



Reasons To Rejoice BIBLE STUDY

INFORMATION SHEET

Welcome to *Reasons to Rejoice* Bible Study Series. We're excited that you'll be joining us! It's our desire that we all grow in our faith through the study of His Word. The women who attend have various church affiliations and different backgrounds, and each of us are at different places in our walk with Christ. We ask that you take this into consideration and be sensitive to the other women in your group.

The Bible Studies are written with the purpose of enhancing your study of God's Word. They are not an end in themselves. They are only a tool to help you understand and apply Scripture to your life. Here are some helpful guidelines to make your year go smoothly. Praying we all grow in our faith, come to know the Lord more intimately, and apply Scripture more accurately to our lives. Have a great year!

PREPARING YOUR LESSON:

1. Commitment is very important in receiving the most out of this study. Being present consistently, being willing to share in discussion, and completing your lesson are all vital ingredients to commitment.
2. Always start with prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to open your heart and mind to His wisdom and instruction.
3. The New King James is the Bible translation used while writing this study. Although you are free to use any translation, it may be helpful to have a NKJ on hand.
4. As you read the notes, make it a point to underline or highlight any Scriptures, thoughts, or personal applications that have been especially meaningful to you.
5. Put your answers in your own words unless you are asked to quote a Scripture. It will be exciting to hear what the Holy Spirit has taught each of you on an individual basis. You may use a commentary or a concordance to confirm or amplify what you have discovered in your study, but always as your last source, and then only as a resource for further insight.

6. If you are new to Bible study, don't be discouraged if you aren't able to answer or understand every question. As you study, you will grow in your understanding of the Bible and soon discover that you are able to enjoy and answer more and more of the questions each week. Feel free to call your leader with any questions.

PARTICIPATING IN DISCUSSION GROUPS:

7. To have fruitful discussions, it's helpful if everyone comes to the group with their lessons completed. Being prepared brings a depth and "richness" to the discussion time.
8. If you tend to be talkative, PLEASE DON'T monopolize or hijack the discussion. Give quiet people a chance to express their answers also.
9. If you are timid, you don't need to participate in the discussion until you feel comfortable. You won't be called upon if you don't want to share.
10. There may be women from various churches in your discussion group. This is not a time to discuss other church's problems or policies.
11. It's the desire of your leader to see each of you grow closer to the Lord through this study. If she can do anything to help you achieve this by helping you with study questions, praying with you, or anything else, please feel free to call or email her.
12. If you must be absent, call your leader as soon as possible. It's your responsibility to obtain your lesson. You can do so in any of the following ways:
 - a) Pick up the lesson in the Church Office during the week, Monday-Thursday 8:00 am-7:30pm or at the Welcome Table on Sundays.
 - b) You may also download the lesson off the Calvary website on the Women's Ministry page. (www.calvarymurrieta.com)
13. There is no charge for the lessons. If you are financially able and desire to help offset the expense, your donation will be appreciated. You can just mark it "Women's Ministry."
14. Please make every effort to attend both the overview and your small group. This is such a great time to fellowship with all the ladies from the various groups and worship together.

Group Ground Rules

Ground rules help create boundaries that enable your group to be a safe place for healthy growth.

Here are some examples:

1. Our goal is transformed lives by God's love and His Word.
2. This is to be a safe place where opinions and insights are respected and valued, even if they are different from our own.
3. We will start and end on time.
4. We come together to share, study His Word, pray, and encourage one another.
5. Please avoid topics that can divide such as political issues, denominational differences, and business endeavors.
6. Avoid trying to fix or change others in the group. Trust God to be at work in them as He is in you. 😊
7. Be gracious, respectful, and an intentional, active listener.
8. Use words to build up one another, not tear down.
9. **PLEASE** keep your sharing and prayer requests **BRIEF** so everyone has an opportunity to be heard.
10. Nothing you hear should be repeated outside the group. This is a **SAFE** place.
11. Share your own story, not someone else's.
12. All sharing and praying should be done in a way that doesn't dishonor or disrespect anyone.
13. It's important to agree to disagree, without judging or arguing.
14. Please don't be quick to offer unsolicited advice to others when they are sharing their stories. You are not their counselor.
15. **PLEASE** don't see your group as your own personal support group. **PLEASE** remember that each person in the group has needs as well.
16. Please do not dominate conversations, discussion, and prayer times.

**"Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your Word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart."
Jeremiah 15:16**