

# LEADER'S GUIDE

## PART THREE

The  
*Challenge*  
to  
TRUST  
on the  
Path to Peace

## *The Challenge to Trust on the Path to Peace*

### **LEADER'S GUIDE – WEEK SEVEN**



## **WEEK SEVEN – IN WHOM SHALL I TRUST?**

- DAY 20 GOD WANTS YOU TO KNOW HIM
- DAY 21 GOD KNOWS YOU AND LOVES YOU
- DAY 22 GOD IS GRACIOUS AND MERCIFUL
- DAY 23 GOD IS POWERFUL AND WISE

### **FOR THE LEADER**

Pray that each person in your group would gain a greater understanding of God's character in the weeks ahead. Ask God to show you and your group how to claim His attributes in times of uncertainty and doubt. Pray for wisdom and discernment and for God to speak through you as you lead the group this week.

### **WELCOME & OPEN WITH PRAYER**

Begin your time together in prayer. Encourage members of the group to share their prayer requests. Provide the group an opportunity to pray for one another, or you may choose to pray for the group. Also commit to praying for each other throughout the week.

### **DAY 20 GOD WANTS YOU TO KNOW HIM (15 MIN)**

PAGE 149

**Read aloud the following introduction from Cindy for the discussion for Day 20:**

*At the end of each day's reading, there is a section called "Practicing Trust." As we have covered before, the key to trusting any person is having a knowledge and understanding of that person. Therefore, knowing the character of God is imperative on this journey to trusting Him more fully. The extent to which we truly know and believe who God is directly correlates to the depth of our trust in Him. We have to know who we are being told to trust and why He is worthy of that trust, and a foundational truth about God is that He wants you to know Him. We were created by Him and to know Him. He walked in the garden with Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:8), so they would know Him, and He wants the same for each*

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*of us. His greatest invitation to know Him is exemplified in sending Jesus, so we could hear, touch, and see God in human form and so our sins could be forgiven and our relationship with Him restored. He gave us His written Scriptures so we could gain a deeper understanding of how He thinks and what He desires for us and for our lives. He reveals Himself to us in creation and in our relationships. He sent the Holy Spirit to indwell us, teach us, and counsel us in His ways. There is no doubt God desires for us to know Him deeply and personally. That is what the days ahead are designed to do—increase our understanding of who He is. Some of what you will learn may be consistent with what you already believe about God, but you may also be challenged in what you have presumed to be true about Him. God delights in His people who seek to understand and know Him, and we can learn what is true by studying what He proclaims about Himself in Scripture.*

#### ***Challenge Questions*** (Page 153)

- How would you explain the difference between faith and trust?
- Have you placed your faith in Jesus Christ? When did you make that decision?
- Do you believe what the Bible says about God?
- Can you recall a time when you allowed your circumstances to influence your perspective of God's character?
- How can understanding God's attributes and relying upon that knowledge increase your ability to trust Him?

#### ***In the Word*** (Page 153)

According to the following verses, what does God promise to those who know Him?

- Psalm 9:10
- Jeremiah 9:23–24
- Jeremiah 31:33–34

#### ***Practicing Trust*** (Page 154)

- Read Romans 8:15. Because God is your Father, what is something you can trust Him with today?

**DAY 21 GOD KNOWS YOU AND LOVE YOU (15 MIN)**

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Read aloud the following introduction from Cindy for the discussion for Day 21:

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*The reason God wants you to know Him is because He knows you and He loves you. He knows the more you know about Him, the more you will trust Him, and the more you trust Him, the more of His blessings you will experience. God doesn't need you to trust Him. God needs nothing. He is God. We need to trust Him. I recently saw a post on social media that stated: "I wish someone loves me as much as my dog." I just laughed and thought: "So true!" Our pets are loyal and forgiving. They love us with all our faults and deeply desire our affections. Well, guess what? There is someone who loves us as much (actually far more) than our pets! You will find no one more loyal than God, and no one is capable of greater unconditional love, and His love for us is not because He is unaware of our sins, shortcomings, and failings. Instead, when we were yet sinners, He sent Christ to die for us—out of that well of love for each of us (Romans 5:8). When we are wondering why we can trust God, we need to begin with understanding how much He loves us—deeply and personally without fail. When we are hurting, He loves us. When we sin or turn away from Him, He loves us. When we couldn't care less about Him, He never stops caring for us. When we are indifferent to what He thinks of our actions or choices, He never loses interest. God knows what you need and when you need it, and because He loves you so much, He always provides it. Always. Without exception. He never takes His eyes off you and never gives up on you because He loves His creation—and that includes you!*

#### Challenge Questions (Page 160)

- Do you believe God knows you? Do you believe God loves you? Why or why not, and why do the two sometimes seem incompatible?
- How has God expressed His love for you?
- Can you describe a time you doubted God's love for you? How is your doubt contradictory to what the Bible says about God's love for you?
- Why is it imperative to gain a degree of understanding of God's love for you if you are going to trust Him more fully?

#### In the Word (Page 160)

What do the following verses say about God's love for us?

- 1 John 3:1
- 1 John 5:20
- Matthew 6:26

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#### Practicing Trust (Page 161)

- Read 1 John 4:8. Because God is love, what can you trust Him with today?

#### DAY 22 GOD IS GRACIOUS AND MERCIFUL (15 MIN)

PAGE 163

Read aloud the following introduction from Cindy for the discussion for Day 22:

*God's mercy and grace—two inseparable attributes of God. Both are expressions of His deep love for us and knowing what we need. God's mercy (not getting what we deserve) is an expression of God's grace (getting what we don't deserve). And yet, God's grace (the offer of eternal life instead of suffering the eternal consequences of our sin) is also an expression of His mercy by not giving us what we deserve. God knows how desperately we need His mercy and understands better than anyone the destruction in our lives we would endure without His grace. God delivers us from our circumstances because He is gracious and merciful, and He equips us and teaches us as an outpouring of both. Out of His abundant grace and mercy, He provides for our every need—what He knows is our every need, not what we determine them to be. God sent a whale to swallow Jonah to save His life and set him on the right path. God delayed healing Lazarus, so that the people He so deeply loved could clearly and without question see His power and glory. No matter what we are going through, God's expressions of grace and mercy are present, but sometimes our view of them is hindered by the filter of our trials. But have no doubt—they are there. Every single day God pours His mercy and grace upon our lives because that is who He is, and He cannot exist or act apart from His character. Ask God to open your eyes to see the expressions of His mercy and grace in your life.*

#### Challenge Questions (Page 166)

- How would you explain God's mercy?
- Give an example of God's mercy in your life.
- How would you explain God's grace?
- Give an example of God's grace in your life.
- What can you entrust to God today because of His merciful and gracious character?

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#### In the Word (Page 167)

According to the following verses, what are some of the ways you benefit from God being so merciful and gracious?

- Hebrews 4:16
- Psalm 145:8–9
- Psalm 51:1–2

#### Practicing Trust (Page 167)

- Read John 1:15. Because God is full of grace, what is something you can trust Him with today?

## DAY 23 GOD IS POWERFUL AND WISE (15 MIN)

**Read aloud the following introduction from Cindy for the discussion for Day 23:**

*God continually expresses His grace and mercy by His powerful acts which flow from His infinite wisdom. Because God acts out of His perfect power and wisdom, He never fails to accomplish that which He sets out to do and determines is best. Not only does God know what you need, but He has the power to provide it. Imagine what it would be like to be a parent who knows what your child needs and could effortlessly, repeatedly, and perfectly provide it. That's what God does for us. However, unlike a human parent, He will never miscalculate what you need or when you need it. He has no selfish desire or limited vision of the future but powerfully implements His perfect plan for your life at all times. Trusting in God's power and wisdom requires we first acknowledge them. Although His wisdom and power are both beyond our full comprehension, we can trust what the Bible says about Him. We need to remind ourselves of the mighty battle God is waging every moment of every day for each of us while also hearing our prayers and determining our needs. We can trust His authority and dominion because He is working out the circumstances of our lives while controlling the winds, the waves, and all of nature. He never sleeps nor slumbers and never takes a break or a holiday. He yields His power to benefit us and utilizes His wisdom to orchestrate the use of that power for our good. In addition to His other attributes, we can trust God because He is powerful and because He is wise.*

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#### *Challenge Questions* (Page 173)

- How have you seen God demonstrate His power in your life?
- When have you sought God's wisdom as you faced a difficult decision or situation? How did God respond to your request?
- What have you experienced in the past you thought was impossible but was proven to be possible by God?
- What appears impossible in your life today?
- How can having a deeper understanding of God's power and wisdom lead you to trust seemingly impossible circumstances to Him?

#### *In the Word* (Page 174)

According to the following verses about God's power and wisdom, why is God deserving of your trust?

- Jeremiah 32:17
- Job 36:22–26
- Psalm 147:1–7

#### *Practicing Trust* (Page 174)

- Read Romans 11:33. Because God is beyond measure, what is something you can trust Him with today?

#### **WRAP IT UP**

**Read aloud these concluding thoughts on Week Seven from Cindy:**

*In order to trust God, we must know God, and the Bible clearly reveals to us His character. Understanding God knows you and loves you and wants you to know Him is the foundation upon which your relationship with Him must be built. Through His grace and mercy, He sent Jesus to die for our sins, so we could have a personal relationship with Him. Understanding the magnitude of God's power and wisdom is imperative if we are to believe He is truly capable of fighting all our battles and managing every circumstance in our lives. Who could possibly hold all the answers? God does, and that is why we can place our trust in Him. May God bless you and lead you as you continue on this journey.*

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#### FOR NEXT WEEK

Remind everyone to read Days 24-27 and take time to complete the *Challenge Questions*, reflect on the verses *In the Word*, and identify how they are *Practicing Trust*. Encourage them to be ready to share their answers and the insights God has shown them.

#### CLOSE WITH PRAYER

Ask one of the group members to close your time with a prayer.



# The Challenge to Trust on the Path to Peace

## LEADER'S GUIDE – WEEK EIGHT



### WEEK EIGHT – IN WHOM SHALL I TRUST?

- DAY 24 GOD IS GOOD
- DAY 25 GOD IS HOLY
- DAY 26 GOD IS WITH YOU
- DAY 27 GOD KNOWS SUFFERING

#### FOR THE LEADER

Pray that your group will not grow weary in their dedication to the study. Ask God to continue to give them the necessary time management and self-discipline to stay committed to deepening their trust in Him. Pray for wisdom and discernment and for God to speak through you as you lead the group this week.

#### WELCOME & OPEN WITH PRAYER

Begin your time together in prayer. Encourage members of the group to share their prayer requests. Provide the group an opportunity to pray for one another, or you may choose to pray for the group. Also commit to praying for each other throughout the week.

#### DAY 24 GOD IS GOOD (15 MIN)

PAGE 177

**Read aloud the following introduction from Cindy for the discussion for Day 24:**

*As we are learning, when we deepen our knowledge and understanding of God's character, we are better equipped to deepen our trust in Him. Although we all have some degree of understanding of something or someone we would characterize as "good" (a favorite dessert, a devoted friend, or a memorable vacation), it becomes much more difficult when we attempt to characterize the full extent of God's goodness. There is no scale to measure it, and there is no mind able to comprehend it. In Psalm 23, David proclaims God's goodness and love will follow him all the days of his life. David experienced God's goodness in times of celebration and in times of desperation. He understood God's goodness never wavers or changes, and His love which flows from that goodness doesn't either. Our view of God's*

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goodness can be impaired by our problems, anger, resentment, grief, or confusion, and even by the advice or counsel of others. As with all God's attributes, we must be careful not to determine what is true about Him based on what is happening in our lives and, instead, determine what is true about our lives based on the truth of who He is. Because we are immersed in a broken and sin-filled world, we can lose sight of God's goodness, but our inability to see it does not alter the truth of its existence. According to the truth proclaimed in Scripture, God is always and forever good.

#### Challenge Questions (Page 179)

- What in your life reflects the goodness of God?
- When have you found it difficult to see God's goodness?
- What reminded you of His goodness during those times?
- How does knowing God is good encourage you to trust Him more fully?

#### In the Word (Page 180)

What do the following verses teach you about God's goodness?

- Psalm 23:6
- 1 Chronicles 16:34
- Psalm 145:5–7

#### Practicing Trust (Page 181)

- Read Psalm 34:8. Because God is good, what is something you can trust Him with today?

## DAY 25 GOD IS HOLY (15 MIN)

**Read aloud the following introduction from Cindy for the discussion for Day 25:**

*When we talk of something being "good," we have some degree of reference, and yet when we speak of God's holiness, we have only God Himself from which to draw our knowledge. I love the quote from John Piper when he states: "In the word holy we have sailed to the world's end in the utter silence of reverence and wonder and awe." And yet this quality which we struggle to articulate is so vital to each of our lives as we pursue God's call to be holy ourselves (1 Peter 1:14-16). When we are pursuing a life that reflects Jesus, we are pursuing a life of holiness. Just like His father, Jesus is fully and perfectly holy. God sent His Son, so we could see holiness exemplified in a life of flesh and blood and witness the fullness*

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of God's holiness in a man who walked among His people. When we strive to understand God's holiness, we need to look at the life of Jesus. All of Jesus' actions, teachings, ministry, and miracles were expressions of the holiness of His heavenly Father. We know we are not capable of achieving a sinless, perfect, and holy life, but our call is to pursue such a life and allow the grace and blood of Jesus to fill in the gaps where we fall short. And because the Holy God we serve is incapable of sin, error, misjudgment, or failure, we can fully and completely trust Him—with everything and with absolute certainty!

#### Challenge Questions (Page 186)

- What are some ways your life reflects God's holiness?
- What are some ways your life does not reflect His holiness?
- What can you do to better reflect God's holiness?
- How can understanding God's holiness help you deepen your trust in Him?

#### In the Word (Page 186)

According to the following verses, why are we called to be holy (set apart from the world)?

- Leviticus 19:2
- Leviticus 20:26
- 1 Peter 1:13–16

#### Practicing Trust (Page 187)

- Read Isaiah 57:15. Because God is holy, what can you trust Him with today?

## DAY 26 GOD IS WITH YOU (15 MIN)

**Read aloud the following introduction from Cindy for the discussion for Day 26:**

*I was recently with a large group of people, some of whom I had known many years and some friends who I had recently met. All were gracious and kind, and yet in the midst of the laughter and lively conversation, I experienced an overwhelming sense of loneliness. I became acutely aware that no one in the room really knew what I was thinking, how I was feeling, or the current struggles in my life. No one noticed I was the only one not in a group of conversation with others or when they all chose a seat next to each other and I was left to find one on my own. As I searched for a lone seat among the group, I remember whispering under my breath: "Okay God, I guess it's just You and me." Although the*

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*awkwardness did not immediately dissipate, the anxiousness did. Remembering God is with us in every single moment of every single day also means His grace, mercy, power, wisdom, goodness, and holiness are as well. When Elizabeth Smart was only 14 years old, she was kidnapped and held captive for nine torturous months as she was starved, chained, and raped on a daily basis. However, Elizabeth has repeatedly shared about how being raised in a family of deep faith carried her through her captivity. During those months, she recalled her mom reminding her of God's love and presence no matter what she would face or where she would be. The assurance of God's presence and reminding herself of His unfailing love for her gave her the strength to persevere and survive. Thankfully, most of us will not face such harrowing circumstances, but God's presence is constant and promised in our own times of doubt and grief and frustration or confusion. Because God is always with you, you can talk to Him at any time and seek His guidance and direction. Knowing without a doubt and regardless of your circumstances or how you feel in any given moment that God is with you and will never, ever leave you is a foundational stone upon which you can build your trust in Him.*

#### ***Challenge Questions*** (Page 191)

- How does God make His presence known to you?
- How can you be assured of God's presence even when you don't "see it" or "feel it"?
- How does knowing God is always with you provide strength or hope in your circumstances?
- How can understanding God will never leave you deepen your trust in Him?
- Why do you need to be reminded today of God's presence?

#### ***In the Word*** (Page 192)

According to the following verses, what are some of the ways God's presence can help you?

- Psalm 16:7–8
- Joshua 1:9
- Exodus 33:14

#### ***Practicing Trust*** (Page 192)

- Read Jeremiah 23:24. Because God is ever-present, what is something you can trust Him with today?

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#### DAY 27 GOD KNOWS SUFFERING (15 MIN)

PAGE 195

Read aloud the following introduction from Cindy for the discussion for Day 27:

*You may have heard the saying: Faith doesn't make life easier, but faith makes you stronger. A weight does not change, but building your muscles can make the very same weight easier to lift. That is what our suffering brings—strengthened faith. I once heard a pastor remind us there is always opportunity inside the adversity. The story of Jesus's crucifixion is the perfect example of opportunity in suffering. There was great purpose in God's holy and perfect Son's suffering just as there is in our own. If you have faced cancer in your life, you have learned there is a community of those battling it who are seeking hope and knowledge from those who have survived it. It's not that others can't be helpful, but someone who knows more intimately what you are facing offers a degree of comfort and understanding that is particularly helpful. It is the same for those suffering from addiction, the loss of a spouse or child, or divorce. And yet I have learned through my own trials and suffering, there is no person who fully and completely understands my innermost thoughts and feelings and fears and insecurities, but I have also learned there is a God who does. There is great confidence in knowing the God who fully knows and understands your suffering loves you and is with you and is supplying your every need to overcome whatever trial you are facing. Holding on to the confidence God understands your suffering further enables you to trust Him with it.*

#### Challenge Questions (Page 198)

- How do you reconcile God's goodness and love for you with the fact He allows you and your loved ones to suffer?
- Why is it important God understands our suffering?
- How has God used your suffering to help others?
- How has God used your suffering to draw you closer to Him?

#### In the Word (Page 199)

According to the following verses, what are some of the purposes and rewards of our suffering?

- 1 Peter 5:10
- Romans 8:17–18
- James 1:12

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#### Practicing Trust (Page 200)

- Read Isaiah 9:6. Because God is your counselor, what is something you can trust Him with today?

#### WRAP IT UP

Read aloud these concluding thoughts on Week Eight from Cindy:

*We can trust God because He is unable to act apart from His goodness and His holiness. They are not attributes that change with His mood or our actions. He is constantly good and always holy, and that same God is with us constantly and always. He never leaves us or forsakes us. He is able to provide every need we have in times of suffering because He understands our suffering. He has experienced grief, pain, loss, and rejection. He knows us, He knows suffering, and He knows what we need. Having a God who lives in the heavenly realms yet understands our intimate needs can be difficult to fathom but is absolutely true! That's who God is. Always.*

#### FOR NEXT WEEK

Remind everyone to read Days 28-31 and take time to complete the *Challenge Questions*, reflect on the verses *In the Word*, and identify how they are *Practicing Trust*. Encourage them to be ready to share their answers and the insights God has shown them.

#### CLOSE WITH PRAYER

Ask one of the group members to close your time with a prayer.



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### LEADER'S GUIDE – WEEK NINE



## WEEK NINE – IN WHOM SHALL I TRUST?

- DAY 28 GOD IS RIGHTEOUS AND JUST
- DAY 29 GOD IS FAITHFUL
- DAY 30 GOD IS SOVEREIGN
- DAY 31 GOD NEVER CHANGES

### FOR THE LEADER

Pray for God to reveal His character and attributes in new and apparent ways to each member of your group, and ask Him to open their eyes to see the ways He is working in each of their lives as their faithful, righteous, and sovereign God. Pray for wisdom and discernment and for God to speak through you as you lead the group this week.

### WELCOME & OPEN WITH PRAYER

Begin your time together in prayer. Encourage members of the group to share their prayer requests. Provide the group an opportunity to pray for one another, or you may choose to pray for the group. Also commit to praying for each other throughout the week.

### DAY 28 GOD IS RIGHTEOUS AND JUST (15 MIN)

PAGE 201

**Read aloud the following introduction from Cindy for the discussion for Day 28:**

*Because God is holy and righteous and just, we can trust Him with confidence knowing He is unable to make a mistake. He will never err, nor will He be wrong. He will never inaccurately assess a situation or what is needed to resolve it. He never misjudges a person or a person's heart or intentions. I really like Richard Strauss's comment: "When we read God is righteous or just, we are being assured His actions toward us are in perfect agreement with His holy nature." That can be to our benefit or our undoing. As we also read this week: "God is not defined by the term 'righteous,' as much as the term 'righteous' is defined by God." God is the standard by which all persons and actions are judged. He is consistently just,*

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*and the standards He sets for us do not change. In a world that wants us to believe there is no true “right,” they are failing to acknowledge a perfectly righteous God. The more we understand His perfect righteousness, the more we may wonder how He could desire a relationship with the imperfect people we are. And yet, again, the Bible declares His desire flows out of His mercy and His grace. Trusting God with our lives, our loved ones, and our enemies can be challenging, but knowing we are trusting a perfectly righteous and just God helps us do just that.*

#### ***Challenge Questions*** (Page 204)

- Why it is important we serve a God who is righteous?
- Why is it important we serve a God who is just?
- How does knowing God is righteous and just encourage you to trust Him?
- Describe a time you thought you knew what was best but God revealed your judgment of the situation was incorrect.
- Describe a situation in which you need to trust God to dispense His perfect justice instead of you attempting to do so.

#### ***In the Word*** (Page 205)

What can you learn from the following verses about God’s righteousness and justice and how to live that out in your own life?

- Psalm 92:15
- Proverbs 28:5
- Jeremiah 22:3

#### ***Practicing Trust*** (Page 205)

- Read Deuteronomy 32:4. Because God is without fault, what is something you can trust Him with today?

## **DAY 29 GOD IS FAITHFUL (15 MIN)**

PAGE 207

**Read aloud the following introduction from Cindy for the discussion for Day 29:**

*Faithfulness and loyalty are traits that seem to be more and more amiss these days. You never really know who is going to keep their word, do as they say, and be there for you no matter what happens.*

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*Yet our heavenly Father is perfectly faithful. That is not a new attribute of God, nor is it one that will expire. And, thankfully, His faithfulness has nothing to do with ours. God has always been faithful and will always be faithful. When we are not faithful to Him, He will be faithful to us. He will be faithful to love us, provide for us, guide us, and help us. His faithfulness is difficult to fathom in such an unfaithful world, but God is not of this world, nor is He bound by our human minds or imaginations or our limited understanding. We know God is faithful because the Bible declares it, and we also know He is faithful because He has proven it in our lives. Sometimes we don't even recognize the ways He is keeping His promises, but the evidence is in our lives, and He is eager for us to see it. When we don't see God's faithfulness demonstrated in our lives or in the world around us, we need not doubt it is there but simply ask Him to open our eyes to it.*

#### *Challenge Questions* (Page 211)

- What are you currently facing in your life causing you to feel uncertainty or doubt?
- Why is it difficult to recognize God's faithfulness in some of your circumstances?
- What can you do to remind yourself of His faithfulness and the ways He has demonstrated that to you in the past?
- How can understanding and trusting in God's faithfulness help you in such times of uncertainty?

#### *In the Word* (Page 211)

According to the following verses, what are some of the other faithful promises of God?

- Psalm 119:89–90
- 1 Corinthians 10:13
- Deuteronomy 20:4

#### *Practicing Trust* (Page 212)

- Read 1 Corinthians 1:9. Because God is faithful, what is something you can trust Him with today?

## DAY 30 GOD IS SOVEREIGN (15 MIN)

PAGE 215

**Read aloud the following introduction from Cindy for the discussion for Day 30:**

*Knowing and believing there is a God who reigns in times of peace and in times of chaos is incredibly important. Our understanding of God's sovereignty can bring us peace, and yet as we read this week, it*

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can also cause us confusion. The heartache and troubles of this world are the result of a sinful and imperfect people whose free will was granted to them by God. God chooses to allow His people to make mistakes and suffer the consequences of those mistakes, and that can be difficult to comprehend—especially when we are suffering at the hands of someone else's choices. And yet, we have to contemplate God's sovereignty in light of His wisdom and goodness, knowing He is filled with grace and mercy. We must remember that our sovereign God is good and holy and loves us. Therefore, whatever He allows in our lives comes from a heart characterized by those very attributes. Once again, be careful not to determine what is true about God based on your circumstances but, instead, determine what is true about your circumstances based on what you know is true about God.

#### Challenge Questions (Page 219)

- Do you believe God is sovereign and His will cannot be overcome? Why or why not?
- How does God's sovereignty impact your daily life?
- How can understanding God's sovereignty help you in times of trouble?
- Why is understanding the sovereignty of God an important part of establishing your trust in Him?

#### In the Word (Page 219)

According to the following verses, what can you learn about God's sovereignty?

- Ephesians 1:11
- Psalm 146:10
- Proverbs 19:21

#### Practicing Trust (Page 220)

- Read Colossians 1:16-17. Because God is over all things, what is something you can trust Him with today?

## DAY 31 GOD NEVER CHANGES (15 MIN)

Read aloud the following introduction from Cindy for the discussion for Day 31:

We live in a world that is constantly evolving. Our laws change, and our economy evolves. There are technological advances and cultural shifts we could have never imagined. We have been blessed with new lives and devastated by the loss of others. There have been medical and scientific advances almost

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beyond comprehension and, in many areas of life, we continue to experience a “new normal.” With all the changes and evolution around us, it can be difficult to fathom anything or any One would be unchanging, but that is exactly what God declares is true about Himself in Malachi 3:6. All the attributes we have studied over the past week will always and forever characterize God. Every single thing proclaimed about Him throughout Scripture is eternally true. That alone can offer us confidence and comfort as the world around us continues to shift. Understanding and knowing who God is and the confidence of knowing He will never change is precisely why He is deserving of our trust.

#### ***Challenge Questions*** (Page 225)

- Why is it important that God’s character is unchanging?
- Can you describe a time of uncertainty in your life which caused you to doubt the unchanging character of God?
- How does God’s immutability offer you assurance and comfort in something you are facing in your life today?
- List several of the unchanging qualities of God for which you are particularly thankful:

#### ***In the Word*** (Page 225)

How do the following verses further speak to the unchanging character of God?

- Psalm 102:25–27
- Psalm 33:10–11
- Hebrews 13:8

#### ***Practicing Trust*** (Page 226)

- Read Psalm 102:27. Because God is unchanging, what is something you can trust Him with today?

#### **WRAP IT UP**

**Read aloud these concluding thoughts on Week Nine from Cindy:**

*This week concludes our part of the study: “In Whom Shall I Trust?” Hopefully you have gained a deeper understanding of what you have known to be true about God and have learned some new things as well. Understanding and proclaiming God’s character in times of doubt, fear, or uncertainty brings us assurance and peace because we know we can depend on Him to be all He proclaims to be, and who He*

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### **LEADER'S GUIDE – WEEK NINE**

*is will never change. In the Appendix you will find a complete list of the attributes of God included in this book. I encourage you to spend time studying God's character and be ready to declare those truths about Him in times of need. Let's continue to proclaim the character of God in our relationships, routines, struggles, and celebrations, and let us never cease to learn more about our God, our Creator, our Savior. In the week ahead, we will begin "Part Four: Pursuing Trust." It's time to take all we have learned about trusting God, our personal roadblocks, and God's character—and explore practical ways to strengthen our trust in Him. God bless you and lead you as you continue on this journey.*

### **FOR NEXT WEEK**

Remind everyone to read Days 32-35 and take time to complete the *Challenge Questions*, reflect on the verses *In the Word*, and identify how they are *Practicing Trust*. Encourage them to be ready to share their answers and the insights God has shown them.

### **CLOSE WITH PRAYER**

Ask one of the group members to close your time with a prayer.

