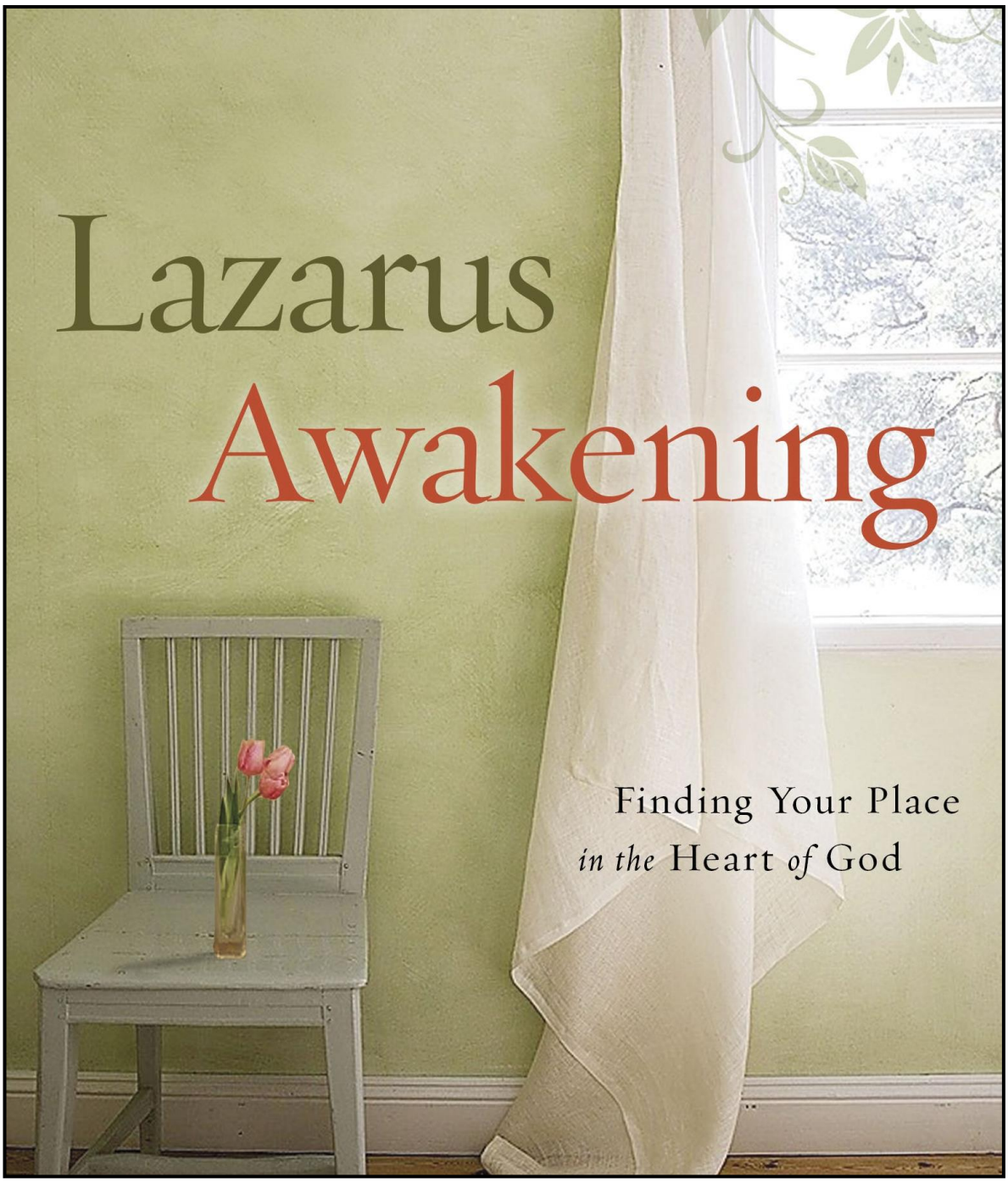
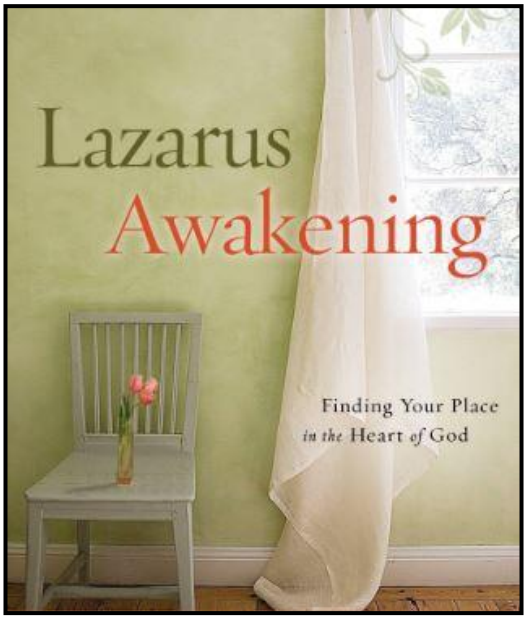


DVD Study

Leader's Guide



DVD Study

Leader's Guide

By Joanna Weaver

There is nothing more fulfilling and life-changing than coming together as the people of God around the Word of God! With so many excellent Bible studies available, I'm honored you decided to use my book, *Lazarus Awakening: Finding Your Place in the Heart of God*, as the focus of your eight-week study.

While the Bible is the centerpiece of our time together, *Lazarus Awakening* will provide the structure. Every participant should have a copy of the book and the companion study guide. Each week, the DVD teaching session will enhance the topic they've just studied. I'm so excited to share the fresh truths the Lord has given me!

The *DVD Study Pack* includes:

- Eight 15—18 minute teaching session videos.
- Eight 6—9 minute "Israel Moments" bonus videos giving insights into the land of the Bible.
- Three short "Word Time" videos featuring tips for going deeper with God.
- An interactive study guide designed to help participants engage with Scripture and each other in meaningful ways.
- Optional weekly memory verses.
- This downloadable Leader's Guide with outlines and suggestions for leading weekly meetings.

- An optional Retreat Guide that turns DVD sessions into a special weekend event filled with engaging features and fun activities. A retreat journal is included as well.
- Promotional material for both the study and retreat.

In this Leader's Guide I've provided suggestions for directing your weekly meetings, but please remain open to the leading of the Lord. He will equip you far better than any script, giving you both the creativity and the wisdom you need to mentor people in their walk of faith.

You don't have to have any special qualifications to lead this Bible study—just a heart that's hungry to know God, a desire to see His people grow in grace, and a willingness to step out and discover what God might want to do through you.

I'm praying that this will be as meaningful a time in your life as it is in the lives of the people you lead.

So let's begin!

Getting Ready

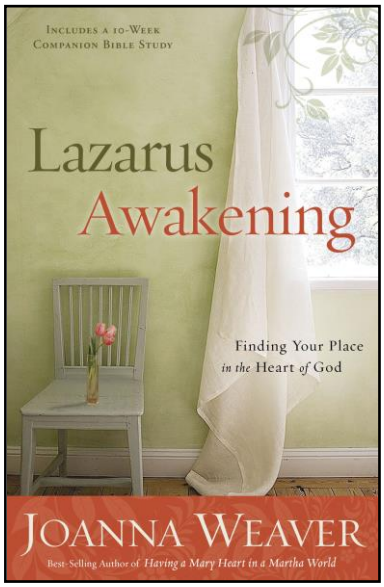
Decide on a time and a place to hold the Bible study and then start getting the word out. If your study is held in a church, get permission and ask that your meetings be put on the church calendar.

Be sure to reserve a meeting room with enough space to divide into small groups as needed. Keep in mind that this study tends to draw people of all ages, so try to provide childcare and consider accessibility needs for those with disabilities. I've heard of groups ranging in age from 15 to 80—isn't that great?

Unlike my other two books, this book is designed to be more gender neutral for use by both men and women. Consider using it in mixed settings such as Sunday school classes and small groups.

If you are unsure how many people might attend class, encourage them to register ahead of time. This will help determine how many books and guides you need to purchase. Plan to have the study materials available to hand out at your introductory meeting.

Promotion



Start promoting the study at least a month before you plan to start. On the *Study Pack* DVD-3, you'll find a promotional video and graphic pieces such as posters, bulletin inserts, invite cards, and a presentation slide. Personalize them with your study information and use the publicity to build anticipation. (They are also available at www.LazarusAwakening.com.)

In the "Leader Resource" section beginning on page 39 of this guide, you'll find sample bulletin announcements, a sign-up sheet, and a press release.

Many local newspapers and radio stations offer free public service announcements, so personalize the press release with your information. Remember to include the what, when, and where aspects of the study, as well as any pertinent information such as cost, babysitting availability, contact number, and website.

For those hosting the study in your home, a personal phone call or letter is a great way to invite people to attend. If you have room and feel comfortable expanding your study, encourage them to bring a friend. This is a wonderful opportunity to minister to non-believers or those uncomfortable in a church setting.

Organizing Your Bible Study

The lessons are designed to fill an hour and a half to two hours, but many groups only have an hour. With that in mind, I've marked the questions and activities I feel are most pertinent with a gray highlight in the weekly script. In the hour format, you won't have time to include all of the bonus videos. So preview them in advance in case you want to insert a few into your study schedule. Inform your class that the videos can be accessed on their own at www.LazarusAwakening.com.

If your class is larger than thirty people, you may want to divide into discussion groups of twelve or less. This creates an intimate atmosphere and ensures that everyone who wants to share has a chance. Each small group needs a facilitator—someone to direct the flow of the discussion as well as draw quieter individuals into the

conversation. Having two co-leaders is ideal—if one is absent the other can take his or her place. But it also ensures that at least two people in the group are prepared to discuss that week's lesson.

Provide each leader with a three-ring binder that includes an attendance sheet to take roll; a sheet listing attendees' names, phone numbers, and addresses; and a copy of this guide. Tuck a few stamped invite cards or notecards in the binder pocket so the leaders can send a quick note of encouragement to absent or ill members. Nametags, especially in the early weeks, help the entire group to connect and get to know each other by name.

You may have a teaching situation, such as a Sunday school class, where dividing into small groups isn't an option. I'd still encourage you to shape the class around discussion using the techniques described in "Tips for Leading Small Groups" on page 7 of this guide. Involve as many people as possible. Consider breaking up into small circles occasionally so members can get to know one another better.

Using This Study

Each week students are assigned to read a chapter (or chapters) in the book *Lazarus Awakening*. Please emphasize this, as there is so much important material they will miss if they skip the reading. But encourage them to do the homework assigned in their study guide as well. (Note: I use the NIV 1984 to shape the questions.)

Designed to take participants deeper into the Word, the study guide uses discussion questions as well as more personal queries to help class members open their lives to God and to one another, and to build community. The discussion format allows opportunities for everyone to participate, even those who were unable to complete that week's study.

My primary purpose is to get students into the Word of God for themselves. While I'm glad they are reading my book, I want them to fall in love with "The Book"!

In-depth Bible study may be new to some people. Though I've tried to make it accessible for everyone, they may feel a bit overwhelmed. I know I did when I first began to use formal Bible studies. I wanted so badly to answer the questions just right, and I felt silly when I didn't understand what the writer was getting at.

It is often at this point people stop coming to studies. Train your small group leaders to always be gentle and encouraging at moments when students don't answer the questions as expected. Encourage leaders to follow up with a phone call when someone misses a week. If a student is feeling overwhelmed by the study questions, consider pairing him or her with a more experienced person who is willing to walk through the questions together for a few weeks.

My deepest desire is that no one is left behind! Remind your group that we are all learners and that we have a Teacher who promises to help us—the Holy Spirit. As they sit down to their personal study time each week, encourage them to pray and ask for the wisdom and revelation that comes from the Spirit (Ephesians 1:17).

They don't need to worry about answering the questions perfectly. As they get into the Word of God on a consistent basis, the Word of God will get into them! And that's what all of us need. Not a sheet of neatly written, carefully worded answers, but the gentle work of God bringing soul-deep life-change.

Facilitating Small Groups

Many leaders tell me that the study questions teach themselves. As people begin to share what the Lord has taught them during the week, they learn from each other. The conversation simply needs guiding. Though I tend to be a lecturer by nature, I'm discovering that lives are more often changed in the context of relationship.

On the next page, you'll find a sidebar of tips I've found helpful in leading small groups. But there will still be times when the conversation feels stilted, especially when only a few students have done their lesson. At times like these, you as a facilitator need to be prepared. As I do the study, I often mark questions that I feel are most pertinent.

On those tough, nobody's-prepared days, I point the group to these questions and read the scripture portion aloud, asking them to respond. While they may not have done the study at home, this gives them a taste of it in class.

Beyond the weekly script I've provided to guide your discussion time, you may also want to ask: "What spoke most to you from this week's chapter(s)?" This question nearly always spurs great conversation, but feel free to share your high point or direct them to a story or illustration in the chapter to encourage discussion as well.

Tips for Leading Small Groups

- Ask God to give you a genuine love for each person.
- Pray for them faithfully that they will make time for the study and that the Holy Spirit will enlighten their minds as they read and study the Word.
- 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 not 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 his or 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 he or 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. It isn't always necessary to correct the issue at that moment, but look for opportunities to bring truth to these situations—even if it is the following week.
- 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.

Be Creative

I've included optional activities throughout the study to liven up your time together. Please remember that you serve a variety of people and that not everyone learns well from a printed page. So change up the pace now and then. Do some of the activities I've suggested and check out the Retreat Guide for more. But don't be afraid to come up with creative ideas of your own.

Some of you might say, "Joanna, I don't have a creative bone in my body." Well, that might be, dear friend, but remember, you serve an incredibly creative God! Don't be surprised when He starts dropping ideas in your heart. And look around you as well. I'm fairly certain you have creative people in your group who'd love to use their gifts to come up with ways to make the study come alive.

Whether you craft tombs out of Play-Doh or wrap someone in toilet paper graveclothes, have fun with your time together.

Be an Encourager

No one wants to fail. Especially not your small group leaders. Support your facilitators by making sure that rooms are clean and ready for class and that extra Bibles and pens or pencils are available. Little touches can mean a lot. If possible, try to meet with your leaders each week before the study.

While prayer is the primary purpose for coming together, it also gives your team a chance to share the trials and triumphs they are experiencing in their particular groups. Be sure to dismiss early enough to allow the leaders to greet the arriving students, or consider creating a separate welcome committee. I'm sure you have members who would love to take care of set-up, refreshments, and welcoming the class.

Your group leaders are the small group you, as coordinator, minister to. Pray for them daily, follow up with phone calls to see how they are doing. When you come across materials that will help them lead their groups, pass the information on. These are the people you get to love! Be sure you make time at the end of the study to appreciate all they have done with a small gift and/or a potluck in their honor. Ask the members of each group to write notes of appreciation to their facilitators as well.

In closing, I want to exhort both you and your small group leaders not to be disappointed by attrition. What is that? It is the normal drop in attendance that often happens in Bible studies. While I'm glad many churches report low attrition with this study, the reality is that some of the people who start the book may not finish.

There will be many reasons. Some we can address and try to change—their fear of failure, interpersonal conflicts, or frustration with lack of structure. But other reasons will be beyond our control, including family issues and schedule changes. Some attendees may not be ready for the sustained commitment an eight-week study requires.

Mother Teresa once said, "God has not called me to be successful. He has called me to be faithful."[1] Our job is to create a community in which people can come to be spiritually fed— a place that is safe, where they feel loved and accepted. That kind of intimacy doesn't happen overnight. It happens over months and years.

As a leader, just keep opening up your heart. Keep putting out spiritual food and keep praying down the presence of the Lord. God will do the rest, because He loves to change His children as they gaze intently into the Word that brings freedom and life (James 1:25).

Bless you, my dear friend. You will be in my prayers. Don't shrink back. Step forward. Don't lead in your own strength. Go in the strength of the Lord. I believe God is going to meet your class in a special way. But I also believe He is going to grow you and use you in ways you never imagined. All because you said *yes* to His call.

Using this Leader's Guide

While many of you won't need a detailed guide, you may want to glance over each week's script to get a feel for the format I suggest. Please don't feel like you have to cover all the material. There may be weeks when the discussion becomes so rich you aren't able to get through all the questions. That's wonderful! The prompts are only suggestions, not requirements. Let the Holy Spirit be your guide.

However, with that said, I do want to encourage you not to habitually stray from or ignore the study completely. That can be very frustrating for those who have worked

[1] Kathryn Spink, *Mother Teresa: A Complete Authorized Biography* (San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1997), 245.

hard on their homework throughout the week.

There may be times when the majority of the class hasn't done their homework. I've designed this guide to help you bring the Bible study into the classroom, encouraging you to actually read the verses at times so that everyone can see what scripture has to say rather than just hearing someone's response to it.

As I mentioned before, the study material is designed to fill an hour and a half to two hours of class time. If you only have an hour, cover the suggested questions and study elements shaded in gray. Unfortunately, with time constraints of an hour format, you'll miss most of the "Israel Moment" videos. If so, point members to the website where they are available for viewing— www.LazarusAwakening.com. I've also suggested using a whiteboard in some of the sessions for brainstorming answers as a group, so you may want to have one readily available.

As in my other DVD curriculums, I've included an optional bonus session at the end of this guide. This "Half-Day of Prayer" is a wonderful way to close out the study, as it gives participants an opportunity to spend an extended time alone with God. Consider using it to expand your study to nine weeks or as a special, separate day event.

Or you may want to consider doing the *Lazarus Awakening* Prayer Stations we've created for the retreat format. See the "Retreat Guide" on **DVD-3** or online. Check out my Pinterest page at www.pinterest.com/j5weaver for more ideas.

Study Elements Include:

- "Israel Moment" videos—6–9 minutes in length, these videos give participants a taste of the Holy Land as well as a glimpse of the people and culture that shaped our Savior. Filmed with Israel expert, Amy Turnage of the Center for Holy Land Studies (www. HolyLandsStudies.org)
- "Word Time" videos—the first three weeks feature an additional short video that gives class members tools to go deeper in their walk with God. Both "Word Time" and "Israel Moment" videos follow sidebars in the study guide.
- Group Discussion—covers questions studied in that week's homework.
- Video Teaching Session—with a corresponding viewer guide to take notes, each 17- to 20-minute teaching is related to, but doesn't repeat, that week's reading.

- Closing Response—space for reflection and personal response to the Lord at the end of each week's study.
- Weekly Assignment—previews homework for the upcoming week.
- Memory Verses—seven meaningful verses are assigned over the course of the study. Though this feature is optional, I encourage you to assign at least one or two verses to memorize as a group throughout the study.

  NOTE: Verses are available in a business card template that you can access on the third DVD or for download at the website. Consider printing and laminating a set for each participant.

The DVD Pack Includes Three Discs:

Disc One — Sessions 1–3
Corresponding Israel Moment and Word Time videos

Disc Two — Sessions 4–6
Corresponding Israel Moment videos

Disc Three — Sessions 7–8
Corresponding Israel Moment videos
Promo Material—Promo video, study and retreat posters, bulletin inserts, invite cards, web graphics, and presentation slides
Leader's Guide—Details for leading the study
Resources—Downloadable memory verses, graphic pieces, etc.
Retreat Guide—Details for using material in a weekend setting
Retreat Journal—Viewer guides and sidebars

Accessing Promo Material on DVD-3

Insert DVD into computer. On a PC, open "Windows Explorer" by right-clicking on the start button. Click on the DVD drive where you'll see a root menu of the graphic and resource items. On a Mac, open "Finder" and click on the DVD drive for root menu.

If the DVD automatically starts playing, stop the player and close the window. You should then see an icon on your desktop. Double-click (or right click, depending on

the computer) to see the root menu. Open and use the pieces as needed.

Insert your event information in the text boxes found on the posters, inserts and invite cards. Personalize the presentation slides with your information as well. We've also provided graphic pieces such as book cover, backgrounds, title, and scroll elements so that you can create your own promo material. See website for author photos.

Stay Connected

I will be praying for you and your group! I know God is going to do something special in your midst as you set your hearts on following Him. I'd love to hear from you and your study participants!

Email: joannaweaver@hotmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/BecomingHis

Website: www.LazarusAwakening.com

Pinterest: www.pinterest.com/j5weaver

LAZARUS AWAKENING –WEEK ONE

PREPARATION:

- Plan for small group leaders to arrive early for prayer and setup.
- Make sure the meeting room is set up and ready to go. Whiteboard and marker.
- Brew coffee, set out refreshments, and make atmosphere inviting.
- Optional Handout: "Memory Verses." [See "Additional Tools" on page 42 of this guide for more information.]
- Test video projection equipment and become familiar with DVD menu.
- Have nametags available so participants can learn each other's names.
- As the class arrives, distribute *Lazarus Awakening* book and study guide.
- Today's teaching video ends with a salvation prayer. Have someone available to follow up with anyone who responds.

WELCOME: (10 MINUTES)

- Welcome participants and open in prayer. If your group regularly takes prayer requests, there is space to record them on the last page of this week's study.
- Announcements.

GROUP ACTIVITY: "WHERE DO YOU STAND?" (10 MINUTES)

INSTRUCTIONS: This icebreaker is a lot of fun! 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.

DISCUSSION: (12 MINUTES)

- **INTRO:** Have someone read opening paragraphs in study guide.
- **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 sharing time doesn't degrade into a gossip or gripe session.

- **QUESTION 2**: Have everyone open to **JOHN 11:1—12:11.** Read the story aloud, then ask: What stands out most to you in this story, and why?

Word Time: Scripture Memorization (10 minutes)

NOTE TO TEACHER: The first three weeks of the study feature a short "Word Time" video as well as the weekly "Israel Moment." These videos are designed to give class members tools for their quiet time with God. If time is an issue, read through the sidebars together without showing the video.

- Optional: Hand out Memory Verse cards
- Turn to the "Scripture Memorization" sidebar in week 1 of study guide.
- **DVD-1**: View corresponding Word Time video.
- Work together on next week's memory verse (**JOHN 10:10, NKJV**) 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

- Class members will be surprised how well they know the verse. Encourage them to continue reviewing so they are ready to say the verse next week.
- Point out tips at bottom of sidebar. Ask if anyone has additional tips they've found helpful in memorizing scripture.
- **NOTE:** Emphasizing scripture memorization is optional. If you do make it a priority, plan on using the time at the beginning of each class for review.

Israel Moment: The Fifth Gospel (10 minutes)

- Turn to "The Fifth Gospel" sidebar in week 1 of study guide.
- **DVD-1**: View corresponding Israel Moment video.
- Point out map in sidebar for reference throughout the study.

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 transformation in my life. At times, the questions in this study may feel too personal or require an introspection you're not used to. But I hope you won't shrink back from that. Instead, I pray that, with the Holy Spirit's help, you'll look deep inside and choose to be honest. With yourself…with God…and when it's appropriate, with each other.

- **PERSONAL SURVEY:** Using the "Personal Survey" in your study guide, take a few moments and honestly evaluate where you are with the Lord. You won't be asked to share the results—this is between you and God alone.
- **READ** Paul's prayer from **EPHESIANS 1:17–19**

  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 class members to take what they've discovered in their surveys to God. Then close in prayer, inviting the Lord to become more real than He has ever been before.

DVD-1 VIDEO: (17 MINUTES) Session 1—"Stuck Christianity"

- Point participants to the session 1 viewer guide page for taking notes.

RESPONSE: (7–10 MINUTES)

- Immediately after video, ask participants to turn to the next page in their study guide and write their response to: "I sense the Lord saying…"
- If there is time, ask if anyone would like to share what spoke most to them.
- After the response time, invite anyone who responded to the salvation prayer in the video to meet with you (or a team member) at the end of study.

MAKE A PLAN: (10 MINUTES)

- Give the class several minutes to use the "Make a Plan" sheet to prayerfully consider areas they need God's touch and to identify anything that might hold them back. Encourage them to write down one thing they could do this week to break through any resistance or fear.
- **BRAINSTORM:** As a class, brainstorm ways members could get the most out of the class.

CLOSING: (5 MINUTES)

- Go over the assignment instructions on the last page of this week's study.
- **NOTE**: This is one of four weeks when participants are assigned two chapters to read in *Lazarus Awakening.* Encourage them to start right away so that the assignment is not overwhelming.
- Close in prayer.

LAZARUS AWAKENING–WEEK TWO

PREPARATION:

- Gather one large roll of toilet paper for each team or table. Tip: The better the toilet paper quality, the less breakage and frustration!
- Whiteboard and dry erase markers for discussion time.
- Optional Handout: "Books of the Bible Bookmark." [See See "Additional Tools" on page 42 of this guide for more information.]

WELCOME: (10 MINUTES)

- Welcome participants and open in prayer—If your group regularly takes prayer requests, there is space to record them on the last page of this week's study.
- Announcements.
- **MEMORY VERSE REVIEW**—Before class, have members review verses. Then, during class, go over the assigned verse as a group. (Point new people to the "Scripture Memorization" sidebar in week 1.)

> *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)

ISRAEL MOMENT: JESUS, THE MAN (10 MINUTES)

- Turn to "Jesus, the Man" sidebar in week 2 of study guide.
- **DVD-1**: View corresponding Israel Moment video.
- **ASK:** Why is it important to understand that Jesus was fully man as well as fully God?

GROUP GAME: "GRAVECLOTHES NO MORE!" (10 MINUTES)

NEEDED: You will need one large roll of toilet paper for each team. Have tables participate as teama 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.

WORD TIME: JOURNALING RESURRECTION (5 MINUTES)

- Turn to "Journaling Resurrection" sidebar in week 2 of study guide.

- **DVD-1 VIDEO**: View corresponding Word Time video.
- After video, have class members share other tips for journaling.

"Who I Am in Christ" Journal Prompts (10 minutes)

- Read "Who I Am in Christ" sidebar in week 2 of study guide.
- Explain that each week, they will be asked to choose one of the declarations to meditate on and respond to in the journaling space provided after the "Make a Plan" homework. While sharing responses in class won't be required (unless someone wants to), replacing lies with God's truth is going to be one of the most important parts of the study.
- If you have time, do the exercise in class.

Discussion: (25 minutes)

- **INTRO:** Have someone read opening paragraphs in study guide.
- **QUESTION 1:** Read **JOHN 11:1–37.** On a whiteboard, list the different characters mentioned in the passage. Ask members to share which one of the characters they relate to most, and why.
- **QUESTION 2:** On page 4–5 in the book, read through the sidebar "What Kind of Father Do You Have?" Work through the questions.
- **QUESTION 3:** Have someone read aloud the portion from **EPHESIANS 3:16–19 (NLT).** Allow several people to share what spoke most to them. Ask: How would your life be different if you could get the fact God loves you from your head to your heart?
- **QUESTION 4:** Invite people to share how they finished the sentence: "Lord, the one you love is…"

  NOTE: Consider sharing your own response to create an atmosphere of transparency and honesty.
- **QUESTION 5:** Read the question. As you list each effect of sin, have people identify the letter they wrote in the blank. Follow-up: What stood out to you from this exercise?
- **QUESTION 6:** Refer to "What God Does with Our Sins?" sidebar. Ask several to share the point they chose to mediate on, and how they rewrote the corresponding scripture.
- **QUESTION 7:** After discussing people's responses to the question, ask: What other things tend to lull us to sleep spiritually?
- **QUESTION 8:** With the two scripture portions in mind, have people share what they discovered concerning the importance of being spiritually awake and what that awakening should involve.
- **QUESTION 9:** Assign the **VERSES** to be read. Have class members point out key words and phrases that meant the most to them concerning God's attitude toward us.
- **QUESTION 10:** Ask someone to share the prayer they wrote as a way to close today's class.
- **PRAYER:** If needed, follow up with a short prayer of your own.

MAKE A PLAN: (10 MINUTES) Read **REVELATION 12:11.** Discuss why our testimony is so important. Ask if anyone would be willing to share what they wrote.

NOTE: Make yourself available after class if anyone has questions about receiving Christ.

DVD-1 VIDEO: (18 MINUTES) Session 2—"Talitha Koum!"

- Point participants to the session 2 viewer guide page for taking notes.

RESPONSE: (7–15 MINUTES)

- Immediately after video, ask class members to turn ahead in their study guide and write their response to: "I sense the Lord saying…"
- If there is time, ask if anyone would like to share what spoke most to them.

CLOSING: (5 MINUTES)

- Go over the assignment instructions on the last page of this week's study.
- Close in prayer.

LAZARUS AWAKENING–WEEK THREE

PREPARATION:

- Print off "Table Talk" questions below—cut into strips, one set for each table.
- Prepare a copy of **ROMANS 8** for each participant [on pages 44-45 of this guide.]
- Have extra pens and Bibles available.
- Whiteboard and dry erase markers for "Make a Plan."

WELCOME: (10 MINUTES)

- Welcome participants and open in prayer—If your group regularly takes prayer requests, there is space to record them on the last page of this week's study.
- Announcements.
- **MEMORY VERSE REVIEW**—Before class, have members review their verses. Then, during class, go over assigned verse as a group. (Point new people to the "Scripture Memorization" sidebar in week 1.)

*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)

ISRAEL MOMENT: LESSONS FROM THE DESERT (10 MINUTES)

- Turn to "Lessons from the Desert" sidebar in week 3 of study guide.
- **DVD-1 VIDEO**: View corresponding Israel Moment video.
- **ASK:** What other kinds of lessons has God taught you in the "desert"?

TABLE TALK: (15 MINUTES)

This is a great chance for the class to get to know one another in a lighthearted way. Place an envelope on each table filled with fun questions printed on strips of paper. Have people take turns drawing a question and answering:

- 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 $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?

WORD TIME: BIBLE READING HIGHLIGHTS (15 MINUTES)

- Turn to "Bible Reading Highlights" sidebar in week 3 of study guide.
- **DVD-1 VIDEO**: View corresponding Word Time video.

- **WORD TIME EXERCISE:** Pass out **ROMANS 8** sheets. Review the tips in the sidebar, then have members prayerfully read the chapter. Allow about 4–5 minutes for this, then ask a few to share what spoke most to them.

DISCUSSION: (25 MINUTES)

INTRO: Have someone read opening paragraphs in study guide.

- **QUESTION 1:** Ask several people to describe a moment they felt especially loved and why it meant so much to them.
- **QUESTION 2:** If there are those who didn't do the "What Kind of Friend Am I?" test, give them a few moments to complete it. Work through the questions, discussing what they discovered.
- **QUESTION 3:** Assign **VERSES**. As they are read one by one, have someone share the response or emotion the verse says God feels towards us.
- **QUESTION 4:** Read **JEREMIAH 24:7.** Ask: How do you respond to the idea of God wanting to know us and be known by us. Is the thought comforting or frightening? Why?
- **QUESTION 5:** Give a brief overview of the story of the Fall found in **GENESIS 3:1–24.** Ask someone to share the journal entry they wrote on God's behalf. If no one offers, read your own.
- **QUESTION 6:** Read the two Greek definitions for "friend." Assign **VERSES** to be read aloud one at a time. After each verse, ask the class to identify the type of friendship it describes—*phileo or hetairos.*
- **QUESTION 7:** Ask someone to read **HEBREWS 8:10–12**. Discuss the questions.
- **QUESTION 8:** As you read each statement, have the class identify the friend it describes—Abraham, Moses, or David. Discuss the follow-up questions.
- **QUESTION 9:** Together, read **PSALM 25:14 (TLB)** aloud. Ask someone to share their response to the question, then another to share their verse rewrite.
- **QUESTION 10:** Refer to the "Help Me Love You More!" sidebar. Ask the class to divide into pairs and share their responses with each other.
- **PRAYER:** Invite them to pray a short prayer for one another.

MAKE A PLAN: (10 MINUTES)

Using a whiteboard, make two columns: "Friendship with God" and "Friendship with Others." Have class members brainstorm ways we can become better friends—to God as well as to the people around us.

NOTE: You may want to save this exercise for after the video teaching as it could provide fresh insight and solidify the teaching points.

OPTIONAL: "WHO I AM IN CHRIST" JOURNAL PROMPTS

This segment is designed to cultivate an honest, private dialogue with God. If someone wants to share what they wrote down, that's great, but it shouldn't be expected.

DVD-1 Video: (20 minutes) Session 3—"Friendship with God"

- Point participants to the session 3 viewer guide page for taking notes.

Response: (7–15 minutes)

- Immediately after video, ask class members to turn to the next page in their study guide and write their response to: "I sense the Lord saying…"
- If there is time, ask if anyone would like to share what spoke most to them.

Closing: (5 minutes)

- Go over the assignment instructions on the last page of this week's study.
- Close in prayer.

LAZARUS AWAKENING—WEEK FOUR

PREPARATION:

- Prepare whiteboard and markers for "Make a Plan" discussion.

WELCOME: (10 MINUTES)

- Welcome participants and open in prayer—If your group regularly takes prayer requests, there is space to record them on the last page of this week's study.
- Announcements.
- **MEMORY VERSE REVIEW**—Before class, have members review their verses. Then, during class, go over the assigned verse as a group. (Point new people to the "Scripture Memorization" sidebar in week 1.)

*For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. (*JEREMIAH 29:11)

ISRAEL MOMENT: JESUS, THE MINISTRY (11 MINUTES)

- Turn to "Jesus, the Ministry" sidebar in week 4 of study guide.
- **DVD-2:** View corresponding Israel Moment video.
- Ask a few class members to share their "favorite thing about Jesus."

  LEADER: Consider sharing your favorite thing to encourage transparency and openness among the class.

GROUP ACTIVITY: THE WAITING GAME (10 MINUTES)

This week's lesson is entitled, "When Love Tarries." 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: 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: (25 MINUTES)

- **INTRO:** Have someone read opening paragraphs in study guide.
- **QUESTION 1:** Read **JOHN 11:1–6.** Invite class members to share a time when waiting was especially difficult. Ask: How did you react? What did you learn? Follow-up: What do you wish you would have done differently?
- **QUESTION 2:** As you read the different aspects of "delayed gratification," ask people to raise their hands on the ones they struggle with. Discuss.
- **QUESTION 3:** Read the opening statement, then have people share the "problem" and "result" they saw in each situation. Follow-up: Did you gain any new insight from this exercise?

- **QUESTION 4:** Assign **VERSES** to be read and discuss what each says about God's sovereign wisdom. Invite someone to share the response they wrote to the Lord.
- **QUESTION 5:** Read "The Blessing of Trouble" sidebar. Have a couple of members share the benefits they've received from hardship. Follow-up: How could this perspective help us the next time we face difficulty?
- **QUESTION 6:** Brainstorm the benefits of waiting patiently for the Lord found in **PSALM 40:1–3.** Ask: Which one means the most to you right now, and why?
- **QUESTION 7:** Assign **VERSES** to be read. Ask: What do these verses say about the difficulties we face in life?
- **QUESTION 8:** Recite the three truths together, then invite several to share the statement they chose, and why? Open up last question to discussion.
- **QUESTION 9:** Give a brief overview of the story of the blind man found in **JOHN 9:1–7.** Discuss question.

  NOTE: If people are hesitant to answer, generalize the question: "When people go through difficult times, who or what do they tend to blame?"
  FOLLOW-UP: Have someone read **JOHN 9:3**
- **QUESTION 10:** Read **JOHN 11:4.** Ask: As you consider these two verses, what do they speak to you concerning your current situation?
- **PRAYER:** Have a class member close the discussion in prayer.

MAKE A PLAN: (10 MINUTES)

Ask a few people to share the area in which they need to hand the "quill of their will" over to God. Refer to the "Art of Waiting" sidebar from the study guide and discuss the types of "waiting" class members need to practice right now, and how they plan to do it.

OPTIONAL: "WHO I AM IN CHRIST" JOURNAL PROMPTS

This segment is designed to cultivate an honest, private dialogue with God. If someone wants to share what they wrote down, that's great, but it shouldn't be expected.

DVD-2 VIDEO: (18 MINUTES) Session 4—"Shaped in the Quarry"

- Point participants to the session 4 viewer guide page for taking notes.

RESPONSE: (7–15 MINUTES)

- Immediately after video, ask class members to turn to the next page in their study guide and write their response to: "I sense the Lord saying…"
- If there is time, ask if anyone would like to share what spoke most to them.

CLOSING: (5 MINUTES)

- Go over the assignment instructions on the last page of this week's study.
- **NOTE**: The upcoming week involves reading two chapters in *Lazarus Awakening.* Encourage the class to start right away so that the assignment is not overwhelming.
- Close in prayer.

LAZARUS AWAKENING–WEEK FIVE

PREPARATION:

- Gather four or five tubs of Play-Doh 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.

WELCOME: (10 MINUTES)

- Welcome participants and open in prayer—If your group regularly takes prayer requests, there is space to record them on the last page of this week's study.
- Announcements.
- **MEMORY VERSE REVIEW**—Before class, have members review their verses. Then, during class, go over the assigned verse as a group. (Point new people to the "Scripture Memorization" sidebar in week 1.)

*Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" (*JOHN 11:40)

ISRAEL MOMENT: ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE BIBLE (10 MINUTES)

- Turn to "Archaeology and the Bible" sidebar in week 5 of study guide.
- **DVD-2:** View corresponding Israel Moment video.
- Open discussion around video content.

TABLE ACTIVITY: TOMB CONSTRUCTION (12 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: (25 MINUTES)

- **INTRO:** Have someone read opening paragraphs in study guide.
- **QUESTION 1:** In the book (pages 69 and 71), read the section titled "Caught Between Death and Life." Discuss the indications that we might be stuck in "mid-chamber living."
- **QUESTION 2:** Refer to the "Hurts, Hang-ups, and Habits" sidebar on page 70 in the book. Ask several people to share their responses to the first two questions. Follow-up: What does **PSALM 107:20** mean to you?

  NOTE: Because of the personal nature of questions 2–4, consider dividing into groups of two or three – men with men, women with women.

- **QUESTION 3:** Have everyone turn to Appendix E: Identifying Strongholds on pages 223–225 in softcover book (hardcover pages 203-–205). Discuss the questions that were most helpful for introspection.
- **QUESTION 4:** While it's important to take an honest look at ourselves, it's an exercise in futility unless we bring what we discover to the Lord. Read the steps in "Dethroning Lies" sidebar and discuss how these steps could help us leave our old lives behind.
- **QUESTION 5:** With everyone turning to **ISAIAH 61:1–3** in their Bibles, as a group brainstorm the purposes you see for Jesus's coming and ministry.
- **QUESTION 6:** Discuss Craig Groeschel's term: *Christian atheist*—"believing in God but living as if He doesn't exist." Ask: How does this contradiction tend to show itself, and how can we fight the tendency?
- **QUESTION 7:** Read the opening statement. Ask the class to share the barrier, process and result they discovered in the verses.
- **QUESTION 8:** Assign **VERSES** to be read. After each one, have someone share the paraphrase or prayer he or she wrote back to the Lord.
- **QUESTION 9:** Read the opening statement and **JOHN 11:40**. Ask several people share what Jesus's response to Martha means to them.
- **QUESTION 10:** Ask for volunteers to read the prayer they wrote in response to **MARK 9:24.**
- **PRAYER:** Take a moment of silence and encourage the class to pray their own prayer, asking God to increase their faith. Close with a short prayer.

Make a Plan: (10 minutes)

As you walk through the "Disciplining Your Mind" points in the sidebar, ask people to share the "action step" they took and any "victory" they experienced. Follow-up: What did you learn from this exercise?

Optional: "Who I Am in Christ" Journal Prompts

This segment is designed to cultivate an honest, private dialogue with God. If someone wants to share what they wrote down, that's great, but it shouldn't be expected.

DVD-2 Video: (18 minutes) Session 5—"Leaving Our Tombs"

- Point participants to the session 5 viewer guide page for taking notes.
- OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: Invite the class to change their Play-Doh tomb in some fashion to show that they choose life rather than death.

Response: (7–15 minutes)

- Immediately after video, ask class members to turn to the next page in their study guide and write their response to: "I sense the Lord saying…"
- If there is time, ask if anyone would like to share what spoke most to them.

Closing: (5 minutes)

- Go over the assignment instructions on the last page of this week's study.
- Close in prayer.

LAZARUS AWAKENING–WEEK SIX

PREPARATION:

- Optional: Print and trim the "Who Am I?" nametags, enough for class [see "Additional Tools" on page 42 of this guide]. Have tape available.
- Gather prizes for "Who Am I?" winners described in segment below.

WELCOME: (10 MINUTES)

- Welcome participants and open in prayer—If your group regularly takes prayer requests, there is space to record them on the last page of this week's study.
- Announcements.
- **MEMORY VERSE REVIEW**—Before class, have members review their verses. Then, during class, go over the assigned verse as a group. (Point new people to the "Scripture Memorization" sidebar in week 1.)

*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (*ROMANS 5:8)

OPTIONAL GROUP GAME: WHO AM I? (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 him or herself wins a prize. Have prizes for those who guess their starred (*), lesser-known Bible characters as well.

ISRAEL MOMENT: DRINKING THE CUP (10 MINUTES)

- Turn to "Drinking the Cup" sidebar in week 6 of study guide.
- **DVD-2:** View corresponding Israel Moment video.
- After video, have class members share "Gethsemane" moments in their lives.
- **ASK:** What did you learn during those times?

DISCUSSION: (25 MINUTES)

- **INTRO:** Have someone read opening paragraphs in study guide.
- **QUESTION 1:** Read the question, then have members give responses.
- **QUESTION 2:** Ask a couple of people to share their "spiritual hearing" test results. Brainstorm answers to the questions.
- **QUESTION 3:** Read the Priscilla Shirer quote. Discuss ways the enemy tries to convince us that we can't or don't hear God's voice. Ask: How does it make you feel to think that God wants to communicate with you?

- **QUESTION 4:** Give a brief overview of Elijah's story in **1 KINGS 19:11–12**. Ask someone to read **ISAIAH 30:21**, then discuss what these two passages reveal about ways God tends to speak to us today.
- **QUESTION 5:** Ask several people to describe a time God spoke to them in a "whisper" or as a "voice behind" them. Ask: How did you know it was God?

  NOTE: This question may be difficult for some to answer. Consider sharing a story from your own life or open a discussion on ways we can learn to better discern God's voice.
- **QUESTION 6:** Assign **VERSES** to be read. List the benefits that come when we hear God's Word and apply it to our lives.
- **QUESTION 7:** Have everyone turn in their Bibles to the first verse. Ask for key words and phrases that stood out to them. Turn to second verse and do the same.
- **QUESTION 8:** Referring to the Holy Spirit's work in our lives, read the statement and ask what letter they attached to it. Invite a few people to share which aspect they need most right now.
- **QUESTION 9:** As you read the "When Love Seems Silent" sidebar, encourage the class to underline or circle things that stand out to them. Discuss question. Follow-up: How can we become more comfortable with silent times?
- **QUESTION 10:** Give a brief overview of the story found in **1 SAMUEL 3:1–21.** Ask someone to read the Oswald Chambers quote. Ask: How have you sensed God speak to you as Chamber describes?
- **PRAYER:** Read this note from me and provide a space for silence. Afterward, close in prayer.

From Joanna: Silence in prayer can be intimidating. We tend to want to fill it up with words, but it's hard to hear God's voice if we don't stop to listen. Let's practice a period of stillness. Don't come with expectations. Don't try to perform for Him. Just quiet your heart in His presence. As you do, say "Speak, Lord!" If He speaks something to your heart, write it down. If you don't sense Him speaking, that's okay. Just rest in His love and continue to keep your heart open to hear His voice.

MAKE A PLAN: (10 MINUTES)

Read the opening instructions, then one by one, go through the methods listed in the "Tuning Our Hearts by Recognizing His Ways" sidebar. At each point, ask people to share what they learned from the exercise. Follow-up: What other ways does God speak in our lives?

OPTIONAL: "WHO I AM IN CHRIST" JOURNAL PROMPTS

This segment is designed to cultivate an honest, private dialogue with God. If someone wants to share what they've discovered, that's great, but it shouldn't be expected.

DVD-2 VIDEO: (18 MINUTES)

Session 6—"Do You Want to be Well?"

- Point participants to the session 6 viewer guide page for taking notes.

RESPONSE: (7–15 MINUTES)

- Immediately after video, ask class members to turn to the next page in their study guide and write their response to: "I sense the Lord saying…"
- If there is time, ask if anyone would like to share what spoke most to them.

CLOSING: (5 MINUTES)

- Go over the assignment instructions on the last page of this week's study.
- **NOTE**: The upcoming week involves reading two chapters in *Lazarus Awakening.* Encourage the class to start right away so that the assignment is not overwhelming. For those with a HARDCOVER copy of the book, point them to www.LazarusAwakening.com to download the bonus chapter.
- Close in prayer.

LAZARUS AWAKENING–WEEK SEVEN

PREPARATION:

- Optional: Gather items needed for the "Good Samaritan Race." First-aid kit for each team: twelve band aids and a small Energy Shot drink. "Bag of money" and a banana for each team. Audience cue cards with "Boo!" on one side and "Cheer!" on the other.

WELCOME: (10 MINUTES)

- Welcome participants and open in prayer—If your group regularly takes prayer requests, there is space to record them on the last page of this week's study.
- Announcements.
- **MEMORY VERSE REVIEW**—Before class, have members review their verses. Then, during class, go over the assigned verse as a group. (Point new people to the "Scripture Memorization" sidebar in week 1.)

*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. (*GALATIANS 5:1)

ISRAEL MOMENT: EMBRACING THE CROSS (8 MINUTES)

- Turn to "Embracing the Cross" sidebar in week 7 of study guide.
- **DVD-3**: View corresponding Israel Moment video.
- After video, ask a few volunteers to respond in prayer to the great sacrifice Jesus made when He went willingly to the cross.

OPTIONAL GROUP ACTIVITY: GOOD SAMARITAN RACE (12 MINUTES)

INSTRUCTIONS: Choose two teams with four volunteers each, allowing them to decide the following characters: Victim, Good Samaritan, Donkey, Inn Keeper. Give the banana to the innkeeper and the first-aid kit to the donkey. Ask the audience to be involved as well. Send teams to the back of room to start.

Refer to chapter 8 in book, and how we are called to help one another unwind grave-clothes. Explain that we'll be re-enacting the Good Samaritan story found in **LUKE 10:30–37.** After saying the italicized lines, give actors their directions.

There once was a man going down from Jerusalem to Jericho…

Directions: Have victims start walking toward front, gradually dropping to a walking crouch so they are going "down" to Jericho (Get it? ☺)

The man fell into the hands of robbers…

Directions: Victims act out this line and the next however they wish.

They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead…

Directions: Victims collapse to ground "half dead."

Religious people came and should have helped him, but instead they passed by…

Audience: Use sign to cue verbal response: "Boo!"

But a Good Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was…

Directions: Good Samaritans "ride" donkeys, galloping to the front.

When he saw him, he took pity on him…

Audience: Use sign to cue: "Cheer!"

He went to him and bandaged his wounds…

Directions: Good Samaritans untie first-aid kit and put twelve bandages on victims as fast as they can. Donkeys can help. ☺

He poured on oil and wine to heal and strengthen him…

Directions: Victims drink the Energy Shot.

Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn and took care of him. He even gave the innkeeper money to look after the man!

RACE DIRECTIONS: Here's where the race part begins!

1. The donkey must "carry" the victim to the back of the room where the innkeeper awaits. (Good Samaritan can help!) Victim must not touch the ground. If he does, they must go back and start over.
2. At the "inn," the innkeeper and Good Samaritan must carry victim to a "bed" and lay him on it. (Use table or predetermined spot.)
3. The innkeeper must feed the victim a banana while the Good Samaritan and the donkey race back to the front to grab the bag of "money" and bring it to the innkeeper.

WINNER: The team that pays the innkeeper and eats the banana first wins the "Good Samaritan Race"!

DISCUSSION: (25 MINUTES)

- **INTRO:** Have someone read opening paragraphs in study guide.
- **QUESTION 1:** Refer to the story told in **LUKE 10:30–37,** then read the different roles listed**.** Ask several people to share which of the "roles" they related to most, and why?
- **QUESTION 2:** Read the "Kissing Frogs" sidebar on page 124 in the book. Discuss questions. Follow-up: Why do you think it's so important to love people as they are, not as we want them to be?
- **QUESTION 3:** Point participants to the "Lessons from Good Sam" sidebar in the study guide and read the main points. Discuss questions.
- **QUESTION 4:** Have the class turn to the "Hints for Unwinding Graveclothes" (page 227–229 in softcover; page 207–209 in hardcover). Ask: Which of these points resonate most? How could these ideas help you minister to the person or situation you wrote down?
- **QUESTION 5:** Invite people to open their Bibles to **HEBREWS 12:1–6.** Brainstorm the different things we see in this passage that are part of unwinding our own graveclothes. Ask: Which one do you need most today?

- **QUESTION 6:** If many in the class haven't worked through the "Tripping Points" sidebar test, give them a chance to do so. Discuss what they discover.
- **QUESTION 7:** Refer to the main point in the "Shedding Graveclothes" sidebar and ask several to share how they responded to the exercise. Follow-up: How could these steps help all of us form new responses? What other steps should be included in the list?
- **QUESTION 8:** Have someone read **HEBREWS 12:1–3 (MSG)** as worded in the study guide**.** Ask: What words or phrases stood out to you, and why?
- **QUESTION 9:** Read **HEBREWS 12:4**. Ask if anyone would be willing to share the prayer they wrote to the Lord in response to these verses.
- **QUESTION 10:** Assign **HEBREWS 12:12–13** and **PROVERBS 4:23–27** to be read aloud. Discuss what making level paths for our feet might look like in our individual lives.
- **PRAYER:** Have several people lead out in prayer, asking God to help us unwind our graveclothes and get rid of anything that holds us back in our walk with Him.

MAKE A PLAN: (10 MINUTES)

Read and discuss the questions the early Methodists used as they met weekly for accountability. Ask: Why is this sort of accountability important in our lives today? Follow-up: Did anyone have an "aha" moment during this exercise that you'd be willing to share?

OPTIONAL: "WHO I AM IN CHRIST" JOURNAL PROMPTS

This segment is designed to cultivate an honest, private dialogue with God. If someone wants to share what they wrote down, that's great, but it shouldn't be expected.

DVD-3 VIDEO: (18 MINUTES) Session 7—"Shedding Graveclothes"

- Point participants to the session 7 viewer guide page for taking notes.

RESPONSE: (7–15 MINUTES)

- Immediately after video, ask class members to turn to the next page in their study guide and write their response to: "I sense the Lord saying…"
- If there is time, ask if anyone would like to share what spoke most to them.

CLOSING: (5 MINUTES)

- Go over the assignment instructions on the last page of this week's study.
- **NOTE:** The upcoming week involves reading two chapters in *Lazarus Awakening.* Encourage the class to start right away so that the assignment is not overwhelming.
- Close in prayer.

LAZARUS AWAKENING–WEEK EIGHT

PREPARATION:

- Create and print sets of large scale memory verses for each table [see "Additional Tools" on page 42-43 of this guide]. Cut verses into puzzle pieces.
- Optional: Print "Living in Light of Eternity" card sets for each table on cardstock and trim [see "Additional Tools," page 43 and 52].
- Optional: Gather materials needed for communion [see details on pages 33, 35-36 of this guide].

WELCOME: (10 MINUTES)

- Welcome participants and open in prayer—If your group regularly takes prayer requests, there is space to record them on the last page of this week's study.
- Announcements.
- **MEMORY VERSE REVIEW**—Before class, have participants practice their verses in pairs. Then, during class, go over the assigned verse as a group. (Point new people to the "Scripture Memorization" sidebar in week 1.)

*And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. (*1 JOHN 5:11–12)

TABLE ACTIVITY: MEMORY VERSE SCRAMBLE (12 MINUTES)

Pass out a set of Memory Verse puzzle pieces to each table, then give the signal to unscramble the pieces and put the seven verses together as quickly as possible. First team to put all the puzzles together wins.

ISRAEL MOMENT: JESUS, THE RESURRECTION AND LIFE (10 MINUTES)

- Turn to "Jesus, the Resurrection and Life" sidebar in week 8 of study guide.
- **DVD-3:** View corresponding Israel Moment video.
- After video, have class members discuss any thoughts they have. Ask: Why is Jesus's death and resurrection so important to our faith?

DISCUSSION: (25 MINUTES)

- **INTRO:** Have someone read opening paragraphs in study guide.
- **QUESTION 1:** Ask several people to share transformations they've witnessed in other people's lives. Ask: How did seeing the changes make you feel?
- **QUESTION 2:** Read question and discuss the transformations class members have seen in their own lives—no matter how small! Follow-up: What is the power of recognizing our baby steps rather than dismissing them?
- **QUESTION 3:** Have everyone turn in their Bibles to **JOHN 15:1–8.** On page 143–144 of the book, read how Hudson Taylor's life and ministry were changed by a new understanding of these verses. Discuss questions.

- **QUESTION 4:** Read the opening statement. As you read the things I've listed that oppose God's rule, ask people to raise their hands on the ones they personally struggle with. Ask: What other things could be added to the list?
- **QUESTION 5:** Have someone read **GALATIANS 2:20**, then read George Muller's "secret of service." Invite several to share the "obituary" they wrote for themselves. Consider sharing your own.
- **QUESTION 6:** Assign **VERSES** to be read. Then topic by topic, ask for a response to these questions: How would you view this aspect if you really believed that this world isn't all there is? What does the corresponding verse speak to you? Follow-up: What stood out most to you from this exercise?
- **QUESTION 7:** Have people share what they learned from the verses concerning Jesus's return and the importance of being ready.
- **QUESTION 8:** Read **JOHN 14:2–3.** In the light of the verses we've studied this week, open discussion around the questions.
- **QUESTION 9:** Ask the class what words or phrases from the hymn "Love of God" stood out to them. Follow-up: Did you gain any fresh insights from this exercise?
- **QUESTION 10:** Invite participants to look back over the study, and share the parts that made the biggest impact personally. Ask: How has our time together changed the way you think or live?
- **PRAYER:** Have each table pray together, giving thanks to Jesus for His work in their lives.

Make a Plan: (10 minutes)

Reading one point at a time, have class members share a practical way we can begin "Living in the Light of Eternity" today. Brainstorm other ways.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: 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. **FOLLOW-UP:** What other mindsets do we need to live truly resurrected?

Optional: "Who I Am in Christ" Journal Prompts

This segment is designed to cultivate an honest, private dialogue with God. If someone wants to share what they wrote down, that's great, but it shouldn't be expected.

DVD-3 Video: (19 minutes) Session 8—"Light of Eternity"

- Point participants to the session 8 viewer guide page for taking notes.

Optional: Communion Time

While I've made this communion service optional, please pray about including it. See the script that begins on pages 35-36.

However, before you do, 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: (7–15 minutes)

- Invite participants to turn to the next page in their study guide and write their response to: "I sense the Lord saying…"
- Ask everyone to turn to the "Personal Survey" section and fill it out as honestly as possible. Afterwards, have them compare their responses to the survey they filled out in week 1.
- Discuss what, if anything, has changed.

Closing: (10 minutes)

- **NOTE**: If you are expanding your study by ending with the Bonus Session next week, read the "Assignment" on page 37 in this guide.
- If this is your final week, read my closing note at the end of week 8 in the study guide, including the suggestions I give. As their leader, share your own thoughts and words of encouragement.
- Express your gratitude to your small group leaders and other helpers.
- Ask class members to pray for one another in pairs or around their table.
- Pray a benediction of blessing over this special group of people.
- If you know what study you are doing next, give them a preview to build anticipation.
- **NOTE**: Give everyone my love—Oh, how I wish I was there!

Optional Luncheon:

- As you eat and fellowship together, continue sharing what the Lord spoke to your hearts. Celebrate what He has done and what He is going to do!
- Love on each participant and let them know how much it has meant to have them in your class.

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.

LAZARUS AWAKENING—Bonus Session

Built around an extended time alone with God and an optional luncheon, this Bonus Session is an excellent way to close out your study. It can be used as a final session with 1–1½ hours dedicated to prayer or an actual four-hour "Half-Day of Prayer" scheduled on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon (which I suggest for studies limited to an hour). Though this may be intimidating for some of your class, I can promise that whatever format you choose, it will be a rich day none of you ever forget!

NOTE: You might also want to check out the "Prayer Station" activity described in the Retreat Guide, found on disc three or online at www.LazarusAwakening.com. Though it requires advanced planning and setup, it provides a structured opportunity for members to respond to God concerning the various facets of the study.

Assignment:

(If used as an extra study week, assign at end of week 8.)

- Encourage participants to use tips found in the "Bible Reading Highlights" sidebar (week 3).
- Assign the "Bible Reading Highlight" template pages in back of study guide as homework for the week. For those unsure where to read in the Bible, point them to the suggestions in opening paragraphs of the template section.
- Encourage the class to wear comfortable clothes and to come prepared for their time with the Lord. Remind them to bring their Bibles and a notebook or journal and anything else that would supplement their time with God.
- Give your class advance notice of the time they will spend alone with God (1–1½ hours on a study day and 3½–4 hours on a separate half-day of prayer.)
- If doing optional potluck luncheon, ask participants to bring a dish.

Preparation:

Before Scheduled Half-Day of Prayer:

- Tour your facility and arrange to have access to as many rooms as possible. Though participants won't have a room to themselves, make sure you have enough space to allow some privacy.

Day of session:

- Check preselected rooms to make sure they are clean and marked as designated prayer spaces. In large areas such as a main auditorium, you might want to have worship music playing very softly.
- Provide coffee and water bottles for class members to take to rooms. A basket of granola bars and/or fruit is also a nice touch.
- Prepare a table of quiet-time resources: various translations of the Bible, devotionals, commentaries, concordances, "scripture compilation" books, and other Christian books. Have extra pens and paper on hand as well. A few empty journals are nice for people who'd like to use one.
- If having lunch together, make any necessary preparations.

WELCOME: (8 MINUTES)

- Welcome participants.
- Go over the day's schedule. Let the class know what time and where you will come back together for lunch.
- Explain where prayer spaces are located. Encourage them to find a place where they'll be comfortable and yet give others around them privacy.
- Briefly point to and ask them to consider using the "Bible Reading Highlight" sidebar and template provided in the back of their study guide.
- If you have a resource table available, invite the class to use anything they might find useful in their time alone with God.

BLESSING: (10 MINUTES)

From Joanna: To His weary, busy disciples, Jesus gave this invitation—*"Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest"* (Mark 6:31).

In a sense, that's exactly what this extended time alone with God is about. In choosing to exit our busy lives for a while, we have a chance to sit at Jesus's feet like Mary did. To drink in His love and soak up His wisdom. To find rest for our souls. So that when we leave this place—this oasis of His presence—we are filled with everything we need. For we are filled with Jesus. Oh, my friends, this is going to be wonderful! Just you wait and see!

- Inform participants what TIME they should gather for lunch.
- Pray over the group and your time together. Then dismiss with instructions:

> "From this moment on, 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."

QUIET TIME: (60–90 MINUTES)

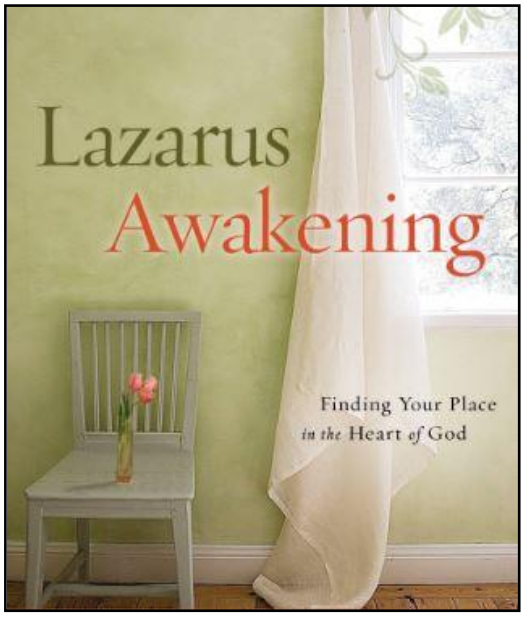
COMING BACK TOGETHER: (15 MINUTES)

- As you welcome the group back together, ask them to share what it felt like to spend a dedicated time with the Lord.
- Encourage individuals to share any breakthroughs or revelations they had. Be sure to share your own.
- Suggest that they make a "Half-Day of Prayer" a yearly or quarterly event in their lives, if not more often. Remember, it "recalibrates" our souls!

CLOSING: (10 MINUTES)

- Ask class members to pray for one another in pairs or around their table.
- Pray a benediction of blessing over this special group of people. And please give them my love!

Leader Resources:



Church Bulletin: Bible Study Announcement

You know Jesus loves the world…but do you ever struggle to believe He loves you?

Join us as we study *Lazarus Awakening: Finding Your Place in the Heart of God.* Filmed in Israel, this DVD-based Bible study is taught by author and speaker Joanna Weaver. Come explore the many lessons we can learn from Lazarus. For it's time to shed our graveclothes…it's time to "come forth!"

Beginning:
Day & Time:
Location:
Cost:

Don't miss this life changing study!
[OPTIONAL: Childcare is provided. Sign-up information.]

NOTE TO LEADERS: Find other promotional material (posters, bulletin inserts, invite cards, etc.) on disc three or online at www.LazarusAwakening.com .

Church Bulletin: Retreat Announcement

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

Come 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.* 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.]

Leader Resources:

Press Release:

[USE FOR: newspapers, radio spots, or any kind of PSA—public service announcement]

You've heard that God loves the world, but do you struggle to believe He could ever love you? Do you ever wonder if there's more to life than you are currently experiencing?

Beginning [DAY & DATE] at [TIME], [CHURCH NAME] invites you to join them as they begin a DVD study of *Lazarus Awakening: Finding Your Place in the Heart of God* taught by author and speaker Joanna Weaver and filmed in the Holy Land.

Register today by calling [PHONE] or visiting [WEBSITE]. [CHURCH NAME] has been hosting amazing community Bible Studies for [# OF] years. They welcome you to come discover the rich insights and deep truths in God's Word that have the power to change our hearts and lives. [OPTIONAL: Childcare is provided]

Event: Eight-week DVD Bible study based on Joanna Weaver's book *Lazarus Awakening*

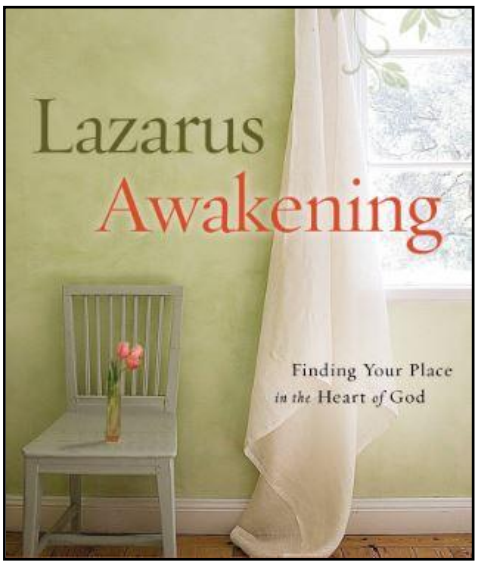
Church:

Date:

Time:

Location:

Cost:



Bible Study

Ever feel stuck in your Christian walk? Ever struggle to believe God could ever love you? Have we got a study for you!

Join us for Joanna Weaver's DVD Bible Study based on her book, *Lazarus Awakening: Finding Your Place in the Heart of God*. It's time to "come forth!"

Day & Time:

Location:

Cost:

[OPTIONAL: Childcare is provided.]

Name	Phone	Email

Additional Tools:

Week One: Memory Verses

While the memory verses are optional, I'd suggest giving each participant a set. If memorizing all seven verses seems too ambitious, choose two or three to focus on during the study. (Or use the "Retreat Theme" verse: John 10:10 NKJV.)

- Available on DVD-3 or for download at www.LazarusAwakening.com.

Using card stock or a generic business card template, print off a set of memory verses for each member of the study. You can print them in color or black and white. Consider laminating them so that they will last longer. You can also hole-punch a corner and put them on a binder ring if you'd like.

NOTE: Check with your church first to see if they can provide laminating, but if not, it is available at print shops and office supply stores like Staples and Office Max. Shop around for the best price. Though it doesn't provide the best seal, I suggest laminating whole sheets and trimming them yourself to save money.

Week Two: Books of the Bible Bookmark

Even though I was raised in church, it was many years into adulthood before I knew my way around the Bible. I suggest printing and laminating a bookmark for each participant for easy reference.

- Available on DVD-3 or for download at www.LazarusAwakening.com.

Print on cardstock, and trim as necessary. I suggest laminating this if possible, as it will be something your class may use for years.

Week Three: Word Time Exercise

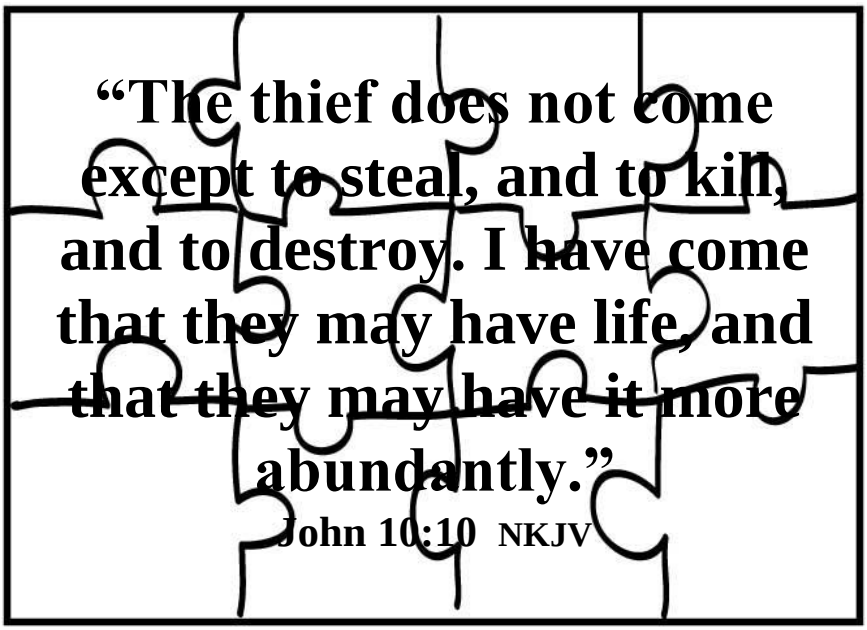
Print off the **ROMANS 8** page that follows on pages 44-45, one for each participant. Provide pens and highlighters for those who might need them.

Week Six: Who Am I? Game

Using the pages that follow or index cards, print the names listed in the "Bible Characters" template (see pages 46-52 of this guide). If you have more people than characters, use the empty template to come up with more names or repeat names as needed. See week 6 in the study guide for further instructions on the game.

Week Eight: Memory Verse Scramble

Create a copy of each memory verse on 8 ½ x 11 cardstock, then free-cut into puzzle shapes and place into large manila envelope. Make enough sets for each table. [**NOTE**: In the sample below, the puzzle lines are there to give an idea of how to cut the shapes. I don't suggest using a template with such bold lines.] See directions in week 8.



Week Eight: Living in the Light of Eternity Cards

Provide a set of "Living in the Light of Eternity" cards for each table (found on page 52 of this guide). Print on cardstock and trim into pieces. Find directions for use in week 8 "Make a Plan" segment.

Week Three
Word Time Exercise: Romans 8

Using the tips offered in "Bible Reading Highlights" sidebar, read the following passage slowly and prayerfully, marking what speaks to you. Then use the lined form to record what God spoke to you. (More forms are available in the back of your study guide.)

Romans 8

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, [2] because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. [3] For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, [4] in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.

[5] Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. [6] The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; [7] the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. [8] Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

[9] You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. [10] But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. [11] And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

[12] Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation — but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. [13] For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, [14] because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. [15] For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." [16] The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. [17] Now if we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

[18] I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. [19] The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. [20] For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope [21] that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

[22] We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. [23] Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. [24] For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? [25] But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

[26] In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. [27] And he

who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

[28] 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. [29] For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. [30] And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

[31] What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? [32] 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? [33] Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. [34] 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. [35] Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? [36] As it is written:

"For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."

[37] No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. [38] For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, [39] 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.

Bible Reading Highlights

Date: _____ Portion I read today: _____

Best thing I marked today: Reference: _____

Verse: _____

_____

_____

How it impressed me: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Week Six: "Who Am I?" Bible Characters

Paul	Timothy
Caleb	*Deborah
*Shadrach	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

Week Eight: "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	