



LEADER'S GUIDE

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# SEASONS OF CHANGE SEASONS OF GRACE

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## Introduction

The goal of this study is to help people learn and practice biblical principles for coping with change. Change has been recognized by the medical profession as a contributing cause in many illnesses as well as other problems in people's lives today. There has been a great deal written about change in the realms of medicine and psychology and business. But for the believer in Jesus coping with change, as with any difficulty, is primarily a spiritual matter. Therefore, the primary resources for coping are found in God's Word as applied to our lives by His Spirit. That is the main emphasis of this study.

In the study book, each chapter has four parts: 1. comments and information about one aspect of change, identified in the chapter's title; 2. a study of Scriptures pertaining to that aspect of change; 3. a few questions for groups that enjoy more discussion; and 4. some suggestions for personal evaluation.

I believe each chapter contains more material than can be covered in a thirty minute period. This is to allow for different emphases or styles of teaching, as well as for use in Circle, home Bible study, or Sunday School groups. It is assumed that each member of the study group will have a copy of the study book. The chapters are designed to be read at home. Each class member should also be encouraged to study the Scriptures and answer the questions in the ILLUSTRATION FROM SCRIPTURE.

If the majority of your group will not prepare before they come to the meeting, you will want to spend more time going over the content of the chapter. In that case you may want to simply refer to the ILLUSTRATION FROM SCRIPTURE as an example of the truths in the chapter. However, if most of your group reads the chapter at home, you may want to just review it briefly and spend most of the class time reading the Scriptures and discussing the questions in the SCRIPTURE section.

The use of the DISCUSSION QUESTIONS will depend on your group and your time. If the group enjoys this type of discussion but your time is limited, you might select just one of the questions to use. Not all the questions deal with spiritual matters, but the sharing of memories and ideas will help the women learn to know and appreciate one another and will prepare the way for sharing on a deeper level.

As the leader you should call attention to the AREAS OF CONSIDERATION FOR PERSONAL CHANGE at the end of each chapter, but these are rather personal and not intended for group discussion.

Before each session, you will want to spend time in prayer for yourself. Pray especially about applying to your own life the truths you will be teaching. Also pray for each member of your group by name, mentioning personal needs of which you are aware.

As you learn situations and interests of the members in your group, you will be able to meet their particular needs. You should also encourage them to learn of each other's needs so that they can support one another in prayer and in other ways.

A goal of all teaching, especially Bible teaching, is to bring about Christlike change in the lives of those being taught. The greatest motivation for change is the love of Christ, and for a teacher to be an effective agent of positive change she must be a living demonstration of Christ's love to those she teaches.

This leader's guide includes:

1. The author's aim for each lesson. Keep this aim in mind as you prepare. If a slightly different emphasis will better meet the needs of your group, write out your own goal for teaching that chapter.
2. Suggested answers to the questions in the Bible study section. The leader should carefully work through the Scriptures and questions before each session.
3. Suggested answers to the questions in the Bible study section. The leader should carefully work through the Scriptures and questions before each session.

Since you do your preparation at home, it should not be necessary to carry this Leader's Guide to the meeting. Each member should have a Bible and a copy of the study book.

## Lesson 1

# *SEASONS OF CHANGE*

### **LESSON AIM:**

1. To show that change is a natural part of everyone's life.
2. To encourage trust in God in all the changes of life.

### **PREPARATION:**

1. Pray for yourself and for each member of the group.
2. Read the chapter to be studied, underlining and making notes on points you want to emphasize. Note any questions that come to your mind.
3. Read the Scripture passages in AN ILLUSTRATION FROM SCRIPTURE and answer the questions.
4. Go over the DISCUSSION QUESTIONS with your group in mind. Write out other questions you want to use for discussion.
5. Commit the entire meeting to the Lord for His blessing.

### **AN ILLUSTRATION FROM SCRIPTURE:**

A main emphasis in this section should be upon belief and obedience of God's Word. Like Sarah we sometimes know exactly what changes God would make in our lives; but we refuse to believe that He can or will do it, or that He can or will enable us to do it.

#### *Genesis 18:9-15*

1. Yes, Sarah knew God's will because He had revealed it to her. But she looked at her circumstances — her age and physical condition, as well as Abraham's.
2. She thought that it was impossible for God's Word to be true.
3. The question regarding a woman's emotions does not have only one right answer, of course. It is designed to help the women empathize with Sarah's situation.

#### *Genesis 21:1-7*

1. Sarah obviously believed God's Word at this point since it had proven true. Indeed, she had lived for nine months with the fulfillment of that promise growing in her womb.
2. Her laughter had changed from skepticism to great joy.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. Be prepared to mention one or two natural changes you have noticed, such as the weather changing from rain to sunshine on Monday (BE SPECIFIC) or one of the children in the church who is obviously growing bigger. Then encourage others to share their observations of

natural change.

2. Several days before the meeting, you might ask one of the older ladies in the group to come prepared to share some of the major changes that have occurred during her lifetime.
3. There are so many things in Scripture that show God's Sovereignty over change. Encourage the group to think of some, such as: God's control over Joseph's positions in Egypt, or Christ's coming to earth to provide a way of redemption that we might be changed.

**AREAS OF CONSIDERATION:**

This section is for individual use. The leader should call attention to it and encourage the women to deal with these things in their personal lives.

## Lesson 2

# *NECESSITY OF CHANGE*

### **LESSON AIM:**

1. To show that change is necessary to life.
2. To encourage each class member to desire and work for positive change.

### **PREPARATION:**

1. Pray for yourself and for each member of the group.
2. Read the chapter to be studied, underlining and making notes on points you want to emphasize. Note any questions that come to your mind.
3. Read the Scripture passages in AN ILLUSTRATION FROM SCRIPTURE and answer the questions.
4. Go over the DISCUSSION QUESTIONS with your group in mind. Write out other questions you want to use for discussion.
5. Commit the entire meeting to the Lord for His blessing.

### **AN ILLUSTRATION FROM SCRIPTURE:**

#### *Exodus 16:2-8*

1. The Israelites blamed Moses for their problems.
2. They were longing for the luxuries or good food of Egypt.
3. Their murmuring was really against God.

#### *Numbers 20:2-5, 13*

1. The people resented having to endure hardship. At this point they were thirsty.
2. Again, they wanted the special foods and spices of Egypt. They wanted something different from what God had provided.
3. They blamed Moses and Aaron.
4. Verse 13 makes it clear that their rebellion was really against the Lord.

#### *Numbers 21:4-9*

1. They spoke openly against God.
2. God punished them by allowing them to be bitten by poisonous snakes which He sent among them.
3. To be healed the people had to believe God's Word and act upon it by looking at the brazen

serpent.

*1 Corinthians 10:9-13*

1. We might learn from their example.
2. Their experience should teach us to believe God and obey His Word.
3. God promises that He will always enable us to overcome temptation as we trust in Him. Point out that the "way out " does not always mean escape from the trying situation. Sometimes it means being strengthened to endure the trial. Compare different translations of the Bible on this verse.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. A change of weather might be an example here, or sleeping in a strange bed. Allow the women to share their own answers to this.
2. This is rather personal, but perhaps someone in the group will have an experience they want to share. Don't press for an answer.
3. Several correct responses might be given here: death, boredom, stagnation, ignorance, etc.

## Lesson 3

# ***RESPONSE TO CHANGE***

### **LESSON AIM:**

1. To help class members evaluate the way they respond to change.
2. To teach practical ways of developing greater flexibility.

### **PREPARATION:**

1. Pray for yourself and for each member of the group.
2. Read the chapter to be studied, underlining and making notes on points you want to emphasize. Note any questions that come to your mind.
3. Read the Scripture passages in AN ILLUSTRATION FROM SCRIPTURE and answer the questions.
4. Go over the DISCUSSION QUESTIONS with your group in mind. Write out other questions you want to use for discussion.
5. Commit the entire meeting to the Lord for His blessing.

### **AN ILLUSTRATION FROM SCRIPTURE:**

#### *Galatians 1:6-9*

1. Paul was shocked that the Galatians could be so easily led astray. They were not openly denying Christ, but simply adding other requirements as necessary for salvation.
2. Paul was very outspoken about "any other gospel" because he knew that any teaching of salvation apart from faith alone in Christ alone leads only to destruction.

#### *Romans 12:10-20*

1. Paul made it clear that believers should be loving, sensitive and considerate toward one another. He teaches that we should go just as far as possible to get along with each other.
2. He gives specific commands to show brotherly love, to honor one another, to share with those in need, to live in harmony, to do everything possible to live at peace. We are not to stand on our rights, but to yield wherever possible without dishonoring Christ.

#### *1 Corinthians 5:1-5, 11*

1. Paul told the Corinthians to separate themselves from men who said they were Christians but led immoral lives. He even said such men should be put out of the church and thus handed over to Satan.
2. Paul accused the Corinthians of spiritual pride when they should have been grieving over sin in the church.

3. Paul said that the desired end of such action was the salvation of the man's soul. The goal of all church discipline is that the person, being separated from the fellowship of believers, might realize his danger and repent. For the church to ignore such sin among its members as Paul described in these verses would be for the church to condone and seem to approve of such actions and thereby to give the person a false sense of spiritual security.

*1 Corinthians 9:19-22*

1. Paul said he would do anything, change in any way to be like others.
2. Paul's willingness to adapt to others grew out of his great desire to see them saved.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. Some changes in our society to which the Bible speaks:

Use of drugs — 1 Corinthians 6:19-20;

Homosexuality — Romans 1:26-27;

Abortion — Genesis 1:27, Psalm 139:13-16.

The group might add to this list.

- 2 & 3. Encourage discussion on these and listen closely for clues concerning individual needs in your group.

## Lesson 4

# *TRAUMA OF CHANGE*

### **LESSON AIM:**

1. To help class members recognize the will of God in traumatic changes.
2. To encourage them to trust and praise God in all the circumstances of life.

### **PREPARATION:**

1. Pray for yourself and for each member of the group.
2. Read the chapter to be studied, underlining and making notes on points you want to emphasize. Note any questions that come to your mind.
3. Read the Scripture passages in AN ILLUSTRATION FROM SCRIPTURE and answer the questions.
4. Go over the DISCUSSION QUESTIONS with your group in mind. Write out other questions you want to use for discussion.
5. Commit the entire meeting to the Lord for His blessing.

### **AN ILLUSTRATION FROM SCRIPTURE:**

Divide into two groups. Assign each group one of the Bible references and give them a few minutes to work together on the questions. Then bring the whole group together to share their answers.

*Psalms 69:1-3, 13-18, 29-30*

1. David expressed a feeling of sinking in deep waters.
2. This seemed to convey a sense of desperation, fear and loneliness.
3. He prayed that the Lord would hold him up and not allow him to sink.
4. He trusted in the Lord's goodness, mercy and love.
5. It is possible to praise God even in pain. History is full of stories of those who have praised God in the midst of suffering and death; for example, the martyr Stephen.

*Psalms 102:1-11, 24-28*

1. Word pictures in verses 1-11: Burning bones, a heart like withered grass, skin and bones, a lonely bird, food that tastes like ashes, days that are like evening shadows.
2. Ask them to put in their own words how they think the Psalmist must have been feeling.
3. The writer found hope in God's unchangeableness.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- 1 & 2. Ask for the sharing of personal experiences to encourage one another. Be prepared, or ask a member to come prepared, to share an answer to get things started.
3. It is during times of change that our trust in God is tested and proven to be genuine or false.

## Lesson 5

# *STABILITY IN CHANGE*

### **LESSON AIM:**

1. To examine things that contribute to a sense of stability.
2. To present Christ as the only source of unshakeable strength.

### **PREPARATION:**

1. Pray for yourself and for each member of the group.
2. Read the chapter to be studied, underlining and making notes on points you want to emphasize. Note any questions that come to your mind.
3. Read the Scripture passages in AN ILLUSTRATION FROM SCRIPTURE and answer the questions.
4. Go over the DISCUSSION QUESTIONS with your group in mind. Write out other questions you want to use for discussion.
5. Commit the entire meeting to the Lord for His blessing.

### **AN ILLUSTRATION FROM SCRIPTURE:**

(For variety in the group/ you might assign a member to come prepared to summarize the events of Joseph's life with emphasis on the things covered in these questions. This would be especially good if the group has not been enjoying the question and answer section of the lesson.)

#### *Genesis 39:1-20*

1. The trust his master placed in him, the seriousness with which he regarded that trust, and his resistance to temptation all demonstrate the strength of Joseph's life.
2. His strength was found in God's presence and blessing.
3. He refused to sin even though it meant being thrown in prison.

#### *Genesis 39:21-23*

1. If Joseph had been bitter or angry about his misfortune, he would never have gained the trust of the jailer.
2. His strength was in the Lord.

#### *Genesis 41:9-16, 37-40*

1. Joseph's humility and trust expressed in verse 16 show that he had not changed.
2. He went from prison to the palace overnight, from poverty to power and prosperity.

*Genesis 45:4-8*

1. Joseph's faith was no more shaken by power than by prison.
2. He attributed all the changes of his life to the will of God.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. & 2. These questions call for personal sharing. It is important that the members love and trust each other enough to be open.
3. The church should encourage family devotions and regular church attendance, as well as providing a loving atmosphere in the church family.

## Lesson 6

# *TIME IN CHANGE*

### **LESSON AIM:**

1. To help members to recognize God's providence in past events of their lives.
2. To encourage them to look at the present and future with hope and trust in God.

### **PREPARATION:**

1. Pray for yourself and for each member of the group.
2. Read the chapter to be studied, underlining and making notes on points you want to emphasize. Note any questions that come to your mind.
3. Read the Scripture passages in AN ILLUSTRATION FROM SCRIPTURE and answer the questions.
4. Go over the DISCUSSION QUESTIONS with your group in mind. Write out other questions you want to use for discussion.
5. Commit the entire meeting to the Lord for His blessing.

An alternative method of teaching might be to divide into three groups. Ask one group to discuss and write out a description of what a Christian's attitude should be toward the past. Ask group two to do the same thing regarding the present, and group three, regarding the future. They should use the Bible and material in this chapter for reference.

### **AN ILLUSTRATION FROM SCRIPTURE:**

#### *Psalm 78:1-8*

1 & 2. These questions should be easily answered from the verses. 3. What we teach children in the present affects the future of our church and of our land.

#### *Psalm 116*

1. The Psalmist remembered a time when he was in desperate trouble; the Lord had delivered him and set him free.
2. Verses 5-6: He had learned that the Lord is gracious and righteous and full of compassion, that He hears and answers prayer and that He is able to save.
3. Because of his experience of God's goodness in the past, he is grateful and determined to bear witness to others of God's goodness.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. Calls for personal sharing. You might ask specifically about memories of Sunday School and church.

2. By teaching, by testimony (sharing personal experiences of God's grace) and by an example of trust in God, we affect the lives of the next generation.
3. You might share a verse to begin and encourage others to do so also.

## Lesson 7

# ***STANDING FIRM IN CHANGE***

### **LESSON AIM:**

1. To encourage members of the group to know what they believe.
2. To set forth God's Word as the only unshakeable foundation for life.

### **PREPARATION:**

1. Pray for yourself and for each member of the group.
2. Read the chapter to be studied, underlining and making notes on points you want to emphasize. Note any questions that come to your mind.
3. Read the Scripture passages in AN ILLUSTRATION FROM SCRIPTURE and answer the questions.
4. Go over the DISCUSSION QUESTIONS with your group in mind. Write out other questions you want to use for discussion.
5. Commit the entire meeting to the Lord for His blessing.

### **AN ILLUSTRATION FROM SCRIPTURE:**

*Acts 6:5, 8-15*

1. People who knew Stephen recognized that he was filled with the Holy Spirit.
2. His enemies falsely accused him of blasphemy.
3. They could bring no honest accusation against him, so they resorted to lies. They were determined to be rid of him.

*Acts 7:51-60*

(If you have time, you might want to select a few verses from Acts 7:1-50 to illustrate Stephen's preaching from the Old Testament.)

1. Stephen accused the Jews of resisting the Holy Spirit, of murdering Jesus Christ, and of disobeying the law.
2. The crowd became very angry at Stephen's words.
3. When Stephen said he saw Christ (the Son of Man) at God's right hand, the people stoned him.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. To "build your life upon something" means you consider that the most important thing in your life, it affects everything you do.

2. We cannot build our life upon something we do not know.

3. Those in your group may know many such stories. Allow as much time as possible for sharing.

## Lesson 8

# *MIRROR OF CHANGE*

### **LESSON AIM:**

1. To teach the necessity for everyone to be made new in Christ.
2. To give hope for and show the way to continuing renewal in Christ.

### **PREPARATION:**

1. Pray for yourself and for each member of the group.
2. Read the chapter to be studied, underlining and making notes on points you want to emphasize. Note any questions that come to your mind.
3. Read the Scripture passages in AN ILLUSTRATION FROM SCRIPTURE and answer the questions.
4. Go over the DISCUSSION QUESTIONS with your group in mind. Write out other questions you want to use for discussion.
5. Commit the entire meeting to the Lord for His blessing.

### **AN ILLUSTRATION FROM SCRIPTURE:**

*Mark 3:17 and 10:35-41*

1. This calls for speculation, but it might have been because they were loud or quick of temper.
2. James<sup>7</sup> and John's request seemed to imply that they considered themselves better or more able to lead than the other disciples.

*Luke 9:49, 51-56*

1. John seemed to care little about the people who were not in his own group. He would have destroyed those who rejected Christ, and seemed to assume that he had the power to do so.
2. Christ did not approve of his attitude.

*1 John 3:14-18*

1. John had learned the necessity and power of love. One senses a greatness in the way he wrote.
2. He taught that we must show our love for God by acting in a loving way toward others.

*1 John 4:7-12*

1. Our love for others is evidence of a knowledge of God.
2. Christ's love for us is our incentive for loving others.
3. This calls for personal opinion. The discussion should include the thought of John's living for

Christ as the main cause of the change in his character.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. Many people know nothing of God except what they see in the lives of His children.

2 & 3. These questions call for personal sharing.

## Lesson 9

# *AGENTS OF CHANGE*

### **LESSON AIM:**

1. To show that we are all agents of change.
2. To encourage each one to examine the effect their life has upon others.

### **PREPARATION:**

1. Pray for yourself and for each member of the group.
2. Read the chapter to be studied, underlining and making notes on points you want to emphasize. Note any questions that come to your mind.
3. Read the Scripture passages in AN ILLUSTRATION FROM SCRIPTURE and answer the questions.
4. Go over the DISCUSSION QUESTIONS with your group in mind. Write out other questions you want to use for discussion.
5. Commit the entire meeting to the Lord for His blessing.

### **AN ILLUSTRATION FROM SCRIPTURE:**

Divide into two groups. Assign group one the Scriptures concerning Eve. Assign group two the passage in Luke. Ask each group to answer the questions and discuss the effect these women had upon history. Have the two groups report and compare their conclusions.

#### *Genesis 3:1-8*

1. God had stated His will clearly.
2. Eve did not trust God to do what was best for her.
3. She did not believe His Word or she would have obeyed it.
4. Her situation was completely changed from peace and beauty to sorrow, pain, and broken fellowship with God.
5. All the human race was affected by Eve's sin. It was the beginning of the power of evil in the world and in the lives of men.

#### *Luke 1:26-38*

1. Mary knew God's will because it was revealed to her.
2. Her attitude was one of submission and obedience.
3. She believed it and obeyed it.

4. Her own situation was changed forever. In the eyes of the people she lost reputation; many would never believe her innocent. She would have to endure aspersions and insults. Her condition brought shame on Joseph's name in the eyes of some people. Later, she would experience great pain and suffering because of her Son. But in every generation since many people have called her blessed.
5. Because of Mary's obedience, we can know forgiveness of sin and fellowship with God through her Son, Jesus Christ.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. This question calls for personal speculation. Perhaps someone in your group has experienced drastic change and will be willing to share what it meant to her.
2. There are many answers to this. Perhaps the most obvious are housekeeping and child-rearing. Mention might also be made of office work, nursing, teaching, gardening, community projects, work in pro-life groups, sewing, cooking, etc.
3. God's Word teaches us how to treat other people and as we are faithful in reading and obeying it, the Holy Spirit enables us to live a life that reflects the nature of Christ.

## Lesson 10

# ***RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHANGE***

### **LESSON AIM:**

1. To set forth the Christian's responsibility in the world.
2. To encourage each one to be concerned and informed about the world and to become involved, for Christ's sake.

### **PREPARATION:**

1. Pray for yourself and for each member of the group.
2. Read the chapter to be studied, underlining and making notes on points you want to emphasize. Note any questions that come to your mind.
3. Read the Scripture passages in AN ILLUSTRATION FROM SCRIPTURE and answer the questions.
4. Go over the DISCUSSION QUESTIONS with your group in mind. Write out other questions you want to use for discussion.
5. Commit the entire meeting to the Lord for His blessing.

### **AN ILLUSTRATION FROM SCRIPTURE:**

#### *Ezekiel 9:1-6*

1. Verse 4. The angel was instructed to mark those who grieved over the sin in Jerusalem. The NIV is very clear at this point.
2. Those who were unconcerned about the sin of their world were destroyed by God.

Ezekiel's vision shows that God wants us to be concerned and to grieve over those things that cause Him pain. We cannot take sin lightly. How can any Christian rest until the terrible plague of abortions is lifted from our land?

#### *Nehemiah 1:1-11*

1. Nehemiah was a trusted servant of the King of Persia. He was the King's cupbearer.
2. Nehemiah asked for news of God's people and God's city.
3. When Nehemiah heard the sad news, he wept and fasted and prayed.
4. He asked God to hear his prayer — verse 6.

He confessed His sin and the sin of Israel — verse 7.

He reminded God of His promises — verses 8-10.

He asked God to grant him favor with the King — verse 11.

5. We must see the world as God sees it and weep and pray over sin.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. Many answers to this are possible, for example: personal evangelism and witnessing, pro-life groups, political involvement, teaching adults to read, Bethany Christian Services, etc.
2. Ask your pastor to recommend reading materials.
3. If you do not know this, seek to find out before the meeting. You might get materials from these groups to share.
4. Seriously pray about this and ask the group to pray. You might take a plan of action to the meeting with you.

## Lesson 11

# *IMPOSSIBILITIES OF CHANGE*

### **LESSON AIM:**

1. To teach the eternal unchangeableness of God.
2. To promote trust in God and in His Word.

### **PREPARATION:**

1. Pray for yourself and for each member of the group.
2. Read the chapter to be studied, underlining and making notes on points you want to emphasize. Note any questions that come to your mind.
3. Read the Scripture passages in AN ILLUSTRATION FROM SCRIPTURE and answer the questions.
4. Go over the DISCUSSION QUESTIONS with your group in mind. Write out other questions you want to use for discussion.
5. Commit the entire meeting to the Lord for His blessing.

### **AN ILLUSTRATION FROM SCRIPTURE:**

This lesson is treated differently because of the amount of Scriptural material involved. You might want to divide into four small groups to consider the four parts of this study.

An unchangeable God:

1. Malachi 3:6 — God said He never changes.
2. Hebrews 13:8 — Jesus Christ never changes.
3. James 1:17—There is no shadow of turning or change with God.

His unchangeable purpose:

1. Isaiah 14:24, 27 — Nothing can change God's purpose.
2. Romans 8:28-29 — God's purpose is to call a people to Himself and to conform them to the image of Christ.
3. Ephesians 1:11 — God works out everything in the world according to His plan.

His unchangeable Word:

1. Joshua 23:14 — God's Word never fails but He does everything He promises.
2. Isaiah 55:8-11 — His Word will accomplish His purpose.
3. Hebrews 4:12 — God's Word is living and powerful and has great effect on people's lives.

The believer's unchangeable position:

1. John 10:27-29 — The believer in Christ will never perish. Nothing can separate the believer from God.
2. Romans 8:37-39 — Nothing can separate the believer from the love of God.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

All three questions call for personal sharing by the group.

## Lesson 12

# ***GRACE FOR SEASONS OF CHANGE***

### **LESSON AIM:**

1. To set forth God's grace as our source of help and strength for coping with change.
2. To teach practical steps in learning to control our reactions to change.

### **PREPARATION:**

1. Pray for yourself and for each member of the group.
2. Read the chapter to be studied, underlining and making notes on points you want to emphasize. Note any questions that come to your mind.
3. Read the Scripture passages in AN ILLUSTRATION FROM SCRIPTURE and answer the questions.
4. Go over the DISCUSSION QUESTIONS with your group in mind. Write out other questions you want to use for discussion.
5. Commit the entire meeting to the Lord for His blessing.

### **AN ILLUSTRATION FROM SCRIPTURE:**

#### *1 Corinthians 15:9-10*

1. Paul saw himself as personally unworthy and unable to be an apostle.
2. He was made strong and able by God's grace.

#### *2 Corinthians 12:7-10*

1. Paul was given a "thorn in the flesh," he called it a "messenger of Satan/" to torment him.
2. He cried out to God in prayer.
3. God said His grace was sufficient to enable Paul to bear the thorn. He would give him strength.
4. Paul accepted the weakness gladly that he might experience God's grace and strength.

#### *2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18*

1. Paul looked forward to a crown of victory.
2. God gave him strength to keep going.
3. God stood by him in his trial.
4. He believed God would give him the victory and keep him safe until he reached Heaven.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. God's grace is available to all who trust in Christ for salvation.
2. This calls for personal sharing.
3. Worry is evidence of a failure to trust God.