
- Then, lead them to imagine that they found a book that told the entire life story of this grandparent.
 - What he or she had done.
 - All the core principles that guided this grandparent's life.
 - But more than this, this book contained a message for them! It was a message of hope from a grandparent to his or her grandchild.
- Now, how special would this book be? It would be invaluable! It would be a prized possession.
- **Explain that the Bible functions just like this, except better. It's God's letter to us.**
- The question we have to ask ourselves is how much we value it. Is it a treasure to us?

Option 2: Your Plan

- Explain to students that God isn't the only one with a plan to be known.
- Explain that every single day, students do things to make themselves known to others. In other words, their lives are in many aspects focused on communicating who they are to the world.
- Encourage students to think about it.
 - **Say something like:** *The clothes you wear speak to your personality. It might be hard to admit it, but they either say, "I want to be like the crowd" or "I want to be unique." Your hairstyle (or color) says the same thing. Your choice of music says something to the world about who you are. And think about the stuff you put on Facebook® or Twitter™. Isn't much of it aimed at shaping your identity publicly? Let's face it: There's an urge to be known.*
- Explain to students that God is a little better at this than we are!
- Explain that we change. **Say something like:** *Your choice of style might totally change over the next few years. Same with your musical taste. But God doesn't change. He is what we call unchanging. What's more, the Bible is complete. There is nothing more to add. So, we can say that God is unchanging and His Word is unchanging. We'll never have to worry about Him being anything other than what He is. And we'll never have to worry if what is in His Word is the same now and forever.*

Transition Statement

Explain to students that the Bible isn't just about knowing God and His character. It's about knowing His ways. The Bible teaches us what it means to live like citizens of God's Kingdom. This is one of the purposes of Scripture. If we look for it, we'll find that the Bible says this about itself.

Teaching Point 2: The Bible is God's plan to help us knowing His ways.

- Explain that knowing God's ways is the key to living as Christ-followers.
- Instruct students to turn to Psalm 119:9-11.
 - **Read Psalm 119:9-11 aloud.**
 - **Then, say something like:** In this passage we see the psalmist looking to God's Word as the guide for godly living. The psalmist knows that following God's ways is the call of all who believe in God. And when you look at verse 11, we see that knowing God's ways through knowing His Word is the key to righteous living.
- Explain that this concept is a recurring one in Scripture.
- Remind students that seeking God in Bible study is one of the ways we grow closer to God. God's ways can't be separated from His character. Seeking God by studying His Word is key to knowing Him and learning how to live according to His ways.

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Option 1: Foreign Customs

- Explain to students that other cultures have interesting laws and customs.
- Discuss some or all of these interesting laws: (Source: <http://www.budgettravel.com/feature/weird-foreign-laws-dont-get-busted,2382/>)
 - In Canada, the maximum number of pennies you can use per transaction is 25.
 - In Singapore, you can be fined for not flushing a public toilet.
 - In Scandinavia, it's illegal to wear a mask in public.
 - In the Philippines, a car can only be driven on certain days based on a numeric system determined by the license plate.
 - In Kenya, waving is actually a non-verbal way to say, "Come here. Now." So, be careful who you wave to.
- **Say something like:** *Now, what does all of this have to do with the Bible? Actually more than you might think. You see, these cultures have ways of doing things unique to their culture. If you think about it, we have ways of doing things unique to being a Christ-follower. This shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone who has tried to live a sinless life in our culture. The thing is that God's Word spells out all these distinctives of being a Christ-follower. It helps us live according to the ways of God and His Kingdom.*

Option 2: Corporate Culture

- Ask students if they have ever heard the phrase *corporate culture*.
- Explain that whether they've heard it or not, they've encountered it.
 - Corporate culture is simply the way things are done in certain corporations or organizations.
- Think about these examples. (If you want, you could do a web image search and support these points with slides.)
 - Have you ever said thank you to an employee of a Chick-fil-A®? If so, chances he or she replied to you, "My pleasure." This response is part of their corporate culture. They are trained to say this.
 - Part of the corporate culture at Google® is that anyone, from an intern to an executive, can pitch an idea for a product. Gmail® is a result of an intern pushing for a better email platform. At Google, innovation and initiative are part of their corporate culture.
 - It's not just corporations. The United States Marine Corps (USMC) is a good example of an organization that values a corporate culture. People who believe USMC basic training is all physically challenging are mistaken. The Marines include several huge written tests at Boot Camp designed to drill the culture of the Marine Corps—including its history, customs, and standard behavior—into soon-to-be Marines.
- **Say something like:** *There's a very strong identity that Christ-followers are called to have. And just like every Marine is unified through a variety of corporate ideals and values, so are Christ-followers. We could go down the list: love for others,*

selflessness, righteousness, and so on. But without God's Word, we'd be lost as to how we're expected to conduct ourselves as followers of Christ.

Transition Statement

Knowing God and His ways through studying God's Word is a vital part of hitting pause. But if all we do is learn about God, we fall short of what we're intended to do. Let's look closer.

Teaching Point 3: Knowledge of God must lead to life change.

- Explain to students that one of the biggest shortfalls of many believers is failing to live out the truth of God's Word.
 - Many Christ-followers read their Bibles, listen to spiritual music and/or podcasts, and listen intently to sermons and Bible study lessons. Yet, their lives don't reflect any sort of application of what they're learning.
- Explain that Christ had something to say about this.
 - **Read Matthew 7:24-27 aloud.**
 - **Then say something like:** *This passage says it about as clearly as it can be said: If we are to live according to Christ's instructions, it means putting the truth of God's Word to work in our lives. When we do, the storms of life will come. But they will not shake us because of our strong foundation. When we don't apply God's truth in our lives, we have no foundation.*

We've provided some options for you to use to supplement this **Teaching Point**, if you choose. Use the ones we've provided, or provide your own!

Option 1: Guide Book

- If you want, you can add a little flavor to this analogy by doing a web image search for sites in Italy. For instance, you could search for images of the Sistine Chapel, the Roman Coliseum, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, or the canals of Venice.
 - If you choose to go this route, make sure you have the pictures lined up to display during your talk.
- Introduce the idea of a travel guidebook to students.
 - Explain that there are dozens of companies and individuals who produce these super in-depth guidebooks for all sorts of destinations.
 - Explain that, for instance, if you wanted to take a trip to Italy, you could buy a guidebook that would give you all the hotels in a specific city, along with all the restaurants, all the sites, all the tours to take, and so on.
 - Explain that many of the guidebooks even have help on learning a foreign language or contain notes to take your own tour inside museums and other attractions.
- **Say something like:** *You know, you could save all the trouble and just read the guidebook, couldn't you? I mean, plane rides are so hectic. And travel overseas is full of challenges. So, it would be awesome if you could just take this book, read it through, and basically experience the beauty of Italy. Right?*
 - Explain to students that of course this is a ridiculous notion.
 - Explain to students that these guidebooks are meant to be utilized to prepare a person for an actual trip to another country.
- Remind students that the Bible is the same way. It's not intended to simply be a guidebook to collect facts. It's meant to equip us for the actual journey.

CLOSING

Option 1: Session Closing

- If your schedule calls for one more Large Group Session, use this option
- Seeking God through hitting pause is the way in which we're called to live our lives.
- We can't follow what we don't know. And we can't know God without prayer and Bible study.
- God's Word is literally at the center of how we know Him. It's His plan for making Himself known.

- Explain that we must commit ourselves to knowing and applying God's Word in our lives.

Option 2: Study Closing: The Pause Closing Video

- If your schedule dictates that this is the last Large Group Session, use this option.
- Arrange to show the Pause Closing Video.
- The video really does a great job of summarizing what you've studied. And it sets up this lesson really nicely.
- Show the video.
 - ***Then say something like:*** *It's pretty cool to think we've learned all this stuff, isn't it? But as the video alluded to, it's not enough to know it. We have to put it to use. This final session has helped us know exactly how hitting pause prepares us to make a major impact on the world in Christ's name. In other words, hitting pause prepares us to live life in play.*
- *Close by challenging students to not waste this time, but to put what they have learned to use in their lives.*