

LEADER'S GUIDE

Thank you for your willingness to lead others through this *Don't Let Doubt Take You Out* small group study. This leader's guide will give you some tips on how to prepare for your time together and facilitate a meaningful experience for your group members.

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO LEAD THIS STUDY?

Get together and watch God show up. You don't have to be a pastor, theologian, or counselor to lead a group through this study. Just invite people over, watch the video, and talk about it. All you need is a willing heart, a little courage, and God will do the rest.

HOW THIS STUDY WORKS

There are two important pieces to this *Don't Let Doubt Take You Out* small group study: (1) the six-session video teaching and (2) this study guide. Make sure everyone in your group has a copy of the study guide. The great part is that each study guide includes access to stream the video teachings. Reading the book *Don't Let Doubt Take You Out* will equip you with even more information surrounding the weekly topics, allowing you to lead with more confidence.

A FEW TIPS FOR LEADING A GROUP

Where you host your group matters! Whether your group meets in person or online, you are creating an atmosphere for people to learn and grow. When leading your group, make sure that your equipment to watch the video is working and cued up to the video in advance. If you are meeting in person, the environment should feel warm, safe, fun, and inspirational. Remove any clutter that could be a distraction and ensure the meeting space is clean. If possible, arrange for refreshments in advance. Lastly, set your phone to silent or "do not disturb" to minimize other possible distractions.

As you lead, be honest. Remember that your honesty will set the tone for your time together. Be willing to answer questions personally, as this will set the pace for the length of your group members' responses and will make others more comfortable in sharing.

Stick to the schedule. Strive to begin and end at the same time each week. The people in your group are busy, and if they can trust you to be a good steward of their time, they will be more willing to come back each week. Of course, you want to be open to the work God is doing in your group members as they are challenged to reconsider some of their preconceived ideas about doubt.

Don't be afraid of silence or emotion. Embrace the space as people work out their doubt. Anticipate that the material presented during this study will likely challenge group members to review some personal emotions or experiences.

Don't dominate the conversation. Even though you are the leader, you are also a member of this small group. So don't overpower others in an attempt to lead, and don't let anyone else in the group do so either.

Prepare for your meeting. Watch the video for the meeting ahead of time. Review all discussion questions so you are fully prepared for where the conversation may go. Invite the Holy Spirit to guide you in the discussion time. The most important thing you can do is simply pray ahead of time each week.

Make sure your group members are prepared. Ensure each participant has access to a study guide. Send out a reminder email or text a couple of days before the meeting so people don't forget when and where you are meeting.

AS YOU GATHER

Here is how we would recommend you lead a group through this study each week:

Connect (15-20 minutes): In Session One, spend this time getting to know each other. Then, in the remaining sessions, use this time to discuss what group members learned during the previous week's "Work Out the Doubt" personal study section. Give people time to share their answers and takeaways from the "Relate" and "Reflect" sections.

Video Teaching (15-20 minutes): Because group members are not required to read the book *Don't Let Doubt Take You Out*, the weekly video teaching will serve as a catalyst for conversation in your small group. The videos can be accessed via the QR code in the front of this study. You can watch the teaching together as a group, or you can choose to have members watch the video individually before showing up to that week's session. Whatever you decide, just be sure to clearly communicate it to all members and then be consistent as you work your way through the study.

Group Discussion (20 minutes): Use the discussion questions in this study to process key takeaways from the video teaching. Before diving into the suggested questions, you can always begin by asking, "What notes did you take or what stuck out to you from the video teaching?"

Final Instructions and Closing Prayer (5 minutes): Remind participants to complete the "Work Out the Doubt" personal study section of this study individually throughout the week so they can return to the next session ready to share what God showed them. Spend time praying specifically for the doubts people are processing before wrapping up your time together. One of your responsibilities as a leader will be to start the conversation each week with the people you're taking through this study. Use the following questions to get participants talking each week before you jump into the video teaching and discussion questions located in the workbook!

CONNECT QUESTIONS

Here are some questions you could use to get members talking during the Connect time at the beginning of each session:

- 1 | Session One: The Danger of Doubt**
 - In two minutes or less, share your name and a little bit about yourself.
 - If you could magically eliminate all doubt in one area of your life—like picking the right Netflix show, knowing if pineapple belongs on pizza, whether *Die Hard* is a Christmas movie, or something bigger—what would it be?
 - What made you decide to join this study?
- 2 | Session Two: The Hardest Voice to Silence**
 - What's something God revealed to you through the "Work Out the Doubt" personal study time?
 - When was the first time you recall struggling with doubt?
 - In the "Reflect" section, where did you determine you are right now and where do you want to be?
- 3 | Session Three: Waiting On a Miracle**
 - What's something God revealed to you through the "Work Out the Doubt" personal study time?
 - What's something you felt called to step out of your comfort zone and do after working through the "Reflect" section?
 - If you feel comfortable, share the battle strategy you wrote in the "Respond" section.
- 4 | Session Four: Dealing With Detours**
 - What's something God revealed to you through the "Work Out the Doubt" personal study time?
 - If you feel comfortable, share the declaration of faith you wrote in the "Reflect" section, using Psalms 13:5-6 as a guide.
 - How did you decide to leverage the delay you're experiencing or the season you're currently in?
- 5 | Session Five: Relationships Required**
 - What's something God revealed to you through the "Work Out the Doubt" personal study time?
 - How did reading the story of Job inspire you to view the painful places in your life differently?
 - The "Reflect" section had us read about a time when David felt as though God was silent. What did you learn from that exercise and how did it change your view of seasons where God seems quiet?
- 6 | Session Six: Stepping Out in Faith**
 - What's something God revealed to you through the "Work Out the Doubt" personal study time?
 - How did you find yourself approaching certain relationships differently after last week's session?
 - Do you tend to be a "peace-faker" or a "peacemaker"? What do you think the big difference is between the two?

INSIGHT FOR DISCUSSION

You set the tone for the group. Your honesty and vulnerability during discussion times will set an example for how they can share. How long you talk will give them an example of how long they should. So give some thought to what stories or insights from your own work in the study guide you want to highlight.

WARNING: The greatest temptation for most small-group leaders is to add to the video teaching with a little “teaching session” of their own. This is unhelpful for two reasons:

- 1** | The discussion time will be the richest time during your meeting. The video sessions are the teaching. If you add to the teaching, you sacrifice precious time for discussion and can distract from the intended teaching.
- 2** | You don't want your group members teaching, lecturing, or correcting one another. Every person is at a different place in his or her spiritual journey, and that's good. The best way to encourage productive discussion after a teaching is to begin the conversation straight away with whichever question in this guide you selected to begin with.

AS YOU CLOSE

Some of the best learning times will take place after the group meeting as God brings new insights during the week. Encourage group members to write down any questions they have as they do the Bible study work in between group meetings. Make sure they know you are available for them. End your meeting time with either the prompted prayer or have a volunteer pray over your group, and respect this as the official close of your meeting time. This helps establish a set ending and indicates to everyone they are good to go!

Thank you again for taking the time to lead your group. May God reward your efforts and dedication and make your time together a true experience of walking in faith, even through doubt!