



JESUS TAKE THE WHEEL

7 Keys to a Transformed Life With God

*Excellent Discipleship Tool
For use in Home Groups,
Church Groups,
or Family Devotions*

**A GUIDE FOR
SMALL GROUP
LEADERS**

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A Guide for Small Group Leaders

Jesus Take the Wheel: 7 Keys to a Transformed Life with God provides excellent opportunities for mentoring and accountability, in small group settings. It is a valuable discipleship resource; designed to encourage spiritual growth and offer practical help to those who want to let Jesus have His rightful place “behind the wheel” of their lives.

Each daily lesson consists of:

A short reading from *Jesus Take the Wheel*, which will take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete each day.

A daily action step (GPS), which will provide the reader with practical ways to begin applying the biblical principles and truths they are learning, into their daily lives.

Answering a few questions in the Daily Journal, a companion resource provided to help those in your group reflect upon each day’s lesson. The journal is free and available at www.letjesustakethewheel.com. The questions correspond to the daily reading assignment and action step, and will take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete.

How to Get the Most Out of This Study

The following suggestions will help you and those in your group, get the most out of your personal study time.

- Before you begin, determine to yield your life fully to Jesus. You can ask God to help you yield to Him by simply praying something like this,

*“Dear God, I know I need to let go of my life and give control to You.
Help me to follow Your directions for my life today and to do Your will.”*

- Be prepared to set aside at least thirty minutes to read the daily entry and work through the questions in the journal. Each chapter is divided into seven shorter readings, one for each day of the week. Plan to do one chapter per week.
- Read and apply the daily action step (GPS) at the end of each lesson. One study builds upon the next, so an accumulative effect will be noticed as you commit to this process each day.
- Be sure to come to the group on time and prepared to discuss the previous week’s lessons. Journal your insights and experiences each day so you will be able to share what you learned with those in your group.

The Role of the Facilitator

A facilitator wears many hats. In the dynamic of the small group setting, the facilitator (or leader) is the one who is actually the catalyst, making it possible for the group to be able to meet together and have an orderly discussion. They make things easier by smoothing out the rough areas and keeping the group going forward. As a facilitator your main responsibilities are to:

Guide the discussion. The primary function of the group leader is to make sure that the conversation stays on the topic, and that everyone has an opportunity to share.

Set the tone. At the start of the discussion time, remind the group of any guidelines that have been set, (i.e., only one person should speak at a time, stay focused on topic, keep answers brief, end at a certain time, etc.) These guidelines will vary according to the group, but they are always meant to help the group attain the goal of covering the lesson in the allotted time.

Be prepared. Go through the material during your own personal study time each week, and make note of anything you want to share with your group. Circle any questions you want to review, and highlight any quotes you want to read. Briefly, share your own personal insights and challenges from the week's reading.

Promote accountability. When someone shares a difficulty or struggle they have been going through, or a goal or accomplishment they desire to reach, remember to ask them how they are doing and to pray for them, each week. Follow up between sessions with a phone call or email.

Be an encourager. Spur the group on in their spiritual walks. Help each person grow in excitement for spending time with Jesus. Encourage them to be steadfast in their commitment to their own personal study time. If an individual gets discouraged, begins to lag behind, or leaves the group, reach out to them and help them not to give up.

Lead by example. Examine your own life every day, and make sure that you are living a spirit-led life that is being transformed and directed by God. Make sure Jesus is at the wheel!

Remember, the **goal** of the study is for those in your group to learn how to live a transformed life with God. Your role as the group leader is to facilitate the discussion and help each individual attain that goal. In this capacity, you are acting more as a coach than a teacher. Your job isn't necessarily to instruct, but to reinforce and encourage them in the things that they are learning during their own personal time with Jesus, each day. As they develop and strengthen their daily spiritual disciplines, and are being diligent to yield more of the control of their life to God, they will begin to see the desired transformation, taking place in their lives. As the group leader, it is a privilege to be able to share in that process with them.

Preparing to Lead the Group

Use the following checklist as an aid in helping you to ensure consistency and completeness in carrying out the task of facilitating your small group.

- ❑ Be prayerful. Pray on a daily basis that your leadership will guide the group into truth, and for each person, individually, to be blessed in their study time and faithful in their commitment to the Lord, and to the group.
- ❑ Be prepared. Come to the group with your homework and study complete. Make sure to set aside enough time each day to read the material, look up any related Scriptures, answer the journal questions, and review any personal insights that you want to focus on during the group time.
- ❑ Be prompt. Always begin and end each session on time.
- ❑ Be orderly. Allocate one hour for the discussion time. This should be enough time to review and discuss the previous weeks reading assignment. Allow additional time before and after for fellowship and prayer.
- ❑ Be sensitive. Guide the direction of the discussion, and always keep the conversation on track and appropriate.
- ❑ Be helpful. If a question seems unclear to you or your group, reword it. Feel free to add your own questions in order to bring out the biblical principles and truths being covered more fully.
- ❑ Be responsive. Encourage each member to participate in the discussion. You may have to draw some out and tone others down so that all have an opportunity to share.
- ❑ Be humble. Don't be afraid to admit that you don't have all the answers. When in doubt encourage the group to do a little research, or ask the church leadership for clarification.
- ❑ Be deliberate. Learn to pace the discussion so that you complete the lesson on time.
- ❑ Be patient. Realize that not everyone is at the same place spiritually or socially. Wait for the members to answer, rather than jumping in and answering all the questions yourself.
- ❑ Be joyful. Let the excitement you have about your relationship with Jesus be contagious.

Suggested Outline for the First Meeting

If there are people coming who do not know each other, it may be a good idea to have nametags, and a sign in sheet so you can put together a contact list for the group.

1. Open in prayer.
2. Share briefly about yourself and your hopes for your time together in *Jesus Take the Wheel*.
3. Go around the group and ask each person to introduce himself or herself, and to share briefly (1-2 minutes) why they wanted to be a part of this study, and what they hope to get from it. Hand out a calendar (if you have one) listing meeting dates and lessons.
4. Give a brief overview of *Jesus Take the Wheel*, explaining the general format of the daily studies, GPS, and journal. (See box on page 7.)
5. Discuss the expectations and guidelines of the group discussion time, and the importance of these in being able to cover each week's lesson. Some guidelines may include:
 - The importance of beginning and ending on time.
 - Any expectation you have for the quality of the discussion time:
 - a. Answers should be in line with God's Word.
 - b. All comments would be brief and to the point so everyone can have a chance to share.
 - c. Each person would keep to the topic when sharing.
 - d. All confidences will be kept within the group.
 - e. More than one person would not be speaking at a time.
 - f. Be discreet about what you share; no gossip, rumors, etc.
 - g. Always respond kindly and with respect, even if you disagree with something that was said.
 - Remember to pray for the others in your group during the week.
6. Remind the group which chapter is to be completed for the next session, before closing in prayer.

It is a good idea to allot at least one hour to the group discussion time each week in order to cover the lesson. Additional time both before and after the group can be set aside for fellowship. Encourage each person to come early, or remain afterward to enjoy those personal times of fellowship with one another, so that during the group discussion time they will be focused on the lesson and not fellowship. You may ask people to take turns bringing desserts to share before and after the discussion group.

Jesus Take The Wheel Format of Daily Lessons

Overview

Many know they need change, yet fail simply because they don't know where to start. *Jesus Take the Wheel* is a practical resource that provides just the instruction they need to begin letting Jesus be the One in the driver's seat every day. This book will teach readers to:

- Develop daily habits that will make God more real in their lives.
- Identify godly goals and commit to achieving them.
- Rely on God more and enjoy His rest and comfort.
- Persevere through difficulties and recognize a joyful purpose in all situations.
- Enjoy life more knowing the Driver is in total control of life circumstances.

Study Format

Each chapter is divided into 7 daily lessons consisting of a short reading, which will take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete. Group members are to read one lesson a day, along with the GPS and journal question. This will be discussed at the next group meeting.

Daily Action Step (GPS)

The Daily Action Step (GPS) is at the end of each day's reading. The GPS provides a practical way for the reader to begin applying the biblical principles and truths being taught each week.

Jesus Take the Wheel, Daily Journal

The Daily Journal is a companion resource, which can be downloaded free of charge, at www.letjesustakethewheel.com. The Journal contains a few questions that correspond to each day's lesson and action step. It is a great tool, helping you to keep a record of your reflections throughout the study. It takes approximately 10-15 minutes to complete.

Facilitating the Weekly Discussion Time

The weekly group discussion time is meant to be a review of the prior week's reading assignment. To get the most out of the group time each member is expected to have:

- Read the assigned chapter during their personal study time
 - Completed the GPS at the end of each lesson
 - Answered all the journal questions in the Daily Journal
1. Begin each session on time and with prayer.
 2. Open the discussion with a very brief overview of the seven lessons in the chapter that the group had read in their personal study time during the week.
 3. Begin by sharing some key points and thoughts from the first day from the week's reading.
 4. Allow group members to share their thoughts and to ask questions on anything they did not understand. Do your best to answer each issue with Scripture.
 5. Give the group members adequate time to share their thoughts before moving on to the next day's reading. (Repeat the process until you get to the seventh day.)
 6. Once you've covered all the material, ask each person to share what impacted them most this week and how they will apply that to their life. (See list below for samples of discussion questions you could ask the group.)
 7. Spend a few minutes wrapping up the session, and outlining what will be covered in the next session.
 8. End on time and close in prayer.

Sample Questions You Can Ask During the Discussion Time

- In what ways do you see your walk with the Lord getting better since you began reading *Jesus Take the Wheel*?
- Discuss a specific daily action step that you carried out and share how it encouraged you to draw closer to the Lord.
- Take a story from *Jesus Take the Wheel* and discuss how it has had an impact on your life.
- Is there anything in your life that has been an obstacle in letting Jesus take the wheel, and how is this study helping you overcome that?
- What do you like most about *Jesus Take the Wheel*?
- Discuss a specific journal question that challenged you to give Jesus the wheel of your life.
- What has impacted you most from your study so far?