

WOMEN OF GRACE

Facilitator Training

A MINISTRY OF GRACE BIBLE CHURCH COURTESY OF ABBI SMITH

GBC Small Group Leader Equipping

Definition

_____ centered around the person of Christ through the Word of God, in order to love Him and others.

Goal

To equip you in coming along others as a _____ and _____, as they grow in Christlikeness. It is in the study of the Word, as a *primary* means that we are sanctified if we have tasted that the LORD IS GOOD! (Hebrews 1:1-4, John 1:1, 14, 1 Peter 1:22-2:3, Psalm 118:1, Hebrews 4:12, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 1:23)

The power of the _____:

Matthew 22:34-40 -

John 6:68-69 -

Psalm 19:7-11-

Why do you desire to grow in being a discussion time facilitator?

What a facilitator is _____:

- A _____
- A biblical _____
- The _____ experienced person in the room at conversing with people
- The _____ believer
- The resident _____ on homiletics
- The _____

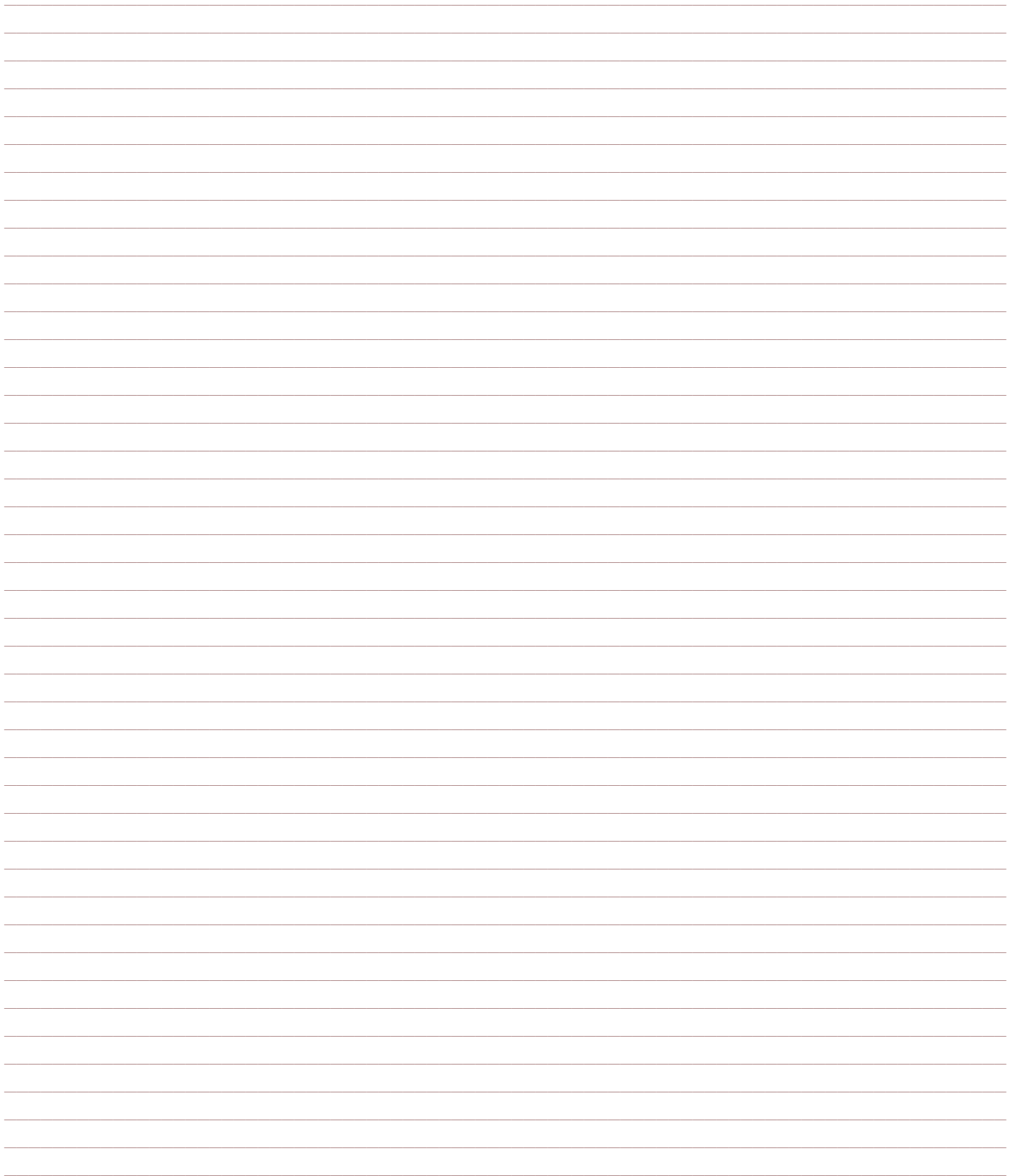
What a facilitator is:

- A lover _____ (Psalm 18:1-3, 1 Peter 1:8), _____ (John 1:1, 14, Psalm 1:2, Psalm 119:103) and _____ (Ephesians 5:29, 1 Corinthians 13:1-5, 1 Peter 1:21)

- _____ on the Spirit of God to direct the hearts of women coming to fellowship around the word
(Romans 8:26-27)
- _____ in the Spirit's work to use the Word of God in the lives of others (John 17:17)
- _____ (Phil. 2:1-5, Col. 1:15-20)
- _____ (James 1:19, Proverbs 4:20-23, Proverbs 18:13) - *See Spirit-Led Active Listening Handout*
- _____ (Galatians 6:9, 1 Samuel 12:24, 1 Thessalonians 5:14)
- Relationally connected to God in _____ (John 17:1-15)
- A diligent _____ of the WORD (1 Timothy 3:16-17)
- _____ (Proverbs 20:5, Proverbs 11:13)

Tips to take away:

- Be _____
- _____ with the women via text beforehand
- Encourage the women to _____ and *LOOK* at the text together
- _____ from the beginning
- The _____ seconds
- _____ rule
- _____ answers
- _____
- _____
- _____ is willing to ask questions
- _____ the group
- _____ the giftedness of the people at your table
- _____ management in order to serve the women in the stewardship of their time commitment
- _____ the precious souls at your table/group



Tip Sheet

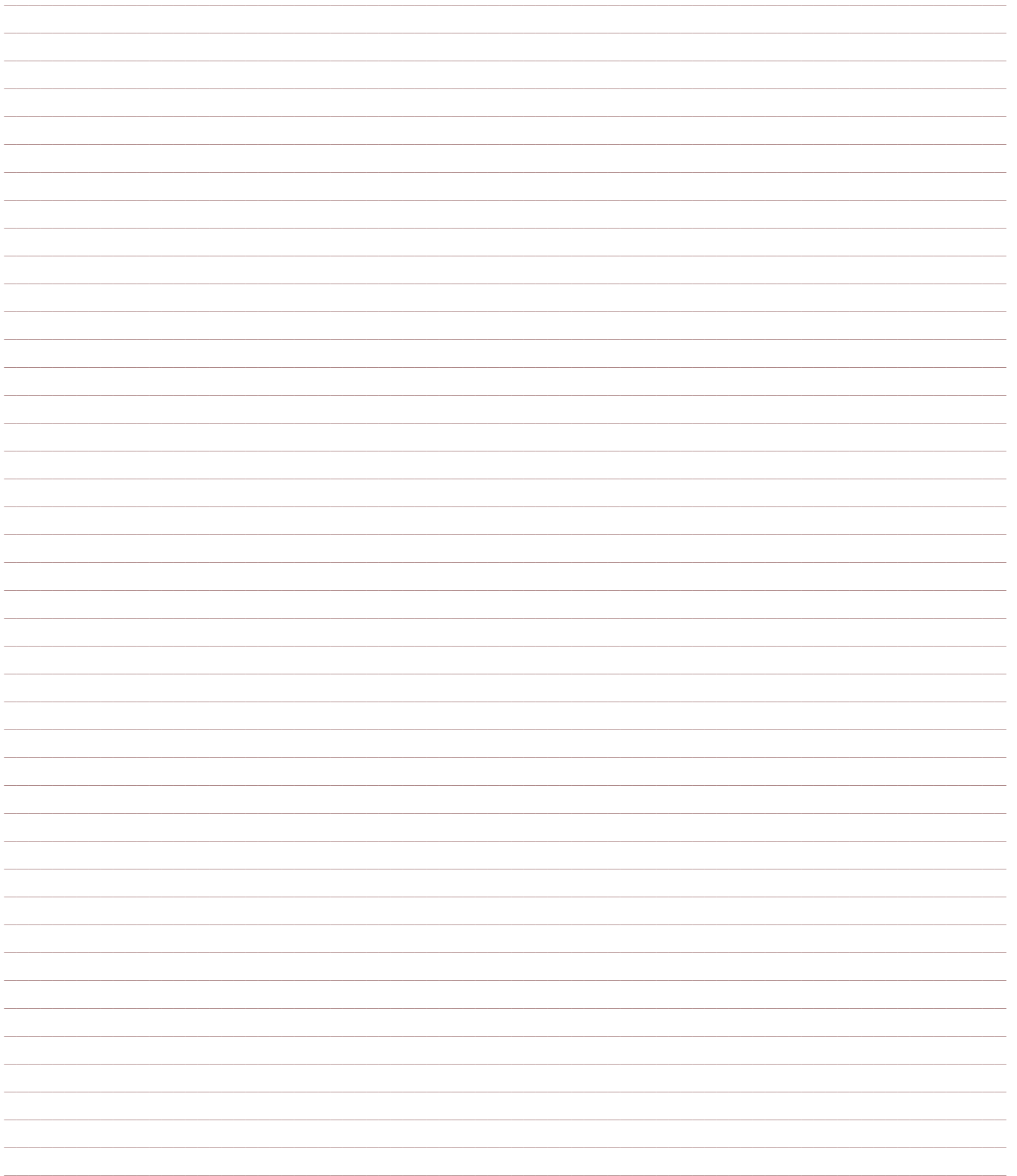
Spirit-Led Active Listening

Right Thinking

- We often ask the Holy Spirit to guide our words, but we also need to ask Him to guide our listening.
- Active, compassionate listening is harder than speaking. Often, listening is more important than speaking!
- Listening skills open the door for opportunities to impact and influence people's lives for Christ.
- Listening effectively & with compassion demonstrates respect and genuine concern for others.
- People want to be heard. They long to know that someone really listens to them.
- James 1:19 encourages us to be quick to listen and slow to speak.
- Listening carefully is the starting point for building trust. Listening is necessary for shepherding.
- Effective, compassionate listening flows from a genuine desire to know and understand someone.

Wise Practices:

- Enter conversations with ears eager to listen.
- Intentionally attend to the other person. The dictionary says that to "attend" to another person means to:
 - Be present
 - Give attention
 - Apply or direct yourself
 - Pay attention
 - Remain ready to serve
- Pray to feel with your heart and picture in your mind what the person is saying. Put yourself in their place and allow yourself to feel what they feel.
- Fight the temptation to interrupt or give solutions. Interrupting redirects the attention toward you. Giving solutions communicates that you are finished listening.
- When the person pauses or ends, summarize what you heard. Summarizing validates what was said. Summarizing says, "I heard you and what you said is important." Some ways to begin are:
 - What I hear you say is ...
 - You are saying you feel... Is that right?
 - What you want me to understand is...
 - The big thing for you is...
 - It is like this...
- Keep the spotlight on the person. Give them time and permission to talk.
- Give them the gift of someone who cares enough to listen well.
- Ask them if you can pray for them. Pray immediately if possible.



Tip Sheet

Helps for Challenging Situations

Right Thinking

- Where two or more people are gathered together – expect challenges!
- However, the Bible says “where two or three are gathered in My Name, there am I among them.”
- Challenges can arise in table group, during weekly contacts and anytime table members are together.
- We know the Holy Spirit is present, faithful, indwells us and gives us the right words at the right time.
- People are people. We are all “under construction”. We are all messy and broken.
- Challenges are opportunities to experience God’s faithfulness and equipping.
- Challenges are not the end of the world! Instead, they are part of living in the world with real people!
- It is impossible to plan for every challenge.
- It is possible to pray and respond with wisdom.

Wise Practices:

- Prayer is the first course of action. Before each table time, ask God for His wisdom & compassion.
- Choose to see challenges as normal, not atypical. View challenges as shepherding opportunities.
- Expect God’s provision.
- Be prepared to follow up. Some challenges require layers of leading and shepherding.
- Set reasonable expectations for yourself and others – no one is perfect. To prevent problems, regularly share these expectations with the group. (See your Table Time Tip Sheet for help.)

Common Challenging Situations and a Few Helpful Tips:

The Compulsive Talker/Dominant Personality

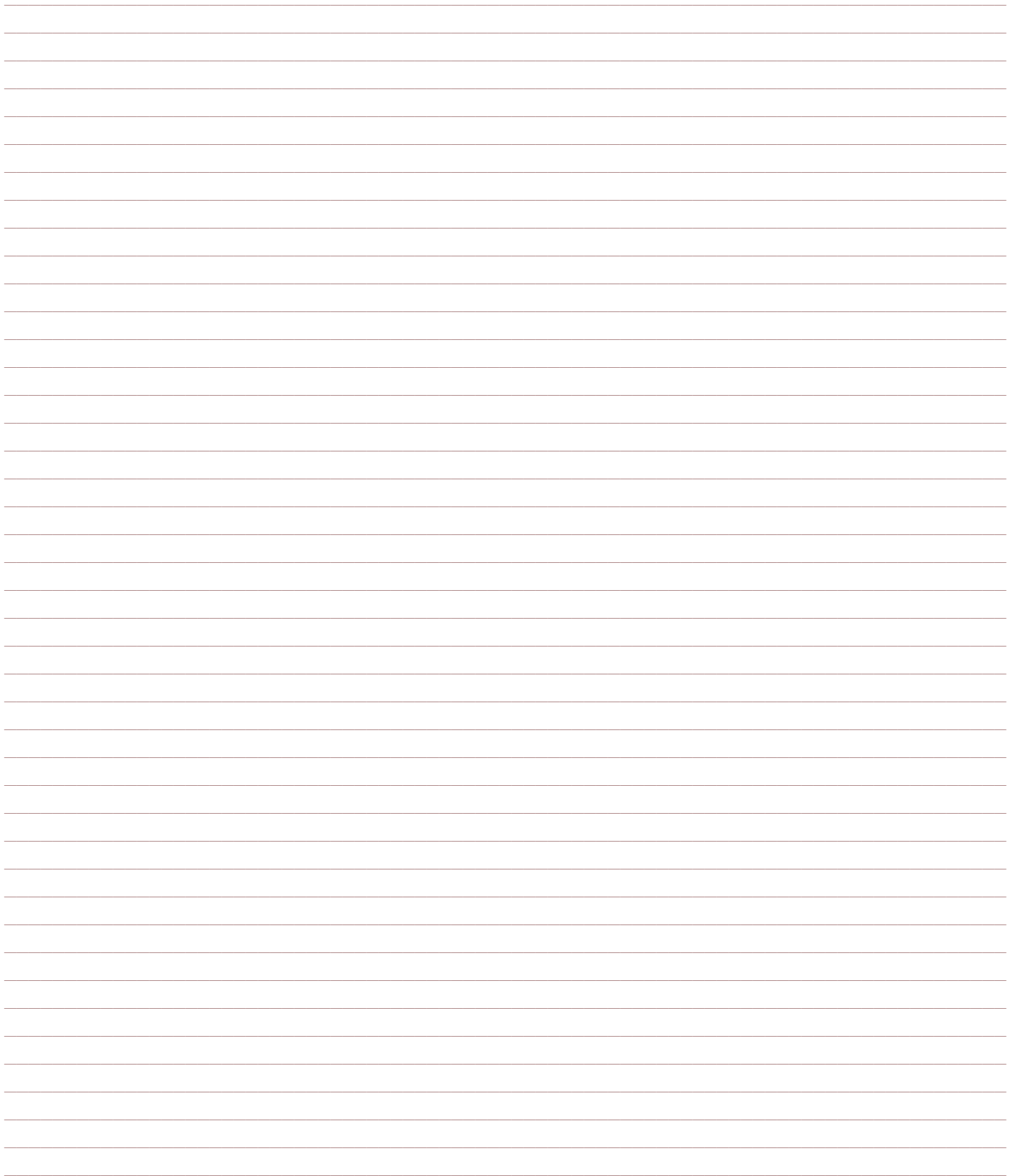
- Intentionally invite others into the conversation by name. Say, “Sue, what are your thoughts?” or “Jane, I’d love to hear what you think.” Be willing to use this technique as often as needed.
- Sit next to the compulsive talker. This keeps your eyes off the compulsive talker and on everyone else.
- When you can, graciously interrupt and ask a question that invites other table members to share and add their thoughts.
- If needed, speak privately to the person and ask them to help you achieve balanced participation in the group.
- Invite your table group to pray for balanced sharing during table time.

Wrong or Confusing Answers

- Invite group members to work together to discover the answer. Give them time to wrestle with difficult questions/truths.
- Be prepared to provide clarification on essential doctrines (salvation, eternal security, etc).
- Accept group members’ different viewpoints and opinions on non-essential matters.
- When appropriate, point table members to the scripture or teaching.
- Step in and redirect if the discussion becomes heated or could harm group members.
- Utilize the verbiage provided on our Table Leader Guide.

Rabbit Trails

- First, discern if it is a rabbit trail. Ask yourself: Are they still talking about God? Are they still talking about the main points of the passage/question? If so, let the conversation continue. Remember, we want group members to discover truth and to learn and grow in community.
- If it is a rabbit trail, redirect the group to one of the main points of the passage. You can do this by repeating the question, asking someone to read the corresponding Bible verse(s), stating a truth, or sharing what you learned.
- Refer to the Table Leader Guide under “What should I do with an irrelevant answer?”



Prayers Before Studying the Word

Directions: This prayer guide contains prayer request in bold and a scripture from Deuteronomy directly below it that informs the prayer. A scripture-based prayer is also provided, but please pray what is on your heart by modifying the prayer, adding to it, or creating your own prayer. There are 6 specific requests so that all can pray today.

1. Pray that each woman may see the greatness of God as she studies daily.

Praying through Deuteronomy 3:24 - *O Lord GOD, you have only begun to show your servant your greatness and your mighty hand. For what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do such works and mighty acts as yours?*

Loving Father, you alone are great and wonderful. You alone are faithful and trustworthy, and your glory reaches into the heavens. Thank you for caring for every woman coming to this study. Lord, you have only begun to show your servants the greatness of your power and the strength of your mighty arm - for what god is there in heaven or on earth who has redeemed us by His own blood and given us all we need for life and godliness! I praise you for your wonderful works and mighty acts. I pray that the women in the Grace Bible Church Spring study and I would appropriate all that is ours in Christ, so that we may live a victorious life in this world and in the ages to come - life everlasting. In Jesus' name I pray, AMEN.

2. Pray that each participant has a heart to fear the Lord & keep His Commandments.

Praying through Deuteronomy 5:29 - *Oh, that they had such a heart as this always, to fear me and to keep all my commandments, that it might go well with them and with their descendants forever!*

Heavenly Father, thank you that you have not finished with your people Israel, and for the assurance it gives me that your promises to the Church will never fail. Thank you that nothing can separate me or the women at my table from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus my Lord, to whom be all praise and glory, forever and ever, AMEN.

3. Pray that each women desires a new or renewed heart as she studies the word.

Praying through Deuteronomy 6:6 - *And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.*

Heavenly Father, thank you for the Word of God and all the wisdom and instructions it contains. I pray this study will teach us to abide in Christ and He in me and that our lives would be a testimony to your goodness and grace. May our inner and outward actions, attitude, words, and motives reflect a heart that loves the Lord with all our heart and soul and mind and strength - to your honor and glory, This I ask in Jesus' name AMEN.

4. Pray that women will love and trust God & that obedience to God will be the result.

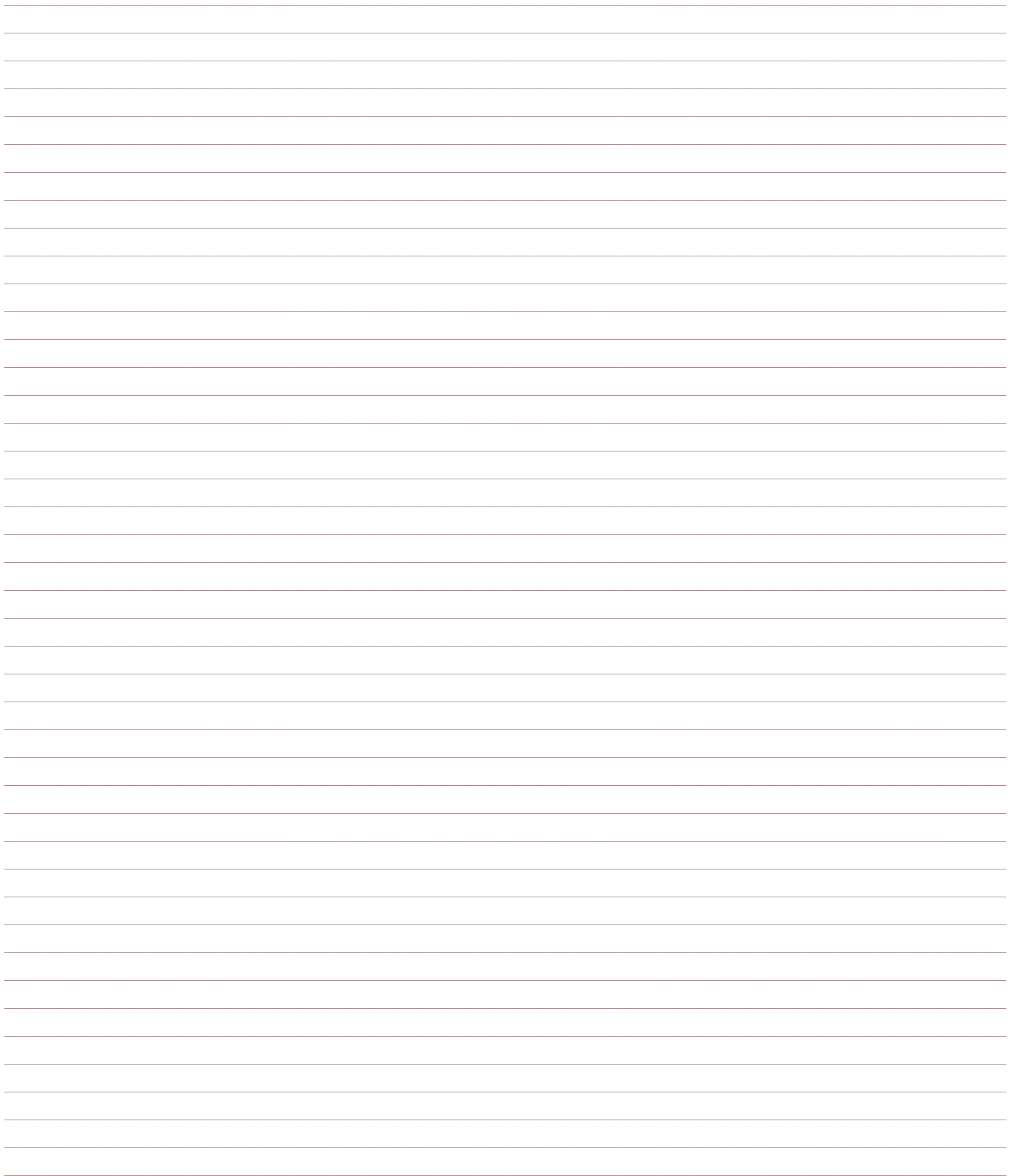
Praying through Deuteronomy 10:12-13 - *And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am commanding you today for your good?*

Heavenly Father, thank you for the wise words that Moses gave to the second generation of Israelites at the end of their wilderness wanderings. Help us all to learn the lessons of trusting your Word and depending on you alone as we live life in these spiritually challenging times. I pray that each woman's faith in the Bible would develop and grow so that our lives would become a living sacrifice of worship and praise of you, who alone are worthy. Enable us to love and trust you with our whole heart and soul and mind and strength, for your greater praise and glory. This I ask in Jesus' name, AMEN.

5. Pray what each women learns she will pour out to her family, friends, neighbors and coworkers. May her witness grow stronger because of consistent Prayer, Bible Study & the teaching.

Praying through Deuteronomy 6:7 - *You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.*

Heavenly Father, thank you for the important things I will learn in your word. Keep me alert to the dangers of falling into a worldly mindset and help me to keep the eyes of my heart on Jesus. I pray for the women in my group because we are



surrounded by increasing attacks on the Word of God. Help us all to teach the truth of God's Word in our sphere of influence and to our children at every opportunity. God, protect the hearts and minds of the those we love. This I pray in Jesus' name, AMEN.

6. Pray for the table leaders to handle the Word correctly and to direct their group with wisdom, discernment & love.

Praying through Deuteronomy 4:2 - *You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you.*

Heavenly Father, thank you for your Word and the truths that it contains. Lord, I know that throughout the history of the world, man has sought to discredit and distort biblical truth. Give each table leader a teachable spirit and help her to read the Bible with wisdom and discernment. I believe you have provided and called the table leaders and you will guide us all, so that we do not distort the inspired text, through our own biases or flawed understanding. Correct any misconceptions we may have, and may Your Holy Spirit protect us from any half-truth or part-truths, that may distort understanding. Instead, guide each leader into all truth, I pray. In Jesus' name, AMEN.

Prayers modified from this source: <https://prayer.knowing-Jesus.com> via Ann Flagg

