

Secrets to Home Bible Study

*An Online Bible Study Series by
Polished Cornerstones Ministry*

with Elizabeth Church and Faith Walker

Table of Contents:

Letter from Elizabeth and Faith-

Part 1- The Purpose

Part 2- The Person to Lead &
The Prayer Foundation

Part 3- The People, The Place, & The Plan

Part 4- Prepare for God to Work

Conclusion

Top Suggested Bible Studies

Random suggestions for Home Groups

Info on Polished Cornerstones Ministry

Hello friend!

We are so blessed that you are diving into this study and desiring to open the Word of God with us. We have prayed that God will speak to your heart about what He would have you do with the truth in these pages. We just want to share our hearts with you.

This journey has been full of surprises for both of us. Leading home Bible studies is enjoyable, but it's not without challenges. It is made up of excitement and rough spots, joy and heartache, challenges and victories. It is worth it. We are so grateful for the Godly men and women who have stood behind us, pushed us to step out in faith and repeatedly called us to greatness. We are indebted to our parents and mentors as they encouraged us to ACT on the Word and not sit still in the hearing section. That's what this series is all about...DOING what Jesus calls us to do. Acting on the truths we find in Scripture.

We hope you will take these next few weeks to get before the Lord and allow Him to breathe courage and strength into your heart as you set your feet to do what He asks of you. We are praying that today is the beginning of a new you...the one that says YES to Jesus, even when you may feel a little bit nervous. He is worth fighting and giving your life for.

"Haven't I commanded you: be strong and courageous? Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9 (HCSB)

We are thrilled you have chosen to jump into this series on Home Bible Study. We are praying that God will raise up a generation of young women who will take the Bible and minister to those around them. We are cheering you on and praying that these next few pages will help you launch into one of the greatest adventures of your life.

Elizabeth & Faith

Part 1- The Purpose

Watch Video on YouTube: Part 1- Secrets to Home Bible Study.

Use the space below to jot down notes as you watch.

The foundation of this whole series is built on the fact that the Word of God is _____. It is for us and for today.

What are some of the differences you see between Home Bible studies and other forms of gathering around the Word (church, listening to podcasts, Sunday School, etc.)?

There are a few purposes Faith and Elizabeth mentioned Home Bible study gives us...

1. The Bible is the Inspired Word of God and the Best Book we could ever spend our lives studying.
2. It provides an opportunity for Discipleship.

3. It passes on the baton of faith to the next generation.
4. It gives a chance for people to ask questions.
5. Meeting in homes is a more comfortable way of gathering around the Word.
6. It strengthens the local church.
7. It promotes accountability.

The Great Commission spells out what we are to do as followers of Christ. What are you doing right now to fulfill the Great Commission as a woman or young lady?

How do you see that Home Bible study could help you fulfill that role?

It's not enough to just STUDY the Word of God. We want to be a _____ of the Word and not just HEARERS only. Action is the key. We don't want to be **Jesus-stalkers** (knowing a lot about Him), we want to be **Jesus-followers** (following and doing what He says).

Bible studies in your home are beautiful, tangible ways to live life with other believers. Doing life together. Making disciples who then go out and make disciples...passing on the baton of faith to the next generation! It helps you be real and transparent in your own environment. It builds solid relationships.

Faith and Elizabeth talked about Home Bible studies not being a replacement for church, but an _____ of church.

What do you think the Purpose of Home Bible study is through Scripture and personal experience?

We all need Jesus. Home Bible study reminds us of that simple fact as we gather around the Word and are vulnerable with one-another about life. We see His redemption beautifully!

Look up the following Scriptures and record your thoughts for each passage.

Matthew 28:18-20

Acts 2:42-47

Matthew 7:24-25

Colossians 1:28-29 (theme verse) Look at the first phrase....How can you PROCLAIM Jesus?

Homework for the week:

Pray through what God may be leading you to DO. Be open to His will for you. Purpose to ACT on what He tells you.

Write out a prayer below and share with Jesus what's on your heart.

Books for deeper study:

- The Gentle Art of Women Discipling Women, by Dana Yeakley
- Missional Motherhood, by Gloria Furman
- One: Impossible Starts Here, by Suzanne Mayernick & Gwen Oatsvall
- Adorned, by Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth

Feel free to contact us with specific prayer requests or questions you have along the way. We'd love to hear from you!

Part 2- The Person to Lead & The Prayer Foundation

Watch Video on YouTube: Part 2- Secrets to Home Bible Study.

Use the space below to record your thoughts as you watch.

Person to Lead...

We believe you have been chosen for such a time as this (Esther 4:14). God has placed you ON PURPOSE in your family, your community, your church, your nation and your time in history. Don't take this lightly. How can you live out the Great Commission and have an eternal perspective in your spheres of influence?

What are some fears or challenges you have about being a Bible study leader?

The Secret to Overcoming Fear and Insecurities as a Leader?

Remember that _____ is
_____ to your
_____.

That's right! Your shortcomings and challenges don't disqualify you...they actually make you more useable for Jesus. Weakness propels us to run towards Jesus. Our need for Him helps Him show up in beautiful, unthinkable ways! He just wants a willing heart and someone wanting to be His hands and feet to the girls/women in front of you.

Points of good leadership:

1. Relationship with Jesus. Do you love Jesus? Do you model that He is real to you in your everyday life?

2. Student of the Word. Do you spend time in the Word for yourself? On average, how much are you in the Word on a weekly basis?

3. Love for People. Do you love people? Do you really care for girls/women and desire to minister to their hearts?

4. Humble Servant. Are you humble before the Lord about this opportunity? Are you willing to learn and be broken before the girls in your study? Do you have a teachable spirit?

Which of these is your hardest point right now?

“God doesn’t call the equipped, He equips the called.”

“Jesus loves it when we lean on Him. Your weaknesses are not handicaps, they are actually what makes you eligible for greatness.”

“It’s not about being perfect. It’s about saying YES to Jesus.”

Prayer Foundation...

Prayer is vital to the health of you and your group. So start now! Think about a potential prayer team for your Home Bible Study group.

Who comes to mind that could pray for you as you start on this new journey? Who would be willing to pray for your girls by name?

Pray for your girls often and by name. Pray specifically for their needs. On the days you lead a study, be careful to strap on your armor and pray through the day! The enemy is against you.

We always open and close our group studies with prayer. As we open we are inviting Him to come and be with us and speak to us. At the end, we take prayer requests and pray through them. We've seen some amazing answers to those prayers!

“Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?”

—Corrie ten Boom

Look up these references and write down things that come to your mind about them.

2 Corinthians 12:9

Isaiah 40:28-31

Colossians 1:28-29 (theme verse) Look at the second phrase.
What do you think it means to “teach everyone with all wisdom”?

Homework for the week:

Pray through the four leadership points and ask God to put His finger on the areas you need to move closer to Him. Pray that God will keep you usable for His glory.

Write out a prayer for today on leadership.

Books for deeper study:

- Let’s All be Brave, by Annie F. Downs
- Brave Enough, by Nicole Unice
- Love Does, by Bob Goff
- Fervant, by Pricilla Shirer

Feel free to contact us with specific prayer requests or questions you have along the way. We’d love to hear from you!

Part 3- The People, The Place, & The Plan

Watch Video on YouTube: Part 3- Secrets to Home Bible Study.

Use the space provided to record any extra thoughts.

In the funny skit at the beginning, what were things that you could identify with inwardly, feeling you needed or that you didn't measure up?

We wanted to use this skit to illustrate how Home Bible study sometimes makes us feel inadequate or overwhelmed because we feel like we need a perfect environment. The reality is...every home Bible study will look different. The main thing is to lean on the Lord as you make each decision regarding the planning of your study group.

1. The People.

The people you invite will create the flavor of your group. They will determine the study you need to jump into based on the ages, stages and needs of the women/girls you invite. So who has God called you to minister to in this season?

What do you think would be the benefits of having different ages and stages in the same study group?

Who does God bring to your mind as you think about home Bible study? Who would you consider inviting? (Don't be bashful. Write down EVERYONE that God brings to your mind).

2. The Place.

Where you host this Bible study is so important. The hostess and home will set the tone for your group. The place you meet needs to be a space that is hospitable and warm. This will help the women and girls you invite feel free to open up.

Home is a place we gravitate to being comfortable and ourselves. The place you host doesn't have to be YOUR home. If your space isn't conducive for a group study, consider asking another Christian sister to open her home and host your study. But remember that this isn't about perfect surroundings...it's about your heart and opening your home and heart to those who want to study the Word of God together.

List a few places that you could consider as options for hosting.

What are some ways you could make your space more welcoming in the times you have study group? (Example: candles, coffee, etc.)

What is the difference between hospitable & warm and spacious & well-decorated?

3. **The Plan.**

-How often do you plan on meeting to study together?

-Timing and day of week. What times would work best for the girls/women who you are planning on inviting?

-Study you will use. (there is a list of our top favorites in back of this guide!) When you watched Part 3, what studies mentioned stuck out to you or interested you?

-It's important you think about what kind of a study your group will need. What ages and stages are you needing to target with the group you plan on inviting?

-When you DECIDE the study: How much time will you need for videos and discussion time?

Look up Colossians 1:28-29 (theme verse) Check out the third part, the last half of verse 28. The word “perfect” translates to our word “mature”. The goal is bringing people to maturity in Christ. What do you think a mature believer looks like?

Write out a prayer for the people you will be inviting. Ask God to prepare their hearts for the truth of God’s Word.

Homework for the week:

Pray through the three points of who to invite, where to host this, what timing, and what to study. Write down what God speaks to you. Start praying for God to go before you and soften hearts.

Books for deeper study:

- The Power of Hospitality, by Chuck and Kathie Crismier
- Kisses from Katie, by Katie Davis Majors
- Radical, by David Platt
- The Life Giving Home, by Sally and Sarah Clarkson

Feel free to contact us with specific prayer requests or questions you have along the way. We’d love to hear from you!

Part 4- Prepare for God to Work

Watch Video on YouTube: Part 4- Secrets to Home Bible Study.

Take the space provided to jot down thoughts as you go along.

After three weeks of study, what are the emotions and feelings you have about the task of starting a home Bible study?

Read Judges 6-7. Record your thoughts or anything that sticks out to you.

In what ways can you identify with Gideon?

Read the first part of Judges 6:34. What changed for Gideon in that moment?

How do you see that the Holy Spirit changes YOU when you submit to His leadership?

What has God called you to? Be specific.

How can you submit to Him and say YES, in spite of your fears?

Colossians 1:28-29 (theme verse) Look at verse 29. Paul says he LABORS for this. What is the “this” he’s talking about (check out verse 28 again)?

We strive and labor to present our “disciples” mature in Christ...but what is the powerful key element in our success?

Go back through the last few weeks of studying Colossians 1:28-29. Knowing what you do now from study, write a paraphrase of the verses here:

What will you do with Luke 10:37? Be practical.

Read Ezra 10:4. What is it saying to you?

Write out a prayer of surrender to God's plan for your next step.

Homework for week: Start NOW. Don't wait. Make the first phone call to someone who might be interested in joining you for Bible study. Send an email. Start researching the study you'd like to use. Begin today. This could be the beginning to one of the most beautiful and rewarding chapters of your life.

Books for deeper Study:

- Wherever the River Runs, by Kelly Minter
- Restless, by Jennie Allen
- Crazy Love, by Francis Chan
- AHA, by Kyle Idleman

Feel free to contact us with specific prayer requests or questions you have along the way. We'd love to hear from you!

And if you start a study...we want to be on your prayer team! So keep us posted.

Conclusion-

It's time, friend. It's time to be a DOER. Put your faith in action! We are jumping up and down in your fan section...knowing full-well that this will be the most amazing, wonderful, rewarding thing ever! Step out in faith, knowing that "what God orders, He pays for". Every. Single. Time. Stake your life on it! Go and make disciples. And keep us posted with updates and pictures! 😊

If you'd like to tag us on Instagram or use our hashtags on social media, we'd love to see what you're up to with your Bible study groups! Use our hashtags: #secretstohomebiblestudy or #pcmbiblestudy and we will be thrilled to see what's going on in your area as you gather around the Word together.

We've designed this series to be FREE and easy to pass on...so please tell your friends about it and spread the word about sharing The Word! We are praying that this will begin a chain-reaction that will spill over from city to city, state to state, and nation to nation. The Word of God is for every person on the planet!

Feel free to email us, write us or check us out on the web! We love getting mail and we'd be thrilled to pray for you and your Bible study group.

So get to it, friend! Start with one. Disciple the one God has put in front of you. Step out in faith. Be a Doer of the Word. We can't wait to see what God will do because of your brave obedience.

Our Top 13 Suggested Bible Studies:

1. Seamless, by Angie Smith
2. Open Your Bible, by Raechel Myers and Amanda Bible Williams
3. True Woman 101-Divine Design, by Nancy DeMoss Wolgamuth and Mary Kassian
4. Armor of God, by Pricilla Shirer
5. Ruth, by Kelly Minter
6. Faithful One, by Amy Jo Girardiar
7. All Things New, by Kelly Minter
8. Uninvited, by Lysa Tyrkhyrst
9. Lies Young Women Believe, by Nancy DeMoss Wolgamuth and Dannah Gresh
10. What Love is, by Kelly Minter
11. Nehemiah, by Kelly Minter
12. Adorned, by Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth
13. The 16-Day Challenge, by Polished Cornerstones Ministry. This video series is available for FREE on our website and YouTube channel. (We are currently working on a downloadable study guide for this too!)

Feel free to contact us if you have questions about Bible studies. We have researched many studies and have lots of awesome things to recommend if you need help.

Random Suggestions for Home Groups:

These are just some side-notes we'd like to add from our experiences in leading Home Bible Studies.

- Remind your girls/ladies the day before or the day of your study through social media or text. This helps everyone get there...especially for the first few weeks!
- Try hosting a meal once in a while for your group. We do this sometimes to promote fellowship and help everyone get to know each other. Make a menu plan and have everyone bring something to contribute.
- Consider planning special events during different times of the year...have a special movie night, go Christmas caroling, volunteer together at a soup kitchen, etc. These “extra” things will promote memories and break down communication barriers.
- It's ok to take breaks and think outside the box...invite special speakers in to teach your group for a week; ...
- Get your pastor and church involved in praying regularly for you as you lead your study. Be accountable to them and give them specific ways (without using the names of your girls!) to pray for you. Remember, your ministry is an extension of the local church!
- Connect with your girls/women in between studies and through the week. This will help them open up and foster relationship...versus a check mark on the religious duty list. You want them to feel comfortable to share with you and be your friend. This is about discipleship and you'll need to carve out time to be there for them. Call or text them. Take them out for coffee. If they're younger...go to their

volleyball games or music recitals. Get into their world. It will earn you a voice when you need it.

- We always start a new study by reminding our groups that there are no dumb questions. We are all learning together. There's no shame in looking at the Table of Contents in your Bible either! We are here to grow and learn...not to act like we know everything and snub our noses at each other!
- Connect with your local church...sometimes churches purchase video curriculums and will allow you to borrow them. Ask questions and get connections with local believers who might be able to loan you videos.
- Lifeway's website provides many good articles and resources for Bible study leaders. They also encourage you to use their graphics (from their Bible studies) to promote your study on social media. Most of their studies also have free, downloadable promotional materials. You can also advertise your Home Bible study on their website for free!
- There are many ways to spread the word about your study group. Some people advertise at their churches or through the Sunday bulletin. You can make up flyers and put them at local businesses or Christian places. Or you can simply invite your friends and let the group grow naturally!
- Consider starting with a family type study if you are needing to gain courage--- have a study with your sisters (or sister-in-laws), daughters, or other family members.

Polished Cornerstones

Ministry

Our Mission is to come along side parents and the Church and equip, prepare, and support Daughters of our Heavenly King. We realize that each young woman has a specific calling on her life, given to her by God, supported by the Word and His Holy Spirit. Through the Word, we endeavor to encourage and equip others to live out their callings and follow the Great Commission in the ways God has ordained for them.

For more info on our events, other online Bible studies, our blog and book reviews, check out our website. You can also follow us on Instagram where we post the happenings of PCM, or subscribe to our YouTube channel! Feel free to email us too.

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“The Bible will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from the Bible.” Dwight L. Moody

“Be Brave. Do not pray for the hard thing to go away but pray for a bravery to come that’s bigger than the hard thing.” Ann Voskamp

“When God wants you to grow, He makes you uncomfortable.” Unknown

“My prayer is that when I die, all of hell rejoices that I am out of the fight.” C. S. Lewis

“You can be comfortable or courageous, but you cannot be both.” Dale Partridge

“Yahweh my Lord is my strength; He makes my feet like those of a deer and enables me to walk on mountain heights!” Habakkuk 3:19 (HCSB)

“Our greatest fear should not be of failure but of succeeding at things in life that don’t really matter.” Dwight L. Moody

