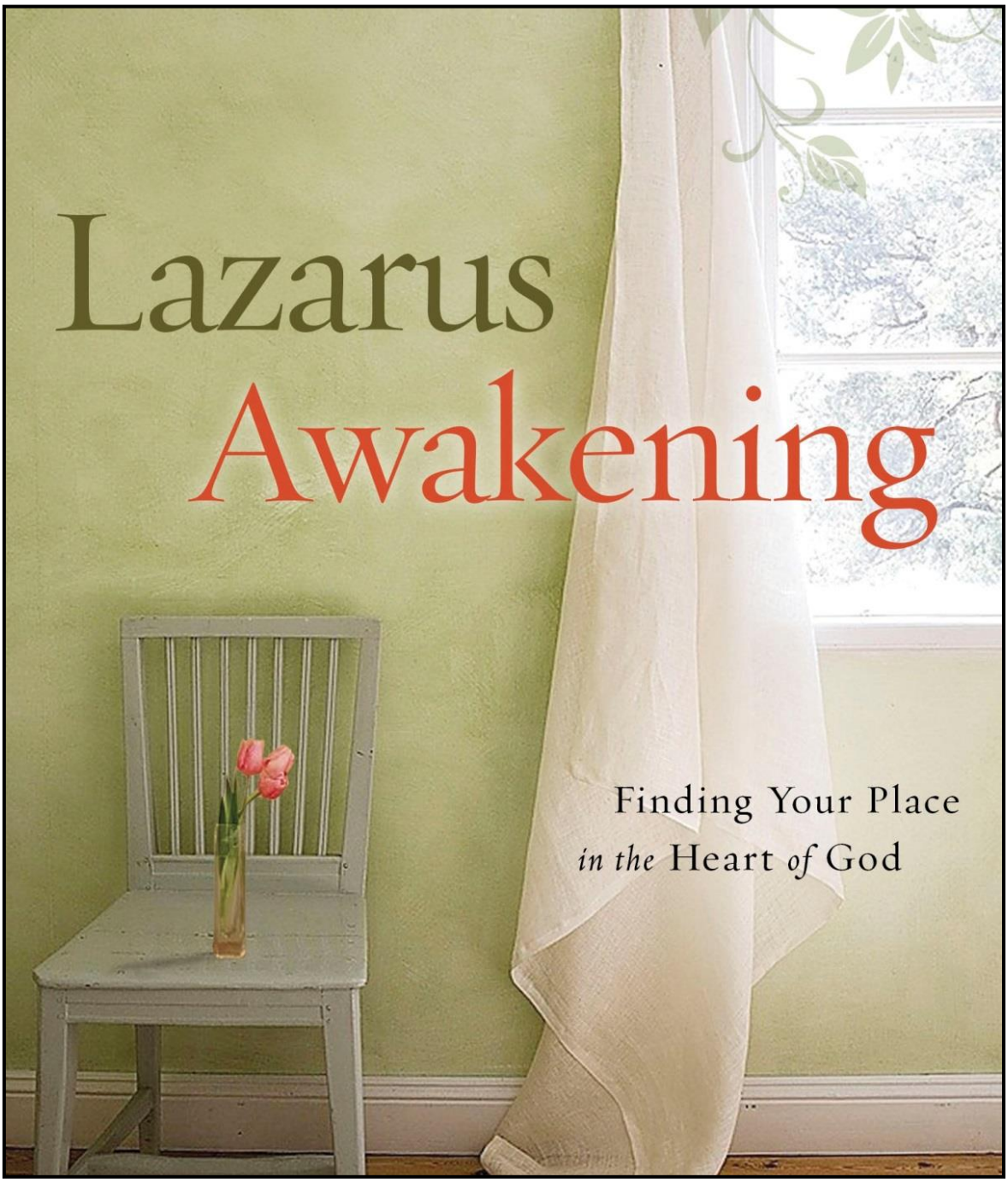

DVD Study

Retreat Guide

Lazarus Awakening
Retreat Guide

Note from Joanna:

I absolutely love retreats! God seems to show up in an extra special way when women set apart an extended time to meet with Him.

The following guide is a suggestion of how you can use the *Lazarus Awakening: Finding Your Place in the Heart of God* DVD Study to shape a special event. While the Bible study can be used by both men and women, we've designed this optional retreat format specifically for women.

Please feel free to use—or not use! —whatever you desire. Activities and crafts are optional, especially if time is limited. You may want to preview the other videos in the study and change the format completely, creating sessions that are more pertinent to the needs of your group.

I will be praying that the Lord gives you creative ideas to make this retreat your own, and a time that women will never forget as they grow closer to each other and draw nearer to God.

Suggested Format:

While this guide is designed for a Friday and Saturday weekend retreat (see schedule on page 5), it can be adjusted to fit a one-day event as well. The atmosphere should be relaxed and casual.

Because much of the retreat happens around tables or in small groups, assign "Table Leaders" to facilitate discussion. Provide each leader a copy of the book, *Lazarus Awakening,* and this guide in a binder, highlighting the parts they are responsible for. Point them to page 6, which gives helpful "Tips for Leading Small Groups."

Each participant will need a copy of the "Retreat Journal" available on **DVD-3** or online at www.LazarusAwakening.com. Insert pages of your own to create a customized journal.

Theme & Titles:

Theme verse:	*The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.* (John 10:10, NKJV)
Possible titles:	Lazarus Awakening—the Retreat Awake! "Come Forth!" Roll Away the Stone
Teasers:	Good things come to those who WAKE! No more half-way living…it's time to "Come forth!"

Promotion:

Begin promoting your event at least a month before the chosen date. You'll find a short study promo video as well as a downloadable retreat poster, bulletin insert and postcard on **DVD- 3** or at www.LazarusAwakening.com. Just add event information such as date, time, location, and cost. Request an announcement such as this be placed in the church bulletin:

Do you feel stuck in your Christian walk? Have you settled for halfway living rather than the abundant life Jesus came to give?

Join us for a life-changing weekend as we roll away the stone and give God access to every part of our hearts. It's time to wake up! It's time to "come forth!"

Date:
Time:
Location:
Cost:

Based on Joanna Weaver's DVD Bible study and book, *Lazarus Awakening.* In these videos filmed in the Holy Land, Joanna shares powerful truths concerning the resurrection life God wants to bring every one of us! [OPTIONAL: add registration details here.]

Room Set-up & Decorations:

To facilitate discussion groups, set up round tables in the same room where you will be showing the video. In advance, determine locations for Saturday afternoon's Prayer Station Breakout. Put up signs designating the different stations.

As for decorating, think of awakening and new life. Ideas include:

- Decorate with spring colors. Consider bright lighting, flowers, baskets of greenery, and trees.
- Use items that emphasize "Awake" theme—fresh flowers, coffee cups, alarm clocks, etc.
- Set up prayer stations for Saturday afternoon breakout time. See directions in "Prayer Station Breakout" on pages 18-20 in this guide. If possible, use separate rooms for each station.

ALTERNATE THEME: Using as inspiration the "Lazarus Awakening: the Retreat" poster graphics (**DVD-3)**, focus on the Holy Land shoot location using maps, passports, pottery, etc. to decorate. Follow retreat format given, but incorporate "Israel Moment" videos into schedule.

Gift Bags & Giveaways:

While the following elements are not necessary, you may want to provide each lady a gift bag that includes:

- Nametag
- Pen or pencil
- Bottle of water
- Sample-size lotions, body washes, etc.

- Small packet of tissue
- Breath mints and/or chocolate
- Retreat Journal (see **DVD-3** or www.LazarusAwakening.com)

Optional giveaway items could include: coffee shop certificates, potted plants or flowers, gift baskets of chocolate and coffee items, CDs of worship music, or a devotional like *My Utmost for His Highest, Jesus Calling,* or my own *At the Feet of Jesus.*

Giving each woman a copy of *Lazarus Awakening* is a wonderful touch as well. It is a tangible reminder of the weekend, and gives women a tool to go deeper in their journey toward living resurrected. (Many groups factor this cost into the price of the retreat. Bulk pricing is available.)

Prayer Stations:

My other DVD retreat formats include a special Saturday "Quiet Time Breakout" that allows women to get alone with God. But for this retreat, I felt led to create prayer stations that provide tangible steps for women to take towards their own *Lazarus Awakening*.

While this approach requires more setup time and preparation, I really believe God is going to use it in the lives of your women. The optional craft provides a complement as women create a "Come Forth!" box which can hold prayer station mementos, should you decide to include that feature. Check out my Pinterest "Lazarus Awakening DVD Study" page to see samples of decoupage boxes and other retreat ideas (www.Pinterest.com/j5weaver/lazarus-awakening-dvd-study/).

Because setting up the stations will take not only time, but also a bit of sweat and creativity, I suggest finding a small team who will take the ideas I give—and come up with some of their own! I'm praying that this part of the retreat will be an experience with God women will never forget.

For more details, look at the "Prayer Station Breakout" on pages 18-20.

Food & Snacks:

While this part is entirely up to you, I would suggest providing a dessert or light snack on Friday evening, with a continental breakfast available on Saturday morning. Lunch can be as elaborate or simple as you like—a catered affair to a boxed lunch. But be sure to have an assortment of beverages such as tea, coffee and water available throughout the retreat.

To play up the "Awake!" theme, you might want to have an espresso stand along with pastries, fresh fruit, and other tasty items.

Equipment Needed:

Projector and screen for video sessions
Round tables & chairs (if possible)
mp3 or CD player for background music

Other Items:

Nametags & markers
See "Preparation" list in sessions
Instrumental worship playlist

Handouts:

You can find the following items on **DVD-3** or at www.LazarusAwakening.com:

- Retreat Journal—with viewer guides, sidebars, and space for notes. Personalize with schedule and other details for your event.
- Retreat Memory Verse—John 10:10 (NKJV).
- OPTIONAL: Books of the Bible bookmarks—use as you wish.
  Note: Laminating the verse and bookmark adds a nice touch.

Videos Needed:

You will want to familiarize yourself with accessing the DVD sessions needed before the event. They are as follows:

Session 1	DVD Session 1—"Stuck Christianity" Word Time: Scripture Memorization
Session 2	DVD Session 2—"Talitha Koum!" Word Time: Bible Reading Highlights
Session 3	DVD Session 5—"Leaving Our Tombs" Word Time: Journaling Resurrection
Session 4	DVD Session 7—"Shedding Graveclothes"
Session 5	DVD Session 8—"Light of Eternity"

Suggested Retreat Schedule:

FRIDAY	7:00–9:30 pm	Session 1: "Stuck Christianity" Word Time: Scripture Memorization
SATURDAY	8:30 am	Continental Breakfast
	9:00–10:15 am	Session 2: "Talitha Koum!" Word Time: Bible Reading Highlights
	10:15–11:00 am	Craft Time
	11:00–12:00 am	Session 3: "Leaving Our Tombs" Word Time: Journaling Resurrection
	12:00–12:30 pm	Lunch
	12:30–1:45 pm	Session 4: "Shedding Graveclothes"
	1:45–2:45 pm	Prayer Stations Breakout
	2:45–4:00 pm	Session 5: "Light of Eternity" Communion
	4:00 pm	Closing Prayer

Tips for Leading Small Groups

- Ask God to give you a genuine love for each woman at the table.
- Pray for attendees both before and during the event. Ask that the Holy Spirit would enlighten their minds and speak to their hearts in a very special way.
- During discussion time around the table, guide the conversation but don't monopolize it.
- Don't be threatened by silence. People often need time to formulate their response. If you jump in with the answers, quieter members will sit back and never interact.
- Sometimes one member is more vocal than the others, to a point of hi-jacking the conversation. In those instances, be kind but don't be afraid to take back the helm. Ways to do this include thanking the person for her input but then asking if anyone else has a thought or interjecting a short insight of your own. When asking the next question, suggest that someone who hasn't had a chance to share speak up.
- To draw out quieter members, you may want to make gentle eye contact to invite their involvement. After someone has answered a question, address the quiet person by name and ask what she thinks. Don't push or demand, but provide an opportunity for everyone to be heard.
- When an answer is given that doesn't quite fit the question or the scriptural context, thank the participant and then ask if someone else has an answer.
- Sometimes opinions or answers will be given that are unscriptural, and at other times conversations may devolve into gossip or gripe sessions. At moments like these, I silently pray for wisdom and then gently steer the conversation back on track.
- You can gently address a sidetracked topic in closing prayer or share a scripture. But above all, avoid arguing or making anyone look foolish. Present truth and let the Holy Spirit do the rest.

Friday Evening–SESSION 1

Topic: Stuck Christianity

Preparation:

- Print the following items found on **DVD-3** or online for each attendee:
  - "Retreat Journal"—print in booklet form or staple as handout.
  - "Retreat Verse"—print on cardstock and laminate if possible.
- Print and trim the following items found in the "Additional Tools" in back of this guide (starting on page 26):
  - "Who Am I?" nametags for group game, enough for one per woman.
  - "House of …" response sheets to put on tables, one per woman.
- Response stations: depending on size of group, tape 2–6 tall strips of colored butcher paper around the room. Trim top to a point resembling a house. At each station, place 3–4 markers and scotch tape for the response time at end of video.
- Arrange for soft worship music during response time.
- Provide each table with a piece of white poster board and a marker.
- If serving refreshments or dessert, consider serving after "Who Am I?" game.

Registration: Open registration 30 minutes to one hour before event begins. Offer beverages and a table of goodies to encourage fellowship. Depending on number of women attending, consider having several registration tables (divided alphabetically; express line for those who've prepaid; etc.) Hand out nametags.

Welcome: (10 minutes)

- Welcome ladies and open in prayer.
- Announcements and important details—like the location of the restrooms!
- Optional drawing or giveaway.
- Be sure everyone has a Retreat Journal.

Group Activity: "Who Am I?" Game (10 minutes)

Tape one of the "Who Am I?" character names on each participant's back, then instruct them to go around the room asking questions to discover the identity of their character. Consider pairing those new to Bible study with a more experienced person to help them ask and answer questions. (If many are unchurched, consider a different game.)

INSTRUCTIONS: They can ask two questions of each person, but the questions can only be answered by a "yes" or a "no." The first person to identify herself wins a prize. Have prizes for those who guess their starred (*), lesser-known Bible characters as well.

Word Time: Scripture Memorization (12 minutes)

- **DVD-1:** Point women to sidebar on page 2 in Retreat Journal and view corresponding Word Time video [4:19].
- **HAND OUT:** Retreat Memory Verse cards (**JOHN 10:10 NKJV**). Practice using the system I suggest on the video, repeating each line three times:

"John 10:10 / The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy…"

"John 10:10 / The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life…"

"John 10:10 / The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" / John 10:10

- The women will be surprised how well they know the verse. Congratulate them and encourage them to continue reviewing what they've learned.

Group Activity: "Where Do You Stand?" (10 minutes)

INSTRUCTIONS: Indicate an imaginary line the length of the room that represents two extremes. Each time you offer two options, have class members find a place to stand on the line representing the strength of their opinion on the topic. For instance: Tea or coffee? Those who love coffee go to one end, tea-lovers go to the opposite end. Those without a strong preference find a place somewhere in the middle. Choose three or four of these "which do you prefer?" questions or make up your own.

- Winter or summer?
- Chocolate or vanilla?
- Trip to New York or Hawaii?
- Sweet or salty?
- Rock music or classical?
- Fiction or non-fiction?
- Morning person or night person?

End with this question: Where do you fall in your family's birth order? Oldest, youngest, or middle child? After game, return to tables.

Table Discussion: (12 minutes)

- Invite women to turn in the Retreat Journal to page 3.
- **QUESTION 1**: Go around tables and have people share briefly what their family of origin was like, where they fall in the birth order, and how it's affected them. **NOTE**: Be careful that this time doesn't degrade into gossip or griping.
- **QUESTION 2**: Have everyone open to **JOHN 11:1—12:11.** Using the poster board and marker provided, write down the different characters as someone reads the story aloud. **ASK**: Which character(s) do you relate to most in this story, and why? **FOLLOW-UP:** What stands out to you?

Personal Survey: (8 minutes)

- **READ:** On page 3–4 in *Lazarus Awakening*, read the opening section about Lisa and "love-doubt." Then read my comment below:

From Joanna: I've found that honesty before God is crucial if I want to experience healing and new life. This retreat is going to be a lot of fun, but it's also going to be challenging at times. You'll be asked to take an honest look at where you are with God and where you'd like to be. But I hope you won't shrink back from the exercises! Just as Lazarus had to leave the darkness of the tomb in order to step into new life, we must be willing to give God access to the dark places in our lives. But never fear, my dears! The same Jesus who brought Lazarus out of the grave, will bring us out of our tombs as well. It's time to "Come forth!"

PERSONAL SURVEY: Have the ladies go to the "Personal Survey" on page 3 in their Retreat Journals. Say: Take a few moments and honestly evaluate where you are with the Lord. You won't be asked to share—this is between you and God alone.

- **READ** Paul's prayer from **EPHESIANS 1:17–19** in Retreat Journal:

  I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.

- **PRAYER:** Give a few minutes for women to take what they've discovered in their surveys to God. Then close in prayer, inviting the Lord to make His love real to each woman. Invite Him to speak to each heart throughout the retreat.

DVD-1 Video: (17 minutes) "Stuck Christianity" (DVD Session 1)

- Point participants to the session 1 viewer guide on page 4 in Retreat Journal.

Call to Action: (10 minutes)

- Transition to soft worship music to facilitate response time.
- Refer to the "House of…" response sheets they find on the table. With the translation of Bethany as "House of Misery" in mind, ask them to write the kind of "house" they are currently dwelling in.
- Invite them, when ready, to take their paper to any one of the house-shaped stations around the room. Instruct them to prayerfully write across their "house" these words: "GOD HAS HELPED!" then tape it to the wall and return to seats.

Response: (10 minutes)

- When they've done that, ask the women to turn to the next page in their Retreat Journal and write their response to: "I sense the Lord saying…"
- After everyone's finished, invite women to pray together in pairs or tables.

Closing: (5 minutes)

- Thank the women for coming and for being a part of this time.
- As you briefly go over the next day's schedule, express your excitement about what they will experience. Encourage them to bring their Bibles and open hearts.
- Close in prayer.

Saturday Morning–SESSION 2

Topic: Talitha Koum!

Preparation:

- Gather one roll of toilet paper per team for "Graveclothes No More!"
- Discussion time—poster board and markers for each table.

For the Craft Time that follows:

- Before event, gather craft materials needed: boxes, sheets of retreat theme graphics (page 33) and verses, colored paper, Mod Podge, scissors, etc. [See "Come Forth! Boxes" on page 12 for further directions.]
- Set up craft area with tables for working and space for drying.

Welcome: (5 minutes)

- Welcome ladies and any newcomers.
- Give any needed directives and announcements for the day ahead.
- Optional drawing or giveaway.
- Open in prayer.
- Be sure everyone has a Retreat Journal.
- Review memory verse learned last night—**JOHN 10:10 (NKJV).**

Word Time Video: Bible Reading Highlights (12 min.)

From Joanna: Nothing has brought me out of my tombs and helped me shed my graveclothes like spending time in God's Word. In this video, I'm excited to share a Bible reading method that has literally changed my life!

- Turn to "Word Time: Bible Reading Highlights" sidebar, page 6 in journal.
- **DVD-1 VIDEO**: View corresponding Word Time video [2:05].
- **WORD TIME EXERCISE:** Refer to the copy of **ROMANS 8** on pages 7-8 in Retreat Journal**.** Have women prayerfully read and mark the portion. Allow about 4–5 minutes for this.
- Go around the table and share what spoke most to them in the chapter.
- **ASK**: How do you get the most out of your Bible reading?

Group Game: "Graveclothes No More!" (10 minutes)

NEEDED: You will need one large roll of toilet paper for each team. Have tables participate as teams or ask for volunteers, three to a team.

INSTRUCTIONS: One person will be Lazarus while the others will prepare him for burial, wrapping him from head to toe. On your mark, have them wrap "Lazarus" as fast as they can. The first team that runs out toilet paper wins. Have the group vote on who did the best job of wrapping and give them a prize as well.

Have the still-bound "Lazarus" competitors stay standing. Point out how bound they appear, but then ask them to break out of their graveclothes. It is surprising how easy the "bonds" come off.

TEACHING POINT: Satan wants us to believe that our graveclothes are impossible to remove, but he is a liar.

DISCUSSION: (12 MINUTES)

- **QUESTION 1:** Read **JOHN 11:1–3.**

  SCRIPT: In her book, Joanna says that many of us tend to be "formula Christians," believing that we have to earn God's love—or that if we are following Christ nothing bad should happen to us. How does the phrase: "Lord, the one you love is sick," tend to mess with our formulas?

- **QUESTION 2:** If you were to send a message to Jesus concerning your current situation and need, how would you finish this sentence: "Lord, the one you love is _____"

  FOLLOW-UP: Assign the following verses to be read aloud:

  - **PSALM 107:20**
  - **ISAIAH 63:9**
  - **ZEPHANIAH :17**

  ASK: When you think of your "fill-in-blank" condition, what do these verses mean to you?

- **QUESTION 3:** Read **JOHN 11:11.** Over and over in the Bible, we are told to "Wake up!" (Revelation 3:2). How do distractions, doubts, disappointments, or dullness tend to lull you to sleep spiritually?

  ASK: In what specific ways would your life be different if you could truly awaken to God and His love?

DVD-1 VIDEO: (17 MINUTES) "Talitha Koum!" (DVD Session 2)

- Point participants to the session 2 viewer guide on page 9 in Retreat Journal.

RESPONSE: (8 MINUTES)

- Immediately after video, ask the women to turn to the next page in their Retreat Journal and write their response to: "I sense the Lord saying…"
- Have women pray around their tables, asking God to make them fully alive. Close with a short prayer of your own.

CLOSING: (5 MINUTES)

- Suggest that women continue to pray for each other in weeks to come.
- Transition into instructions for "Craft Time."

Craft Breakout: Come Forth! Boxes
(45 minutes)

This decorative box is a reminder that it's time to "Come forth!" and leave our tombs behind. The craft can be a beautiful reminder of your time together. (It's also a great place to store the prayer station mementos they will receive later in the retreat, if you opt to do that activity and choose to provide them.)

Preparation:

- Set up tables or use existing tables, covering with plastic tablecloth or newspaper to protect surfaces. Arrange items needed.
- Print off theme pieces on page 33 in various sizes depending on the size of box you use. Create and print other verse sheets as well.

Supplies:

- A Paper Mache craft box for each woman—8" x 8" x 4" (recommended size)
- Mod Podge—classic or antique (gives paper aged appearance)
- Applicator brushes or sponges (enough for each woman to use)
- Scissors
- Smoothing tools—purchase online or use rubber spatula or credit card
- Pre-printed theme pieces and Bible verses
- Colored or decorative paper or tissue
- Paper towels

Directions:

Each table needs paper towels, scissors, printed theme and verse pieces, two containers of Mod Podge, brushes or sponges, smoothing tools, and one box per person.

1) Cut theme "Come forth!" to fit your surface and the "Serapion" quote to fit inside box bottom. Trim Bible verses and other decorative paper to fit where you wish them to be placed. Cutting everything to fit before Mod Podging is important to your happiness!

2.) Adhere each cut-out item with a thin layer of Mod Podge. Always start with the underlying design elements and work your way upward. Apply a medium coat of Mod Podge to the surface. Too little Mod Podge will create wrinkles—you can always wipe away excess Mod Podge.

3.) Smooth, smooth, smooth—that's the secret. Gently pull your tool across the surface until all of the bubbles are removed. Then – AND THIS IS IMPORTANT! – let your project dry for 15–20 minutes. Don't put a top coat on right away.

4.) After 15 minutes, add a protective top coat of Mod Podge to your project using a sponge or brush. Allow to dry.

HELPFUL TIPS: read more at http://modpodgerocksblog.com/the-7-steps-to-perfect-mod-podging-every-time#AM19JocvyOXWYbZA.99
SUPPLIES: check out sites like www.consumercrafts.com
See samples at www.Pinterest.com/j5weaver/lazarus-awakening-dvd-study/

Saturday Morning–SESSION 3

Topic: Leaving Our Tombs

Preparation:

- Gather a set of Play-Doh (regular tubs in various colors) for each table as well as a paper plate for each participant. Consider having "tools" available to shape the clay—plastic knives, toothpicks, etc.
- Optional: print a set of "Table Talk" questions for each table to use during lunch (see page 15 in this guide). Cut into strips and place in envelopes.

Welcome: (5 minutes)

- Welcome women back from the Craft Breakout. Express how special it was to see the women having fun together.
- Give any needed directives.
- Optional drawing or giveaway.
- Review Retreat Memory Verse—**JOHN 10:10 (NKJV)**

Word Time: Journaling Resurrection (8 minutes)

- Turn to "Word Time: Journaling Resurrection" sidebar, page 11 in journal.
- **DVD-1 VIDEO**: View corresponding Word Time video. [2:14]
- Have women respond to the journal response prompt below the sidebar.
- **ASK**: What benefits can we gain from journaling? Any journaling tips that you've found helpful?

Table Activity: Tomb Construction (10 minutes)

INSTRUCTIONS: Give each table a set of Play-Doh containers (four or five different colors) and a paper plate for each participant. Pass the Play-Doh around the table allowing class members to take the colors they need to shape the tombs that tend to hold them back. The tombs can be symbolic and creative, or simple and straightforward—the end result is up to them.

FOLLOW-UP: After five minutes or so of building, go around the table and have people explain what they made, giving insight into the internal tombs they sometimes dwell in. Instruct them to leave their creations on the table for use after video.

Discussion: (18 minutes)

- **QUESTION 1:** Read **JOHN 11:17–43. ASK:** As you look at the tomb you just made, try to imagine what it must have been like for Lazarus inside his tomb. What do you think the story was like from his point of view?
- **QUESTION 2:** In a sense, Lazarus had a choice when Jesus called his name – he could stay where he was or he could step out into new life. We have a choice to make as well. **READ:** Section titled "Caught Between Death and Life" on pages 69–70 in the book.

ASK: What are some indicators that we may be stuck in mid-chamber living?

- **QUESTION 3:** Point women to the "Identifying Strongholds" sidebar on page 12 in the Retreat Journal.

SAY: It's important to recognize the places where we are stuck and the strongholds we look to for comfort rather than God. Take a few moments and work through the questions on page 13 in your journal.

From Joanna: Did you have any aha moments as you did this exercise? If you're like me, it may have stirred some emotions and opened up some thought patterns that I'd rather not have. But remember, my friend, God only reveals so He can heal.

If you have recognized yourself in any of the questions, the first step toward finding freedom is to bring the situation before God. Here are some suggestions for how to do that:

- Give God specific permission to shine the spotlight of the Holy Spirit on your soul.
- Follow the Reveal-Repent-Renounce-Replace outline on page 21 in your journal.
- Ask God to show you what He would have you do next in order to live free. Don't forget to deal with the lies of unworthiness, unforgiveness, and unbelief that may also play a part in your bondage.
- Allow the Holy Spirit to direct your path as you seek further counseling, prayer support, and perhaps a recovery group that addresses your specific need.

FOLLOW-UP: We're going to take all of this to the Lord during the Prayer Stations this afternoon. Remember, God is FOR you—not against you. And He longs to set you free! [If you're not doing the prayer stations, have women skip ahead to "Dethroning Lies" sidebar on page 21 in journal and discuss.]

- **PRAYER:** Refer to Jesus's words to Martha in **JOHN 11:40**: "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" Close in prayer.

DVD-2 VIDEO: (18 MINUTES) "Leaving Our Tombs" (DVD Session 5)

- Point participants to the session 3 viewer guide on page 14 in Retreat Journal.

TABLE ACTIVITY: TOMB OPENING (3 MINUTES)

Invite the class to alter their Play-Doh tombs in some fashion as an act of choosing life rather than death. **ASK**: What does your tomb alteration symbolize?

RESPONSE: (5 MINUTES)

- Immediately after video, ask the women to turn to the next page in their Retreat Journal and write their response to: "I sense the Lord saying…"

CLOSING: (5 MINUTES)

- Give instructions as to where lunch will be served.
- Encourage the women to get to know one another better during lunch, possibly through the assigned Table Talk exercise below.

Saturday Lunch: (30 minutes)

While you may prefer to keep the meal time free from anything else, you might want to include the "Table Talk" activity. Leaders shouldn't force the conversation, but give room for women to share if they wish.

Table Talk Options: (during lunch)

Encourage women to share any breakthroughs or revelations they have experienced so far in the retreat—OR—Hand out an envelope of Table Talk questions to each table and have women draw one to answer.

- If you could take an extended vacation anywhere, where would you go?
- What is your favorite Bible story, and why?
- Do you have a hidden talent? Demonstrate if possible!
- What's the weirdest thing or best thing you've ever eaten?
- If you could meet one person in history, who would it be?
- What would you do with a $1000 right now?
- What is the most adventurous thing you've ever done?
- If you were stranded on a tropical island, what two items would you want?

Saturday Afternoon–SESSION 4

Topic: Do You Want to Be Well?

Preparation:

For Prayer Stations that follow session:

- Determine rooms to be used for Prayer Stations. Create signage.
- Gather items suggested on pages 18-20 of guide. Such as: print materials (see directions and "Additional Tools"); prayer mementos (if used), etc.
- Set up stations per instructions.

Welcome: (5 minutes)

- Welcome ladies back from lunch and give any needed directives.
- Optional drawing or giveaway.
- Review Retreat Memory Verse—**JOHN 10:10 (NKJV)**

Group Activity: The Waiting Game (10 minutes)

Instruct the class to stand and begin to walk around chatting until you say, "Wait!" At that point, they need to freeze in place and be completely silent for one minute. (Use a watch or the stopwatch function on your phone. It's surprising how hard this exercise is to do!) Afterwards, ask people:

- What did it feel like?
- What was the hardest part?
- Why do you think it's so hard to be still and wait in general?

Discussion: (12 minutes)

- **QUESTION:** Ask women to turn in their Bibles as you read **JOHN 11:1–6.**

SAY: Because we know how the story ends, sometimes it's easy to forget how hard it must have been for Mary and Martha when Jesus did not immediately come.

ASK: Describe a time in your life when waiting was especially difficult. How did you react to the process, and what did you learn?

- **QUESTION 2**: Refer to the "Tripping Point" test on page 16 in the Retreat Journal. Invite women to fill it out. Discuss what they discovered.

FOLLOW-UP: Let the women know that we will be taking these things to the Lord during the "Prayer Station Breakout Time." [If you're not doing the prayer stations, have women skip ahead to "Shedding Graveclothes" sidebar on page 23 in journal and discuss.]

- **QUESTION 3:** In her book, Joanna shares "Three marvelous…rock-solid facts on which we can rest our hearts" during difficult times:
  - God is *love*—therefore I am loved.
  - God is *good*—therefore I am safe.
  - God is *faithful*—therefore it's going to be okay. For God is incapable of doing anything less than marvelous things.

FOLLOW-UP: Which of these truths do you need today?

How would your life be different if you could get these three truths from your head to your heart?

- **PRAYER—**Have several people respond in prayer.

DVD-2 VIDEO: (17 MINUTES) "Shedding Graveclothes" (DVD Session 7)

- Point participants to the session 4 viewer guide on page 17 in Retreat Journal.

RESPONSE: (5 MINUTES)

- Immediately after video, ask the women to turn to the next page in their Retreat Journal and write their response to: "I sense the Lord saying…"

CALL TO ACTION: (8 MINUTES)

- Read **JAMES 5:16**, then ask women to divide up into groups of two or three and share a needed healing or any area in which they, like the lame man, might be resisting God's work.

  NOTE: Emphasize the importance of confidentiality. Nothing shared in the room should ever be talked about to anyone else but the Lord.

- Ask the women to pray for each other. Give a prompt midway through to pray for the other person.

TRANSITION: (5 MINUTES)

- Announce break time. If necessary, shorten break to keep on track.
- Transition into "Prayer Station Breakout" instructions beginning on page 19 in the Retreat Journal.

Breakout: Prayer Stations (60 minutes)

Preparation:

- In advance of retreat, gather materials needed for stations described below—you are going to need a lot of Sharpies ☺.
- Create or print material indicated below.
- Set up prayer stations in different parts of the room or around the church.
- Print signs for stations.
- Gather needed items to make stations beautiful and inviting.
- Optional: Purchase or create prayer station mementos for each woman. (Memento graphics not included in this guide.)
- Recruit and train volunteers as to their assigned station and approach (sensitive and unobtrusive, following the Spirit's lead as to women's needs).
- Find soft worship music to play throughout the different rooms and in main meeting area.

Prayer Station Set-Up:

Below is a brief overview of the theme, suggested items, optional mementos, etc., for each prayer station. I suggest having volunteers man the different stations, being ready to pray with those who would like prayer. You might want to have a few "roamers" that have a badge saying: "I'd love to pray with you!" For more insight, look in the Retreat Journal for the individual prayer station instructions.

Station: "Send Word to Jesus" (page 19)

Theme: Gives opportunity to present prayer requests to the Lord
Set-up: Create a type of "Wailing Wall" out of Styrofoam blocks, paper or a pile of stones with cracks available for participants to put in their rolled up requests. Provide small pieces of paper and pens. Optional Memento: Create verse magnet on business card stock. Laminate and put magnet on back.
Directions: Write out need, and place in or on wall.
Optional Memento: Philippians 4:7–8 verse magnet

Station: "Roll Away the Stone" (page 20)

Theme: An exercise to help recognize and roll away any spiritual blockages
Set-up: Cut three round 16" stones out of 2" Styrofoam. Place them on table against a wall. Behind stone, tape the corresponding declaration. Optional Memento: Baskets of small stones with corresponding words as follows:

1. Large stone: Unforgiveness / Declaration: I release my right to be offended / Small memento stone: Forgive
2. Large stone: Unworthiness / Declaration: I am chosen and dearly loved / Small memento stone: Beloved
3. Large stone: Unbelief / Declaration: I believe God is able / Small memento stone: Faith

Directions: Roll away the stone you struggle with. Declare written words.
Optional Memento: Small stone with corresponding word

Station: "Come Forth!" (page 20)

Theme: Breaking strongholds and dethroning lies
Set-up: Several tables with about three plates of sand each. Optional memento: Create verse bookmarks of Galatians 5:1.
Directions: Participants walk through the steps listed on page 20 in Retreat Journal: Reveal, Repent, Renounce, Replace.
Optional Memento: Galatians 5:1 bookmark

STATION: "ACCEPT GOD'S LAVISH LOVE" (PAGE 22)

Theme: Experiencing God's love and His truth
Set-up: Depending on the size of your group, set up enough tables for 4–10 volunteers to sit behind. Provide lotion pumps and a list of verses on "God's Love" (see page 37 in this guide). Optional memento: Small lotions labeled with 1 John 1:3 verse you create.
Directions: Volunteer rubs lotion on woman's hand and talks about God's lavish love, prayerfully speaking other verses as she feels led. NOTE: Some women will want to apply lotion themselves. That's fine, say verses as she does.
Optional Memento: Sample-size lotion with 1 John 1:3 verse.

STATION: "UNWIND YOUR GRAVECLOTHES" (PAGE 22)

Theme: A chance to throw off anything that hinders our walk with God
Set-up: Create a free-standing wooden cross that can be draped with people's strips of graveclothes. Cut strips of lightweight cloth and provide Sharpie markers. Optional mementos: 1" white satin squares in a basket.
Directions: On a strip of cloth, write the thing that tends to trip you up most in your walk with God.
Optional Memento: White satin squares denotes robes of Christ's righteousness

STATION: "WHO I AM IN CHRIST" (PAGE 24)

Theme: Discovering our true identity—what God says, not what we think
Set-up: Set out 3"x3" mirror squares on table with Sharpies. Print out several sets of the expanded version of "Who I Am in Christ" (see pages 34–37 in this guide). Or consider writing them out on butcher paper to line the room.
Directions: In Retreat Journal, choose the statement that means the most to you. Write it on bottom third of tile, then write the corresponding verse on the back.
Optional Memento: Mirror tile

STATION: "SIT AT JESUS'S FEET" (PAGE 24)

Theme: The power of worship and God's presence
Set-up: Create a comfortable room with private spaces. Play soft worship music, but consider having mp3 players and earbuds for those who would like to worship privately. Optional memento: Gather perfume samples from different stores. Create John 12:3 verse labels.
Directions: Following the example of Mary, participants will just hang with Jesus and lavish their love on Him.
Optional Memento: Perfume sample with John 12:3 verse.

STATION: "PICK UP YOUR CROSS"

Theme: Considering Jesus's sacrifice and the call to follow Him.
Set-up: Find or build a cross to place in center of room with plenty of space for people to sit around it. Arrange chairs around room's perimeter for those unable to sit on floor. Optional memento: Purchase or make small wood crosses (check online retailers). Scatter around base of large cross.
Directions: As they look at the cross and consider Christ's sacrifice, they will be asked to count the cost, then pick up their cross and truly follow Him.
Optional Memento: Small wooden crosses

Prayer Station Introduction:

LEADER SCRIPT: For the next hour, we have a chance to get alone with the Lord. Here's what Joanna has to say about that…

From Joanna: I'm so excited about what I believe God is going to do in your hearts as you pray and interact with these Lazarus Awakening Prayer Stations. Jesus is waiting to be invited into every corner of your heart. Don't shrink back from that— for when you give Him access, He's going to bring light to every dark place. More importantly, He's going to bring life to the dead parts of your soul. It's time to roll away the stone, my friend! But don't worry—you don't have to do it alone. The Holy Spirit is going to walk with you every step of the way!

Instructions: (5 minutes)

- In the Retreat Journal, read the "Prayer Station Breakout" introductory paragraphs on page 19. Instruct them to use the directions given for each station.
- Explain where prayer stations are located.
- After they've visited all the stations, invite them to come back to the main meeting area and journal what God spoke to them during this time. Ask that they refrain from conversation in this area as well.
- Inform ladies what TIME to come back for the next session.
- Pray over the women and their time alone with God. Then dismiss them with these instructions:

  "From this moment, please refrain from speaking.
  This time is meant to be between you and God alone.
  If you have an emergency, I will be at (LOCATION).
  But until we come back together at (TIME), let's honor
  the Lord and each other by giving reverence to this time."

- Signal when it is time to return to the meeting room by walking through the building five minutes before ending time gently ringing a bell.

Saturday Afternoon–SESSION 5

Topic: Living in the Light of Eternity

Preparation:

- Optional Communion: At the close of this video session, consider using the script I've provided to take communion together. Be sure to okay this part of the retreat with your pastor or priest.
    - Prepare communion items—trays of bread, wafers, or crackers. Small cups filled with juice.
- Print set of "Living in the Light of Eternity" cards for each table (see page 41 in this guide).
- Have small prizes for women who say retreat verse correctly by memory.

Welcome: (10 minutes)

- Give any needed directives and announcements for this last session.
- Use final announcements to thank retreat staff, lunch crew, and anyone else who has contributed in meaningful ways. Thank the women for coming.
- Announce upcoming Bible studies or special events.
- Optional drawing or giveaway.

Memory Verse: (5 minutes)

- Review Retreat Memory Verse—**JOHN 10:10 NKJV**
- Have several leaders available to listen to women say their verses and give small prize to those who quote it from memory.

Table Activity: (5 minutes)

As you go around the table, have each woman draw a "Living in the Light of Eternity" card then share a practical way we could begin to implement the mindset listed on their card. Brainstorm other methods before going to next person.

ASK: What other mindsets do we need to live truly resurrected?

Discussion: (10 minutes)

- **QUESTION 1:** Read **JOHN 11:38–45. ASK**: Have you ever witnessed a Lazarus-like transformation brought about by Christ in someone else's life? What did it look like? How did it make you feel?
    - **FOLLOW-UP:** If you were asked to give a testimony of transformation in your life, what would you say? Perhaps you can't point to a finished work, but is there an attitude or behavior in which you're experiencing a measure of victory?

From Joanna: Sometimes when I don't see a completed work of transformation in my life, I tend to believe there isn't any change at all! What a terrible deception from the enemy. Don't discount baby steps in your life. They are often God's method, and the ordinary material He uses to work extraordinary miracles!

- **QUESTION 2:** Have women turn to these verses: **PHILIPPIANS 1:6; PHILIPPIANS 2:12-13; HEBREWS 13:20–21.** As each verse is read, discuss the amazing promise it contains.

  FOLLOW-UP: According to these verses, what part does God play in our resurrection transformations**?** What part do we play?
- **QUESTION 3:** Read **JOHN 12:1–9.** Consider the different characters and the responses they give in this story. What stands out to you? Which response resonates with you most?
- **QUESTION 4:** What has spoken most to you during this weekend?

Optional: Come Forth! Box & Mementos

Ask women to go to the drying area to get their craft project boxes. If they are completely dried, invite them to put their mementos from the retreat in the box. That can include the following Prayer Station mementos:

Philippians 4:7–8 magnet	1 John 1:3 lotion sample
Printed stone with word	Galatians 5:1 bookmark
White satin square	John 12:3 perfume sample
"Who I Am" Mirror tile	Small wooden cross

Other items include:

Retreat Memory verse
"House of…" note from Session 1
"Light of Eternity" discussion cards from Session 5

DVD-3 Video: (17 minutes) "Light of Eternity" (DVD Session 8)

- Point participants to the session 5 viewer guide on page 28 of Retreat Journal.

Optional: Communion (10 minutes)

Though this communion service is optional, please pray about including it. See the script on pages 24-25.

However, before making a decision, please discuss this segment with your pastor or priest. Because different faith communities have different guidelines for communion, it may not be appropriate for this setting. Or it may be required that your spiritual leader conduct this part of the final session.

If you are given permission to lead the service, you can read the script as coming from you, or as a note "From Joanna."

Response: (8 minutes)

- Following communion (or video), ask the women to turn to the next page in their Retreat Journal and write their response to: "I sense the Lord saying…"
- Invite women to pray around the table, thanking Him for the things He's spoke to their hearts during the retreat.

CLOSING: (10 MINUTES)

- Remind your ladies that resurrection is a process, and that God is already at work to make them fully alive. Remind them of **PHILIPPIANS 1:6 -**

  …being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

- Thank everyone for being a part of this special time then close the day in a final word of prayer.
- Please give them my love! Oh, how I wish I could have been there. I'd love to connect with each of you through my website or Facebook page:

  www.JoannaWeaverBooks.com
  www.Facebook.com/BecomingHis

For those who are interested in seeing bonus "Israel Moments" bonus included in the *Lazarus Awakening* DVD study, invite them to go to: www.LazarusAwakening.com and check out the video archives.

SCRIPT: Optional Communion Service

Preparations:

- Prepare communion items—trays of bread, wafers, or crackers, and small cups filled with juice.
- Assign servers.
- Prepare soft worship music to be played in the background.

Communion Script:

The last mention of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus in the Bible is in John 12. It is the story of a dinner given in Jesus's honor. It seems fitting that we would close with a dinner as well, sharing the Lord's Supper to commemorate all that Jesus has done for us.

The communion service was instituted by Jesus the last night of His life as He shared a Passover meal with the disciples He loved so much. It is a meal that Jesus invites us to share as well—"Do this in remembrance of me…" we're told in 1 Corinthians 11:24–26. "For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

It is a holy thing we do when we take communion, and not something we should do lightly. First Corinthians 11:28 tells us, that we need to "examine" ourselves before we partake. So let's take a few moments and repent of anything that might stand between us and God.

Prayer: Give a few moments for private prayer and introspection.

Some of you might not feel comfortable taking communion in this setting, and that's fine. But let's take advantage of this time to focus our hearts on Jesus and the immense sacrifice He made for us.

Hand out: Communion elements—type of bread and juice.

Prayer: Lord, we are so honored to share this communion supper with You today. Thank You for choosing us to be Your friends and inviting us to experience the same intimate fellowship You shared with Your disciples.

Action: After everyone has been served, hold up the bread.

It was the last night Jesus and His disciples would be together here on earth, but only Jesus knew that terrible truth. I can only imagine what must have gone through His mind as He looked around the group of men He loved so dearly. Matthew 26:26 tells us: "While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take and eat; this is my body.'"

(Continued….)

(Continued….)
Today, we share that broken bread—representing Jesus's body, battered and bruised for you and me. Let's take a moment and thank Him for being willing to be broken for us.

> *Action:* After pausing for silent gratitude, invite everyone to partake of the bread. After everyone has eaten, hold up the cup.

After they had eaten the bread, Matthew 26:27–28 tells us: "Then Jesus took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

> *Action:* Invite everyone to partake of the cup.

> *Prayer:* Pause for silent gratitude or pray concerning this aspect.

Just as the Passover meal was meant to remind the Israelites of all that God had done when He brought them out of Egypt, so communion reminds us of all Jesus went through to ransom and rescue us from the slavery of sin.

But communion is not just a reminder of what we've been given, it is a promise of all we will one day share when we get to heaven. "I tell you," Jesus said in Matthew 26:29, "I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom.'"

One day in heaven, we will join saints from all the ages as we share in the "wedding supper of the Lamb." But never forget, eternity starts now!

"Here I am!" Jesus says in Revelation 3:20. "I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me."

Let's not wait until heaven to share communion with Jesus. Let's not wait until we partake of the Lord's Supper next time in church. Let's go from this study, eager and ready to meet with our Savior on a regular basis. Sitting at His feet like Mary. Serving Him faithfully like Martha. Proving ourselves faithful friends like Lazarus.

Coming out of our tombs and unwinding our graveclothes as we follow hard after Jesus and the resurrection life He's made available to everyone of us!

> *Prayer:* Close with a prayer of your own. Then return to "Response" and "Closing" remarks.

Session One: "Who Am I?" Bible Characters

Paul	Timothy
Caleb	*Deborah
*Jezebel	Jonah
Mary Magdalene	Joseph
Moses	Samaritan Woman
Adam	Eve

Peter	*Lydia
*Thaddeus	Joshua
Elizabeth	Luke
King David	*King Herod
*Jairus's Daughter	Abraham
Aaron	*Miriam

Samuel	*Eli
James	Titus
King Saul	*Hannah
*Stephen	Goliath
*Naomi	Daniel
Abraham	*Rahab

Sarah	Bathsheba
John the Baptist	Job
Noah	*Delilah
*Shadrach	Jacob
*Habakkuk	*Nathaniel
Leah	Rachel

*Silas	*Boaz
Mark	Titus
*King Nebuchadnezzar	Esther
*Phoebe	Samson
Esau	*Barnabas
Isaac	Rebecca

Session One: "House of..." Response Sheets

House of _____	House of _____
House of _____	House of _____
House of _____	House of _____

"Come Forth!"

Now when He had said these things,
[Jesus] cried with a loud voice,
"Lazarus, come forth!"
And he who had died came out bound hand
and foot with graveclothes,
and his face was wrapped with a cloth.
Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."

John 11:43–44, NKJV

Lord! We entreat you,
make us truly alive.

Serapion of Thmuis (fourth century)

Now a man named Lazarus was sick.
He was from Bethany, the village of
Mary and her sister Martha. This Mary,
whose brother Lazarus now lay sick,
was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord
and wiped his feet with her hair.
So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick."

John 11:1–3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses,
let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles,
and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.
Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

Hebrews 12:1–2

Prayer Station Breakout: "Who I Am in Christ" (expanded with verses)

Ever since Adam and Eve bit into the forbidden fruit, humanity has struggled with an identity crisis. We've forgotten who we really are—chosen and beloved children of God. Consider the following list of scriptures from the wonderful devotional *One Day at a Time*.[9]

I AM ACCEPTED

I am God's child.
Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. (John 1:12)

I am Christ's friend.
I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. (John 15:15)

I have been justified.
Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ… (Romans 5:1)

I am united with the Lord, and I am one spirit with Him.
But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit. (1 Corinthians 6:17)

I have been bought with a price. I belong to God.
You were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. (1 Corinthians 6:20)

I am a member of Christ's body.
Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. (1 Corinthians 12:27)

I am a saint.
Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,
To the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus… (Ephesians 1:1)

I have been adopted as God's child.
In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will… (Ephesians 1:5)

I have direct access to God through the Holy Spirit.
For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. (Ephesians 2:18)

I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins.
In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (Colossians 1:14)

I am complete in Christ.
And you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority. (Colossians 2:10)

I AM SECURE

I am free from condemnation.
Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. (Romans 8:1–2)

I am assured that all things work together for good.
And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)

I am free from any condemning charges against me.
What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died — more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. (Romans 8:31–34)

I cannot be separated from the love of God.
Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? …No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:35-39)

I have been established, anointed, and sealed by God.
Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. (2 Corinthians 1:21–22)

I am hidden with Christ in God.
For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. (Colossians 3:3)

I am confident that the good work God has begun in me will be perfected.
Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (Philippians 1:6)

I am a citizen of heaven.
But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ… (Philippians 3:20)

I have not been given a spirit of fear but of power, love, and a sound mind.
For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. (2 Timothy 1:7)

I can find grace and mercy to help in the time of need.
Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. (Hebrews 4:16)

I am born of God, and the evil one cannot touch me.
We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him. (1 John 5:18)

I AM SIGNIFICANT

I am the salt and light of the earth.
You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. (Matthew 5:13–14)

I am a branch of the true vine, a channel of His life.
I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener…I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:1, 5)

I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit.
You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit — fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. (John 15:16)

I am a personal witness of Christ.
But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

I am God's temple.
Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? (1 Corinthians 3:16)

I am a minister of reconciliation for God.
Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
(2 Corinthians 5:17–21)

I am God's co-worker [see 1 Corinthians 3:9]
As God's fellow workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. (2 Corinthians 6:1)

I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realm.
And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus… (Ephesians 2:6)

I am God's workmanship.
For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2:10)

I may approach God with freedom and confidence.
In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. (Ephesians 3:12)

I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me.
I can do everything through him who gives me strength. (Philippians 4:13)

Prayer Station Breakout: Verses on God's Love

These verses are to be used for the "Accept God's Lavish Love" prayer station. Volunteers are invited to choose a verse to pray over attendees as they bless them. Handout these pages before the retreat so that they can become familiar with the verses.

1 John 3:1–2 *How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.* (NIV)

Romans 5:5–8 *…God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* (NIV)

2 Corinthians 13:14 *May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you…* (NIV)

Psalm 136:1–3 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! *His faithful love endures forever.* Give thanks to the God of gods. *His faithful love endures forever.* Give thanks to the Lord of lords. *His faithful love endures forever.* (NLT)

Zephaniah 3:17 *The Lord your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing.* (NIV)

Romans 8:35–39 *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?....No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.* (NIV)

Deuteronomy 31:8 *The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.* (NIV)

John 14:27 *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.* (NIV)

1 John 4:16 *And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. (*NIV)

Ephesians 2:4–5 *But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.* (NIV)

Lamentations 3:22–23 *The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.* (ESV)

John 15:9–16 *As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.*

Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. (ESV)

John 3:16 *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.* (ESV)

Ephesians 3:17–*19* *Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God*. (NLT)

Hebrews 6:10 *God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.* (NIV)

1 John 4:7–16 *Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love. God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him.*

This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us. And God has given us his Spirit as proof that we live in him and he in us.

Furthermore, we have seen with our own eyes and now testify that the Father sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. All who declare that Jesus is the Son of God

have God living in them, and they live in God. We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. (NLT)

Isaiah 41:10 *Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. (ESV)*

Psalm 91:1–16 *He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."*

…He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart…

A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked.

If you make the Most High your dwelling — even the Lord, who is my refuge — then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent….

"Because he loves me," says the Lord, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. He will call upon me, and I will answer him;

I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him.
With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation." (NIV)

Psalm 139:1–5 *O Lord, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.* (ESV)

Psalm 91:14–*16* *"Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name. When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation."* (ESV)

1 John 4:9–10 *This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.* (NIV)

Psalm 36:5–7 *Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies. Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your justice like the great deep. O LORD, you preserve both man and beast. How priceless is your unfailing love! Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of your wings.* (NIV)

Session Five: "Living in Light of Eternity" Cards

Living in the Light of Eternity Live fully	Living in the Light of Eternity Hold things loosely
Living in the Light of Eternity Value people highly	Living in the Light of Eternity Travel lightly
Living in the Light of Eternity Love completely	Living in the Light of Eternity Give freely
Living in the Light of Eternity Look expectantly	