



OURLIGHT BIBLE STUDY — LEADER COMPANION

Christ is The Way

Leader Companion for the 6-week study — pair this with the main packet.

This companion is for group leaders only — it is not additional content for participants. For each week, it repeats a short context recap, then the facilitation notes that live outside the main packet: what to watch for as a session unfolds, and how to respond. It deliberately does not include model answers to the Discussion Questions — the guidance below is meant to help you recognize a substantive answer and a shallow one, not to hand you a script to read from. You are still expected to work the text yourself before leading it.



OURLIGHT BIBLE STUDY — WEEK 1 OF 6

The Foundation of the Way: Salvation and Its Fruit

Leader Companion — Week 1 of “Christ is The Way.”

Study aim: This week traces the foundation of following Christ: salvation received by grace alone, and the obedience, humility, and love that grace produces in those it saves. — Scripture Anchor: Ephesians 2:8–9 (ESV)

Leader Notes

Moment	Watch For	Direction
Opening	Group members may immediately define salvation by what they do (church attendance, moral behavior) rather than what Christ has done.	Redirect early to Ephesians 2:8–9 as the controlling text for the whole week before discussing the other three days.
Doctrine	A common drift is collapsing faith into a work — treating believing itself as something that earns merit.	Clarify that even faith is described as “not your own doing... the gift of God” (Ephesians 2:8) — it is the instrument, not the ground, of salvation.
Application	Members may respond with performance-oriented resolutions (“I’ll try harder to obey/love/humble myself”) that quietly reintroduce works-righteousness.	Steer application back to gratitude-driven obedience — flowing from what Christ has already secured, not toward securing it.

Discussion Question Guidance

Q1. According to Ephesians 2:8–9, what specifically is “the gift of God” — and what is explicitly excluded from having any part in it?

Watch for: A partial answer that names “faith” as the gift but misses that the whole transaction — faith included — is excluded from human contribution.

Direction: Point back to the text: “this is not your own doing... not a result of works” — the gift is the entire salvation, faith included; works are explicitly and completely excluded.



Q2. How do John 15:4–5 and James 1:22 show that obedience is meant to flow from abiding in Christ rather than earning standing with Him?

Watch for: Answers that describe abiding as a technique for producing better obedience, rather than union with Christ producing it as fruit.

Direction: A strong answer distinguishes source (union with Christ) from technique (self-effort) — listen for whether the group locates the power to obey in Christ or in willpower.

Q3. Where in your life is it easiest to quietly treat humility, obedience, or love as things you contribute to your salvation rather than evidence that you've received it?

Watch for: Vague or general answers (“I sometimes feel like I need to earn it”) without a specific area named.

Direction: A grounded answer names one specific area — a habit, a comparison, a private scorecard — where performance has quietly replaced grace. If the group stays abstract, offer a common example (church attendance, moral comparison) to prompt specificity.



OURLIGHT BIBLE STUDY — WEEK 2 OF 6

The Substance of the Way: Truth, Holiness, Faith, and Hope

Leader Companion — Week 2 of “Christ is The Way.”

Study aim: This week grounds discipleship in what is unseen but certain: truth revealed in Scripture, holiness worked by the Spirit, faith that takes God at His word, and hope anchored in the resurrection. — Scripture Anchor: Hebrews 11:1 (ESV)

Leader Notes

Moment	Watch For	Direction
Opening	Members may equate holiness with an outward moral checklist rather than a Spirit-worked, Christ-centered transformation.	Ground the discussion in 1 Corinthians 1:30 — holiness is first something Christ is to us before it's something we do.
Doctrine	Faith can be redefined as positive thinking or personal certainty rather than trust anchored in God's revealed promises.	Return repeatedly to “things hoped for... not seen” — faith's object is always what God has said, not the strength of the believer's feeling.
Application	Members may leave discouraged if they don't feel more hopeful by the end of the discussion.	Remind the group that hope in Scripture is a settled confidence in God's promise, not an emotional state — obedience does not wait for the feeling to arrive.

Discussion Question Guidance

Q1. How does Hebrews 11:1 define faith, and how is that different from popular ideas about “having faith”?

Watch for: Answers that define faith as strong feeling or personal certainty rather than trust in what God has promised.

Direction: Return to the text's own words — “assurance of things hoped for, conviction of things not seen” — faith's strength isn't the point; its object, God's promise, is.

Q2. What does it mean for God's Word itself to be the agent of sanctification in John 17:17,



rather than merely information about sanctification?

Watch for: Treating Scripture reading as merely informative (“it teaches me things”) rather than an active means God uses to change the reader.

Direction: Draw out the distinction between learning facts about holiness and Scripture itself doing sanctifying work in the reader — ask what it would look like to let the Word actively shape them, not just inform them.

Q3. Where has hope quietly become dependent on your circumstances improving, rather than on the resurrection of Christ?

Watch for: Answers that stay comfortably general (“I could trust God more”) without naming an actual circumstance.

Direction: Ask for one current circumstance by name, and whether hope in that situation currently rests on the outcome changing or on Christ's resurrection being true regardless of the outcome.



OUR LIGHT BIBLE STUDY — WEEK 3 OF 6

The Practice of the Way: Prayer, Service, Forgiveness, and Suffering

Leader Companion — Week 3 of “Christ is The Way.”

Study aim: This week turns doctrine into practice: prayer that depends on God, service that mirrors Christ, forgiveness that flows from mercy received, and suffering that refines rather than destroys faith. — Scripture Anchor: Mark 10:45 (ESV)

Leader Notes

Moment	Watch For	Direction
Opening	Members may treat prayer, service, and forgiveness as separate skills to improve individually rather than seeing them as one pattern of Christlike life.	Open by naming Mark 10:45 as the hinge verse — every practice this week flows from Christ's example of costly service.
Doctrine	Suffering is easily moralized into punishment or explained away, avoiding the text's claim that it is sanctifying.	Anchor the group in Romans 8:16–18 — present suffering is “not worth comparing” to coming glory, not evidence of divine displeasure.
Application	Forgiveness discussions can become abstract or theoretical without naming real relationships.	Gently press for specificity — Matthew 6:14–15 is a command, not a suggestion, and vague answers should be followed with a direct, pastoral follow-up question.

Discussion Question Guidance

Q1. What request from James and John does Jesus directly answer in Mark 10:45, and how does His answer redefine greatness?

Watch for: Missing the connection to James and John's request for honored seats (10:35–41) and treating Mark 10:45 as a freestanding teaching on service.

Direction: Point back to verses 35–41 — Jesus is answering a specific request for status with a direct redefinition: greatness is measured by service, patterned after His own ransom.



Q2. How does Matthew 6:14–15 tie God's forgiveness of us to our forgiveness of others — and what does that reveal about the seriousness of unforgiveness?

Watch for: Softening the text into general encouragement to forgive, missing that Jesus ties withholding forgiveness to not being forgiven.

Direction: Read verse 15 plainly — the warning is real and direct. This isn't a minor spiritual add-on; unforgiveness is presented as a serious barrier to communion with God.

Q3. Where has suffering tempted you to doubt God's care rather than trust His refining purpose (Romans 8:16–18)?

Watch for: Answers that spiritualize the question away (“I know God is good”) without naming an actual season of doubt.

Direction: Ask gently whether there's a specific hardship, past or present, where trust genuinely wavered — the text expects real struggle, not a rehearsed answer.



OURLIGHT BIBLE STUDY — WEEK 4 OF 6

The Outward Way: Generosity, Peace, Mission, and Endurance

Leader Companion — Week 4 of “Christ is The Way.”

Study aim: This week turns the disciple outward: generosity that trusts God's provision, peace that holds under pressure, mission that sends every believer, and endurance that keeps its eyes on Christ to the end. — Scripture Anchor: Matthew 28:19–20 (ESV)

Leader Notes

Moment	Watch For	Direction
Opening	Mission can be heard as a call reserved for pastors or missionaries rather than every believer.	Emphasize “every believer is sent” from the Principle field and Acts 1:8's concentric circles — mission begins locally before it extends to the nations.
Doctrine	Peace is often reduced to emotional calm rather than the objective peace secured by Christ's finished work.	Distinguish circumstantial calm from the peace of John 16:33 and Philippians 4:6–7, which holds precisely amid tribulation, not after it ends.
Application	Generosity and mission commitments can become vague, well-intentioned statements without follow-through.	Ask each member to name one concrete, dated action before the group closes.

Discussion Question Guidance

Q1. On what basis does Jesus command the disciples to go and make disciples of all nations in Matthew 28:18–20 — and why does that basis matter for how the church carries out the mission?

Watch for: Treating the Great Commission as a command detached from its stated basis, leading to mission framed as human effort or obligation.

Direction: Anchor the answer in verse 18 — “all authority... has been given to me” — the command rests on Christ's authority and is followed by His promised presence (v20), not the disciples' own resourcefulness.



Q2. How does John 16:33 distinguish the peace Christ gives from the absence of trouble?

Watch for: Equating Christ's peace with the absence of tribulation, missing that John 16:33 explicitly promises trouble "in the world."

Direction: Point to the full verse — peace and tribulation are both promised in the same breath; the peace holds inside the trouble, not after it's removed.

Q3. What "weight" or "sin that clings so closely" (Hebrews 12:1) is currently slowing your endurance, and what would it look like to lay it aside?

Watch for: General confessions ("I struggle with distraction") without a specific, nameable weight.

Direction: Press for one concrete thing — a habit, a relationship, a fear — and one specific first step to lay it aside this week, not just an intention to try harder.



OURLIGHT BIBLE STUDY — WEEK 5 OF 6

The Character of the Way: Integrity, Wisdom, Compassion, and Assurance

Leader Companion — Week 5 of “Christ is The Way.”

Study aim: This week examines the inner character grace produces: integrity that needs no cover, wisdom that begins with fearing God, compassion that mirrors Christ's own heart, and assurance that rests on His faithfulness, not our performance. — Scripture Anchor: Proverbs 3:5–6 (ESV)

Leader Notes

Moment	Watch For	Direction
Opening	Integrity and wisdom can drift into moralistic self-improvement talk disconnected from trust in God.	Keep returning to Proverbs 3:5–6 — the command is to trust and lean, not merely to try harder.
Doctrine	Assurance can be treated as presumption (“it doesn't matter how I live”) or as constant anxious doubt — both miss 1 John's balance.	Clarify that 1 John 5:13 grounds assurance in God's testimony about His Son, offered to strengthen genuine faith, not excuse careless living.
Application	Compassion applications can stay generic (“be nicer to people”) without a named person or action.	Ask directly: who, specifically, and what, specifically, this week?

Discussion Question Guidance

Q1. What does Proverbs 3:5–6 command regarding your own understanding, and what specific promise follows obedience to that command?

Watch for: Naming “trust” without naming the explicit command “do not lean on your own understanding,” the harder, more specific half of the verse.

Direction: Make sure both halves surface — trust is paired with a direct command not to rely on personal reasoning, and the promise (He will make straight your paths) follows obedience to both.

Q2. How does 1 John 5:11–13 define the ground of a believer's assurance — and how is that



different from assurance based on feelings or performance?

Watch for: Grounding assurance in a memory of a past decision or in current spiritual performance rather than in God's own testimony about His Son.

Direction: Point to verse 11 — “this is the testimony” — assurance rests on what God has said about Christ, not on the strength of the believer's memory or current spiritual state.

Q3. Who in your life needs the kind of compassion Matthew 9:35–36 describes, and what is one concrete way you could extend it this week?

Watch for: A generic answer (“be kind to people”) with no specific person or action named.

Direction: Ask for a name and a specific, doable action this week — compassion in this text is concrete and directed at real, visible need, not an abstract disposition.



OURLIGHT BIBLE STUDY — WEEK 6 OF 6

The Witness of the Way: Witness, Discipline, Unity, and Glory

Leader Companion — Week 6 of “Christ is The Way.”

Study aim: This closing week sends the disciple outward and upward: a ready witness, disciplined habits of grace, unity that reflects the triune God, and a hope of future glory that sustains faithfulness now. — Scripture Anchor: 1 Peter 3:15 (ESV)

Leader Notes

Moment	Watch For	Direction
Opening	Members may feel unprepared or intimidated by the idea of giving a reason for their hope, assuming it requires apologetics expertise.	Clarify that 1 Peter 3:15 calls for gentleness and respect, not debate skill — a simple, honest account of what Christ has done is sufficient.
Doctrine	Unity can be flattened into mere niceness or avoiding conflict, missing its stated theological ground in the Trinity.	Return to John 17:21–23 — the unity in view is patterned after the Father and Son's own relationship, not simply the absence of disagreement.
Application	The final week can drift into looking backward with nostalgia rather than forward with resolve.	Close by asking each member to name one specific practice (discipline, witness, or unifying action) they will carry forward, not merely a summary of what they learned.

Discussion Question Guidance

Q1. What manner does 1 Peter 3:15 require when giving a reason for your hope — and why might that manner matter as much as the content of the answer?

Watch for: Focusing only on having a good answer (content) and skipping “gentleness and respect” (manner) entirely.

Direction: Draw out both halves of the verse — an accurate answer given harshly still fails the text's instruction; manner is not an afterthought, it's part of the command.



Q2. According to John 17:20–23, what is the stated purpose of the unity Jesus prays for among His disciples?

Watch for: Treating unity as a nice internal church goal, missing its explicitly evangelistic purpose.

Direction: Point to verses 21 and 23 — “so that the world may believe” / “so that the world may know” — the unity is for the sake of the world's belief, not merely the church's comfort.

Q3. Where does the hope of future glory in Romans 8:18 change how you're carrying a present difficulty?

Watch for: Answers that acknowledge the doctrine of future glory without connecting it to an actual present difficulty.

Direction: Ask what's genuinely hard right now, and whether Romans 8:18's comparison (“not worth comparing”) actually changes the weight of it, or whether that connection still needs to be made honestly.

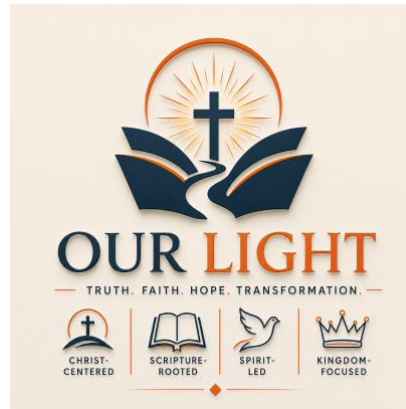


OUR LIGHT MINISTRIES

TRUTH · FAITH · HOPE · TRANSFORMATION

BIBLE STUDY
LEADER COMPANION

CLOSING



© 2026 OurLight Ministries

All rights reserved. Free to share non-commercially with attribution.

Scripture quotations from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®),

Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used with permission. All rights reserved.