

Unlimited

SIX BIBLE STUDY LESSONS FOR GROUP DISCIPLESHIP

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How to Use this Material

In Victory, the primary venue for discipleship happens in a small group. It is called a Victory group. We strongly encourage everyone to be involved since these groups are specifically designed to help disciples grow spiritually.

A Victory group meeting has three sections: **Connect**, **Word**, and **Prayer**, and ideally lasts from forty to sixty minutes.

CONNECT (5-10 minutes)

Victory group meetings begin with a time to relate with one another. Depending on the people who comprise the group, this can be done through a variety of ways:

- Fun—such as an icebreaker activity
- Answered prayers—sharing of testimonies and updates
- Questions—such as those provided in the material, learning each other's personal stories, and sharing feedback from the weekly message

Effective Questions During the Connect Portion:

- Are deliberately friendly to first-timers
- Ask for opinion or experiences
- Require no Bible knowledge
- Have no right or wrong answer
- Are not controversial
- Are preferably connected to the meeting's topic

WORD (20-30 minutes)

Teach the truth and relevance of God's Word for life application. The Victory group meeting is not primarily a Bible study. Although teaching and explanation of Scripture is involved, the goal is to minister, not finish a material.

There is no need to teach all the points in a material.

Within this section, we look at what the Bible says, its relevance to us today, and its application in our lives.

What: What does the Bible say?

Communicate and impart biblical truth clearly and concisely.

¹⁶All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 TIMOTHY 3:16,17

Tips for Sharing the Word Effectively

- Let the Bible speak for itself.
- Use illustrations and tell stories to explain Bible verses.
- When entertaining clarifications, be watchful not to allow the discussion to go off-tangent.
- The primary goal is to minister to the needs of the people, not to finish a Bible lesson.
- Be led by the Spirit when using the material.

So What: What is the relevance of the Word to my life?

Give participants the opportunity to discuss how the Word impacts the way they live.

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. ROMANS 12:2 **Now What:** How do I apply the Word to my life? Our primary reason for sharing the Bible is so that people will know who God is and what He has done. In doing so, the participants will begin to discover who they are and what they should do.

If it is a promise, teach them to claim it. If it is a command or a principle, encourage them to put it to action by God's grace. If it is a truth, let them embrace it willingly and not under compulsion. Allow God's grace and love to win them by the way you teach God's Word.

Encourage specific, measurable action steps that are consistent with the life change that the Scripture is bringing about. We do not command people, but we spur them on toward love and good deeds.

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. JAMES 1:22

Tips for Life-Changing Application

- You may choose one of the "So What" and "Now What" questions or you may add your own.
- An effective standby application question is: "What one action step are you going to take as a result of what you heard today?"
- Designate who will be the first to answer the question asked.
- Do not allow someone to argue or be critical of others.
- Remind everyone to apply the lesson to their own lives, not to someone else's.
- Ask God for wisdom to know when to balance or correct strange or unbiblical applications. Insensitive correction or criticism can kill the group, as can unchecked heresy.
- Remind everyone that transformation is God's work, not ours, and our obedience is a response to who He is and His love for us. It is God's grace that enables us to apply and obey His Word.

PRAY (15-20 minutes)

Prayer is the most important part of the Victory group meeting. Make sure you have plenty of time left so your prayer time is not rushed. This is not a "closing prayer," but a time for everyone in the group to take specific requests to God. This is where the action is. The goal is to create a venue where people will see God move on their behalf.

"Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven." MATTHEW 18:19

Tips for Powerful Prayer

- Listen to the Holy Spirit carefully during the Connect and Word sections for things that may need prayer.
- Spend your time praying for one another, not sharing and discussing prayer requests.
- Keep your prayers simple, sincere, and short. Most non-believers have never heard an ordinary Christian just talk to God and will be touched by the sincerity and simplicity of the prayer.
- Pray, don't preach. Pray in simple and short sentences, not long "sermon prayers."
- Use conversational prayer, not complicated or profound, intercessory prayer.
- Expect God to answer your prayers.

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FaithfulProvider

What was the most challenging part of your day/week/month?

Who is the most consistent person you know? Recall an instance explaining this.

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Do you believe that "promises are meant to be broken?" Why or why not? ²Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah: ³"Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. ⁴You will drink from the brook, and I have ordered the ravens to feed you there." ⁵So he did what the LORD had told him....1 KINGS 17:2-5

WHAT

In 1 Kings 17, Elijah found himself in a difficult place. He was serving God and speaking as God's prophet at a time when God's people had turned away from Him. In the midst of this, God remained faithful to Elijah and promised to provide for him. God is a faithful provider, and we see this in His Word and in our lives. His valuable promises to us are designed to encourage us and strengthen our faith as we face the daily challenges of life. In this lesson, we will see how Elijah responded to God and experienced His faithful provision. Here are three lessons from this story.

Believe God's promises.

²Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah... ⁵So he did what the LORD had told him.... 1 KINGS 17:2,5

Believing God seems like easy advice to give, but it is often hard to follow. And yet, our faith is not in our faith—it is in our faithful God who comes through for us, as He had done for Elijah, time and time again. God wanted Elijah to lean hard once more on His promise.

What does it mean to believe? What did Elijah prove true when he believed God's promise?

Wait for the fulfillment of His promises.

So he did what the LORD had told him. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there. 1 KINGS 17:5

Faith produces action. Elijah did not go to the Kerith Ravine to test whether God would deliver or not. Instead, the fruit of his faith was shown by his obedience and willingness to wait. In the same way, our trust in the Lord will be shown in how we act upon His promises.

Recall a time you waited for God to fulfill His promise. What did you learn while waitina?

Witness the fulfillment of His promise.

The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook. 1 KINGS 17:6

Despite Elijah's commendable faith, the fulfillment of God's promise was not based on his attitude. Rather, provision came because God promised that He will provide for His children. How do you feel about the truth that the fulfillment of God's promises is not dependent on us, but on God's ability?

Why can we be confident that God will fulfill what He promised (Hebrews 10:23)?

- How do you think you would have responded to opposition and trials if you were Elijah? How was God's provision different from what Elijah might have expected? How are God's answers to our prayers sometimes different from what we expect?
- According to 2 Timothy 2:13, how is God different from us?
- What do you think this means: "The righteous will live by faith" (Romans 1:17)?

NOW WHAT

- Do you believe God and His promises? How can you grow deeper in your relationship with Him this week?
- What promise are you waiting for God to fulfill? How can you wait patiently and faithfully?
- Who do you think you can encourage this week to keep believing God's promise? How can you encourage him/her?

- PRAYER
- Thank God that He is your faithful Provider.
- Ask God for tenacious faith like Elijah's—to believe Him no matter what you are facing, to wait on Him, and to see the fulfillment of His promises for you and your family.
- Pray that you will be a source of blessing and encouragement to those around you. Ask God to use you to speak faith in people's lives.

2 Divine Set-up



- What's one thing you need right now? Why do you think you need it?
- Do you think you are able to manage your finances well? Why or why not?
- Growing up, what was one of the hardest situations your family faced? How did you overcome it?

WORD

"For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD gives rain on the land." 1 KINGS 17:14 (READ 1 KINGS 17.)

WHAT

After God provided water, bread, and meat for Elijah in the Kerith Ravine, He then commanded Elijah to go to Zarephath because the brook had already dried up. In Zarephath, God used a widow and her son's last bit of flour and oil to provide for Elijah. It was a divine set-up. God chose this unique situation for Elijah, even if He could have sent His prophet to a different family with greater resources. Through Elijah's faith and obedience, the widow and her family also received supernatural provision. In this lesson, we will look at three things God sets us up for in our own unique situations.

God sets us up for His purpose.

"Go at once to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there. I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food." 1 KINGS 17:9

The widow in the middle of "enemy territory" in Zaraphath was in dire straights and was at the end of her rope. Yet God asked her to give and extend help to Elijah. In doing this, God went against the norm and set her up for a life-changing, powerful encounter.

When was the time you were called to do something you didn't fully understand, but you were glad you obeyed anyway? What happened? God sets us up for obedience in faith.

⁷Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. ⁸Then the word of the LORD came to him: ⁹"Go at once to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there. I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food." ¹⁰So he went to Zarephath.... 1 KINGS 17:7-10 (READ ALSO 1 KINGS 17:10-15)

Both Elijah and the widow responded in faith and obedience in this situation—Elijah obeyed God and asked the widow for provision despite knowing her situation and capacity, while the widow believed the promise Elijah told her and provided for him. This step of faith by both people was able to make them experience God's miraculous provision.

Why should our faith be paired with action (James 2:18-24)?



God sets us up for His provision.

¹⁵She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. ¹⁶For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the LORD spoken by Elijah. 1 KINGS 17:15,16

Before God sent Elijah to the widow to ask for provision, He already knew what was going to happen. His plan was already set—God has always been prepared.

Why don't we have a reason to doubt or be afraid when we know God is in control over our situations?

- Why do you think God uses unique channels to provide for us? Why is it dangerous to trust the channel rather than the source of provision?
- What lessons can you learn from this story? Why do you think God chose for the story to turn out this way? How does it challenge your faith?
- What do you think is the significance of the widow's ability? According to 2 Corinthians 8:12, what is needed for the gift to be acceptable?

NOW WHAT

- In what area of your life do you need a divine set-up from God? Do you believe and trust Him completely? How can you know and trust Him more this week?
- In the area of giving and believing God for provision, what mindsets do you think you have that need to change? What truths from the Bible can change these?
- Like the widow, how can you give your way out of a need this week? To whom can you be a blessing?

Thank God for His Word, faithfulness, and sovereignty over your life and family. Declare your trust in God today.

Pray that you will see God's hand in your life and you will obey Him always. Ask God for faith like Elijah's and the widow's. Ask God to provide for you and your family as He did for them.

Believe that as we give from what we have, God will multiply and use it for His glory. Pray that you will be a channel of God's blessing to many.

3 UnlimitedSource



- Do you like surprises? Why or why not?
- What kind of situation usually causes you to worry? Why?

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WORD

¹The wife of a man from the company of the prophets cried out to Elisha, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that he revered the LORD. But now his creditor is coming to take my two boys as his slaves." ²Elisha replied to her, "How can I help you? Tell me, what do you have in your house?" "Your servant has nothing there at all," she said, "except a little oil." 2 KINGS 4:1,2 (READ ALSO 2 KINGS 4:3-7.)

WHAT

Elisha, a prophet who succeeded Elijah, was faced with a difficult situation—a widow of a fellow prophet was desperately asking for his help. She was in debt and was about to lose her sons. God used this situation to provide for her and her family in a unique way. She had to ask around for empty jars, fill these with oil, and then sell the oil to pay their debts. This is a miraculous story of provision, and here are some things we can learn about God through this story.

God is not shaken by our lack or circumstances.

Elisha replied to her, "How can I help you? Tell me, what do you have in your house?" "Your servant has nothing there at all," she said, "except a little oil." 2 KINGS 4:2

The widow's dilemma was great, but God addressed it readily through Elisha. And it wasn't just her debt that was paid for. God also provided for the future needs of her family (2 Kings 4:7).

What does this tell us about God's goodness and ability to provide?

God is our unlimited source.

³Elisha said, "Go around and ask all your neighbors for empty jars. Don't ask for just a few. ⁴Then go inside and shut the door behind you and your sons. Pour oil into all the jars, and as each is filled, put it to one side." ⁵She left him and afterward shut the door behind her and her sons. They brought the jars to her and she kept pouring. ⁶When all the jars were full, she said to her son, "Bring me another one." But he replied, "There is not a jar left." Then the oil stopped flowing. 2 KINGS 4:3-6 (SEE ALSO PSALM 24:1).

We can trust God for our provision because He has the means to provide—He owns everything. God also assures us in His Word that, as we ask, He is not just able, but also willing to meet our needs. When Elisha told the woman to ask her neighbors for jars, he encouraged her to ask for many. And the oil stopped flowing when she ran out of jars. God is unlimited—He can't be put in a box and He won't run out of provision.

How have you experienced God as your unlimited source?

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God is able and willing to deliver us from our troubles.

She went and told the man of God, and he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debts. You and your sons can live on what is left." 2 KINGS 4:7

God delivered the widow and her family—they were able to pay their debts and she didn't lose her sons. How can we have faith like the widow in difficult times?

What do we need
to do to see
God's deliverance
(Matthew 7:7,8)?

SO WHAT

- What does the Bible say about debt (Proverbs 22:7)? Why was the widow's situation so difficult? What does God command us to do about debt (Romans 13:8)?
- How do you think the woman felt as she approached Elijah, asked for jars, and started pouring the oil? How do you think you would have responded if you were in her situation?
- Do you think God is ever surprised by what we face? How does a greater understanding of God's nature and character help you put your full faith in Him?

NOW WHAT

- Do you believe God is your unlimited source? How can you grow in your love and appreciation for God this week?
- What is your greatest need today? What promise from the Bible can you claim for this? What will you do in response to this promise?
- Who can you encourage with this story this week? How can you be a channel of God's blessings?
- PRAYER
- Thank God that He is your unlimited source. Thank Him for His blessings and grace.
- Pray that you will be faithful to obey God even in challenging situations. Pray that you will not be in debt. Instead, ask God to use your resources to bless others.
- Believe God for wisdom on how to turn "idle resources" into productive assets. Pray also for divine ideas and supernatural provision.

4 OverflowingProvision

- What's your favorite food? Why do you think you like it so much?
- What would you do if you learned that you were to inherit a large amount of money and assets from an unknown relative? Why?

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 Have you ever received a blessing without asking for anything? How did you feel?
 What did you do with the blessing?

⁴²A man came from Baal Shalishah, bringing the man of God twenty loaves of barley bread baked from the first ripe grain, along with some heads of new grain. "Give it to the people to eat," Elisha said. ⁴³"How can I set this before a hundred men?" his servant asked. But Elisha answered, "Give it to the people to eat. For this is what the LORD says: 'They will eat and have some *left over."* 2 KINGS 4:42,43

WHAT

The feeding of a hundred is another story of God's miraculous provision. Someone gave Elisha twenty loaves of bread, and these loaves fed a hundred men. In fact, there was even bread left over. God's provision is overflowing. When hard times hit, people often worry about the limited supply and the greater demand. However, in God's economy, His provision is unlimited. He is able to provide exceedingly, bless us to be a blessing, and cause overflow in our lives.

God limitlessly provides for His people.

A man came from Baal Shalishah, bringing the man of God twenty loaves of barley bread baked from the first ripe grain, along with some heads of new grain. "Give it to the people to eat," Elisha said. 2 KINGS 4:42

God used twenty loaves of bread to provide for a hundred men.

How does God use what we have to provide? How is God limitless in wisdom, ability, and provision?

overflow mean? provision caused an overflow from

God blesses us so we can bless others.

"How can I set this before a hundred men?" his servant asked. But Elisha answered, "Give it to the people to eat. For this is what the LORD says: 'They will eat and have some left over." 2 KINGS 4:43

The twenty loaves of bread were a blessing—not just for Elisha, but for many others. When we are blessed, we are to also be a blessing.

How does a greater understanding of God and His desire to bless us make it easier for us to bless others?

God's blessings overflow when we are obedient.

Then he set it before them, and they ate and had some left over, according to the word of the LORD. 2 KINGS 4:44

It is not enough to know God's will and proclaim our faith in Him to provide. We need to put what we believe into action by obeying His Word. The overflow of God's blessings to His people would not have happened if the servant did not obey Elisha's command to set the food before the people.

What does How has God's your life into others' lives?

- What does a blessed life look like? How do you know you're blessed? How is the world's perspective different from God's?
- According to 1 Timothy 6:17, who are we to hope in? What does God provide us with?
- How does your faith increase when you share your blessings with others?

NOW WHAT

- Do you believe God is your source and provider? How can you trust Him more every day?
- What mindsets or beliefs do you think you have that are not in line with God's Word? How can you grow in your understanding of God this week?
- What have you been blessed with lately that you can bless others with?

PRAYER

Thank God for His overflowing provision in your life.
Thank Him for His greatest blessing—Jesus Christ.
Pray for a deeper understanding of God's will for your life, so that you may be able to ask and walk according to His will. Pray that you would have great faith.

Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you to situations where you can become an instrument of blessing to others.

Blessed tobe a Blessing

Who is the most generous person you know? In what way have you experienced his/her generosity?

- What do you enjoy giving others (food, clothes, shoes, or accessories)? Why?
- When was the last time you gave a gift? Tell us about it.

²³ From there he went up to Beersheba. ²⁴ That night the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am the God of your father Abraham. Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bless you and will increase the number of your descendants for the sake of my servant Abraham.". GENESIS 26:23,24 (READ GENESIS 26.)

WHAT

Isaac's life was marked by the abundant blessing and favor of God. Despite the circumstances around him, such as famine in Genesis 26, he did not stop believing God. In this story, we see how God affirmed His covenant with Isaac as Abraham's son. Let us look closer at how this character of God ensures us of His promises today and helps us be a blessing to others.

God keeps His promises.

²The LORD appeared to Isaac and said, "Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land where I tell you to live. ³Stay in this land for a while, and I will be with you and will bless you. For to you and your descendants I will give all these lands and will confirm the oath I swore to your father Abraham. ⁴I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and will give them all these lands, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed ..." GENESIS 26:2-4

God kept His promises to Abraham, Isaac, and their descendants. Isaac knew that his very life was a fulfillment of God's promises to his parents, and He was faithful to them. God is a promise-keeper.

How have you seen God keep His promises to you and your family?

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God is with us.

They answered, "We saw clearly that the LORD was with you" GENESIS 26:28

When God is with us, His blessings in our lives will be evident to others. Because of His presence, we can be free from fear of lack or sudden disaster, even in a famine. Because He is with us, we have everything we need.

How has God been with you even in difficult times?



God brings blessing and increase.

"I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing." GENESIS 12:2

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? ROMANS 8:32

The purpose of a blessing is not to merely feel blessed or have our needs met. We are to be a channel of God's blessing, as Isaac and his descendants were—to the whole world. Jesus came to save us from our sins through their family line. God is the ultimate example of generosity and blessing because He gave His own Son. Therefore, as His children, we can also give generously. As we experience His extravagant generosity continually, we will see ourselves transformed into vessels that increasingly overflow.

What is the ultimate blessing you have received?

- Why do you think some people have a hard time being generous?
- How does the truth that God is faithful and capable to provide help us become more generous?
- Why is God not limited by natural circumstances and our failures? How do we see that in Isaac's story?

NOW WHAT

- Have you received God's gift of salvation? Do you know about what Jesus did for you on the cross?
- What circumstances are you facing that make it difficult for you to see God's faithfulness and generosity? How can you grow your faith in God this week?
- How can you be a blessing to your family and friends this week?

PRAYER

- Thank God for who He is and what He has done for you.
- Pray that you will be more generous and you would be a source of encouragement and blessing to many. Pray for your faith to increase.
 - Ask God to provide for your needs and the needs of those you love.

Faith and Patience



- What do you usually do when you have to wait for someone? Why?
- What house chore do you enjoy doing? Why?
- How do you show your gratitude to someone? Why do you do this?

According to James 2:26, what is the mark of faith? Why is being idle not a sign of faith? We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised. HEBREWS 6:12

WHAT

A lot of times, our prayers aren't answered right away. In these situations, we should accompany our faith with patience. In this lesson, we will look at how we show our patience as we hold on to God's promise.

We should not be passive.

We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised. HEBREWS 6:12

We should not become lazy while waiting for God's promise to come. Waiting is not a reason to just stop and be idle. We can follow the example of the heroes of faith in Hebrews 11 who continued to obey God as they looked forward to the fulfillment of His promises. Likewise, as we deal with our financial concerns, our faith can be seen as we patiently keep on working and sowing generously.

What does it mean to be "anxious"? Why should we pray "with thanksgiving"?

We should continue to wait.

Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. JAMES 5:7

As much as possible, we always want instant answers, but we need to understand that sometimes God wants us to go through a process. Farmers know this and they patiently wait for the crop and do not give up. They know that a seed sown will take time to bear fruit. It is the same with finances.

Why do we need to persevere while waiting?

We should continue to pray.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. PHILIPPIANS 4:6

Praying and lifting up our concerns to God will keep worrying at bay as we wait for His answers. We can continue to pray for a specific concern even if we have already asked God for it. Jesus Himself encourages us to do this (Luke 18:1). The Bible says that our prayers should be seasoned with thanksgiving, which shows our faith in God's goodness.

- Why do you think waiting is so difficult for many of us? How can we wait actively and faithfully?
- Why is it good for us to ask God for our needs? What grows when we tell God about our concerns even if He already knows them before we ask? What benefits do we get when we wait patiently on Him?
- How can you cultivate a heart that is grateful to God and tender towards Him, even while you are waiting on Him to fulfill His promises for you and your family?

NOW WHAT

- What are you believing God for and what are you doing while waiting for it?
- What thoughts or attitudes do you need to guard yourself against while waiting? How can you fill your mind and heart with God's Word every day? How about choosing a Bible verse to ponder on this week to help you be patient while waiting?
- As you look forward to an answered prayer, what can you do in the next few days to keep yourself from being idle? How can you honor God and bless others in this time of waiting?

PRAYER

Thank God that He hears your prayers and that He moves on your behalf—according to His timing, not yours. Thank Him for His wisdom and sovereignty.

- Ask God to give you greater faith and patience as you wait on Him. Pray that you will honor Him even while you wait.
- Keep persevering in prayer. Intercede for people and pray that they will rely on God.

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The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it . . . PSALM 24:1

Unlimited is a series of six materials for group discipleship designed to help believers grow in understanding God's nature and character as He desires to provide for His children.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Faithful Provider
- Divine Set-up
- Unlimited Source
- Overflowing Provision
- Blessed to be a Blessing
- Faith and Patience

