



SESSION 2 LEADER GUIDE

HOST CODE: 246810

LEADER NOTES

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION (5 MINUTES)

Offer a personal welcome.

Ask how the group did with the Daily Assignment and ask whether anyone needs clarification on how to use the app.

Ask participants to open their app to the session's Meeting Guide.

BEGIN SESSION (10 MINUTES)

Share the following:

Follow along with me silently in the **Meeting Opening segment** of your Meeting Guide as I read aloud these key items from this session.

Theme Word: Sin

Title: The Rebel People

Theme Verse:

"Because I know my wrongdoings,
my sin is always right in front of me.
I've sinned against you—you alone"
(Psalm 51:3-4).

Our Human Condition:

Because we have the capacity to make choices, we see ourselves as self-sufficient. We become self-centered. And because we want no limits placed on us, we rebel against our Creator in our attempt to take control. Yet we know that there is turmoil in the world and in ourselves, but we don't know why.

Briefly summarize what was shared by participants in the Group Discussion Question thread on this session's Human Condition.

Summary of discussion thread:

Opening Prayer

Share the following:

Thank you for using the Prayer Request board in the app this week. Please continue to do so throughout this study. Let's keep in mind the Prayer Requests as we use this week's Psalm as our opening prayer.

(Read the Psalm and offer any other brief words of prayer.)

*"Come back to me and have mercy on me;
that's only right for those who love your name"
(Psalm 119:132).*

A Biblical Scholar's Perspective

Share the following:

This week you heard our scholar share information meant to enhance our understanding of the scripture. What comments does anyone have on that video? You'll find any notes you took in the Reflections on **A Biblical Scholar's Perspective segment of your Meeting Guide.** *(Allow a couple of comments.)*

EXPLORE “THE REBEL PEOPLE” (20 MINUTES)

Share the following:

In the **Large-Group Discussion segment** of your Meeting Guide, you will find your definition of “sin,” which you were asked to write on Day 5. Take a moment to review and/or revise what you wrote, and then I will ask for several of you to share your definition of sin with the group.

Give them a couple of minutes to write and revise and then ask for three or four volunteers to read their definitions.

Share the following (2 MINUTES):

Here is another, perhaps similar, definition of sin: “individual or corporate actions or inactions that cause separation from a perfect relationship with God.” Let’s keep the idea of “separation from a perfect relationship with God” in mind as we work through the session today.

Now let’s turn to the subject of repentance. What do you think the difference is between feeling sorry about something and repentance? *(Give participants time to consider and briefly answer.)*

Repentance is defined as “turning away from sin and turning toward God.” Repentance is not simply saying, “I’m sorry,” and then repeating the behavior. Silently, think of examples in your life when you have desired forgiveness but failed to repent or stop the behavior.

What are some ways you practice repentance in your life? *(Examples could be prayer, confession to someone else, Holy Communion.)*

Share the following (10 MINUTES):

The first eleven chapters of Genesis contain ancient stories passed down through oral tradition. They are theological narratives, told and retold by rabbis, intended to explain beginnings. Genesis means “beginning.” The stories—Creation (which we covered in Session 1), Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah and the Flood, and the Tower of Babel—teach us about God, humankind, and the relationship between the two.

We are going to discuss the story of Adam and Eve together, and then we’ll break into small groups to discuss the remaining three stories. As we review these stories, you may want to refer to your notes, which you will find in your Meeting Guide in the **Large-Group Discussion segment**.

What does the story of Adam and Eve tell us about God? *(Allow for 2-3 answers.)*

What does the story tell us about humankind? *(Allow for 2-3 answers.)*

What does the story tell us about the relationship between God and humankind? *(Allow for 2-3 answers.)*

SMALL-GROUP DISCUSSION (15 MINUTES)

Divide the class into **random breakout rooms of 3-4** participants and set the countdown clock for **15 minutes**. Tell participants to choose a small-group leader who will keep the discussion moving.

Tell participants to use the Small-Group Discussion segment of their Meeting Guide for content, questions, and answers they saved during their Daily Assignments.

Ask the groups to spend the next **15 minutes** on this activity. (The leader should participate in one of the small-group discussions. There is no need to have small groups report their discussions to the whole group.)

Note: The content of the Small-Group Discussion guide is included at the end of this document.

BREAKOUT ROOM GUIDE

Participants (<u>excluding</u> leader and co-leader)	15	12-14	9-11	6-8
Breakout rooms needed	5	4	3	2

BROADCAST MESSAGES

Countdown timer says:	Message to broadcast
15 minutes remaining	5 minutes elapsed ... 15 remaining
10 minutes remaining	Halfway through our breakouts
5 minutes remaining	5 minutes remaining
1 minute remaining	60 seconds remaining in breakouts

GROUP OPEN DISCUSSION (5 MINUTES)

Ask if there are any thoughts or questions about this session's content that have not been covered in this group meeting. As time allows, address comments. Remind participants that any topics not addressed can also be discussed on the Group Message Board. Be sure not to exceed the time allotted because the Mark of Discipleship section and Personal Prayer section are critical to the study.

CONSIDER THE MARK OF DISCIPLESHIP (10 MINUTES)

Share the following:

Please go to the **Mark of Discipleship segment** of your Meeting Guide and let's go over this session's Human Condition and Mark of Discipleship. (Ask a participant to read these.)

Our Human Condition: Because we have the capacity to make choices, we see ourselves as self-sufficient. We become self-centered. And because we want no limits placed on us, we rebel against

our Creator in our attempt to take control. Yet we know that there is turmoil in the world and in ourselves, but we don't know why.

Mark of Discipleship: Disciples acknowledge their rebellion, accept responsibility for their sin, and repent.

Share the following:

Remember that the Marks of Discipleship emphasize characteristics or practices of a Christ-follower. The “mark” is the disciple’s response to Our Human Condition each session.

Mark of Discipleship 1:1’s (8 MINUTES)

Divide the class into **random breakout rooms of 2-3 participants** and set the countdown timer for **8 minutes**.

Tell participants to use the Mark of Discipleship segment of their Meeting Guide for the content, questions, and answers they saved during their Daily Assignments. (The leader should participate in one of the pairings. There is no need to have paired participants report their discussions to the entire group.)

BREAKOUT ROOM GUIDE					
Participants (<u>excluding</u> leader and co-leader)	14-15	12-13	10-11	8-9	6-7
Breakout rooms needed	7	6	5	4	3

BROADCAST MESSAGES	
Countdown timer says:	Message to broadcast
4 minutes	Halfway through our breakouts
1 minute remaining	60 seconds remaining in breakouts

Below is what participants will discuss in their breakouts:

- + We all try to hide our sinfulness, even from ourselves. Recall a time when some person or some event caused you to see your sinful nature.
- + Because we tend to defy God and take life into our own hands, how do we go about putting ourselves back under God’s authority? (Consider David’s example in Psalm 51.) How do you think repentance factors into this?
- + We are part of the collective wickedness of the world. Humans have the capability of destroying ourselves. What, in your view, are the means of our survival?

CLOSE WITH PRAYER (10 MINUTES)

Share the following:

Now please navigate to the Day 5 Assignment and the Response to Mark of Discipleship segment to find your Personal Prayer.

As we prepare to close in prayer, I want to remind you that you can use the Prayer Request chain section of the app at any time to share joys, sorrows, or personal needs, and that we should all be reading the requests and praying for one another daily.

In the Response to the Mark of Discipleship section on Day 5, you were prompted to write a Personal Prayer in response to this week's learning.

The prayer could be anything that you feel God has impressed upon your heart or mind as you have progressed through this week's learning. Please take the next minute to make any updates to your Personal Prayer as a result of today's discussion. I'm going to ask each of you to share your Personal Prayer in a moment as I close our meeting. Also, you can access your Personal Prayer each day of the coming week as you pray the Daily Psalm.

Give participants a minute to type.

I will need a volunteer to start our closing prayer, then call on each of you when it is time to share your Personal Prayer. That person will also indicate when it is time for you to share any additional prayer concerns, whether they are about our world, or community, or our study group.

*Ask a volunteer to close the session using this prayer, found **in the Meeting Guide in the Meeting Closing segment:***

LORD, as your disciples, help us to acknowledge our rebellion, accept responsibility for our sins, and repent. We are abundantly grateful for your forgiveness and grace. Give us courage and strength to address places in our lives that call for repentance we offer up in these individual prayers in response to what we have learned.

(Call on each participant.)

LORD, we bring to you these Personal Prayers as well as the following needs.

(Ask participants to speak up to add to their prayers.)

We bring you these and all of our unspoken prayer requests in Christ's name. Amen.

Remind participants to use the study group roster and pray for each person in the coming week.

<END>

LEADER NOTES

SMALL-GROUP DISCUSSION (15 MINUTES)

Ask one person to be timekeeper and plan about 6–7 minutes per story for the discussion. Complete as much as you are able in 15 minutes.

You will be transferred back into the main group when the breakout time expires.

Cain and Abel (5 MINUTES)

- What does the story tell us about God?
- What does the story tell us about humankind?
- What does the story tell us about the relationship between God and humankind?

Discuss the types of offerings you give to God. For example, do you give the “first and best” of your talents, your time, or your money, or perhaps what is “left over”?

Noah and the Flood (5 MINUTES)

- What does the story tell us about God?
- What does the story tell us about humankind?
- What does the story tell us about the relationship between God and humankind?

Where do you see God’s grace in this story?

Tower of Babel (5 MINUTES)

What is the problem in the story?

- What does the story tell us about God?
- What does the story tell us about humankind?
- What does the story tell us about the relationship between God and humankind?