

Revive Our Hearts™

ELIZABETH

DEALING WITH
DISAPPOINTMENT

Leader Guide





Dear Friend,

Welcome to the Women of the Bible series!

We're excited you've chosen to lead women through *Elizabeth: Dealing With Disappointment*. Our team has prayed for you, and we're here to support you on the six-week journey ahead. Our hope is that you will:

- Gain a deeper love for Jesus and each other.
- Grasp how the gospel intersects the ups and downs of life.
- Experience the power of God's Truth to transform us.

Consider praying these requests for the women who will soon join you in this study.

As you step out to lead, it won't be your personality, your razor-sharp leadership skills (or killer brownies!) that will produce fruit from this study. You can rely on the Word of God to accomplish the work of God (**Isa. 55:11**) and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit (**2 Peter 1:3-4**) as you depend upon Him. It will be your teachable heart, humility, authenticity, prayerfulness, and genuine love that will become the channel of blessing for your group members.

If you're new to leading a group and aren't sure where to start, we've got you covered! We created a handbook, **Small Group Leadership Made Simple**, with answers to the questions you may be asking—including answers to the ones you haven't yet thought to ask.

Included in this guide to *Elizabeth: Dealing With Disappointment*, you'll find:

- A suggested schedule for your group time.
- Prompts to prepare your heart to lead.
- Ideas for setting expectations and growing in community.
- A potential activity for marking your group's spiritual growth.
- General tips for leading a women's Bible study.

In addition to these resources, you will find group discussion questions on pages 66-68 in your study booklet.

Your commitment to shepherd women as they dig into God's Word matters. We're behind you and trust that the Lord will work in the hearts of the women in your group, as well as in your own heart, in the weeks ahead.

Blessings,

The *Revive Our Hearts* Team

As you seek to equip women through *Elizabeth: Dealing With Disappointment*, here are some suggestions.

PREPARE YOUR HEART TO LEAD

- If possible, pray daily for your members by name and for wisdom and anointing of the Holy Spirit to serve them.
- Consider identifying a Scripture passage to pray over the group throughout the study. Here are some suggestions:
 - **Hosea 10:12**
 - **Psalm 119:18**
 - **2 Peter 1:5-7**
- Pray for God's love and sensitivity toward each woman you will shepherd.
- Be genuine. Leaders aren't expected to know everything, so learn to say, "I don't know the answer to your question but I'll find out." Then report back to the group the following week.
- Study thoroughly and know the material.

Optional Prep

- Listen to (or watch) the Elizabeth Bible study podcast hosted by Erin Davis to gain insights for leading your group. Step into the *Revive Our Hearts* living room for more conversations on facing disappointment with hope in Christ. Find it at ReviveOurHearts.com/Elizabeth.
- Listen or read Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth's four-part series "**A Portrait of Elizabeth**," which offers further teaching on Elizabeth, Zechariah, and Mary from Luke 1.

TIPS FOR LEADING WELL

- Don't try to carry the full load alone. Find ways to involve others by delegating things like group communication, recording attendance, and preparing snacks.
- Build unity without demanding uniformity.
- Create an environment that invites asking questions and wrestling with difficult parts of Scripture.
- In love, guide conversations to the Word as our plumb line for all of life.
- Allow for silence while women formulate their thinking.
- Rephrase questions or invite sharing of incomplete thoughts to draw out discussion.
- Between sessions, have a touchpoint with each member or the group as a whole.
- Be transparent so that others will feel invited to be real about their fears, insecurities, and inadequacies.
- Have fun, laugh, cry, and find times to enjoy life together outside the group.



CREATE A PLAN FOR A POSITIVE GROUP EXPERIENCE

Sample Schedule

15-30 MINUTES | CONNECT

- Encourage community.
- Offer refreshments (optional).

45-60 MINUTES | DISCUSS

- Start consistently on time.
- Welcome everyone warmly and open in prayer.
- Lead the discussion using the group questions at the end of the resource as a guide.

5-10 MINUTES | WRAP-UP

- Introduce next week's topic.
- Clarify the homework assignment.
- Relay your enthusiasm for the truths we'll glean as we dig into the study and meet again.

15-30 MINUTES | PRAY

- Pray for each other.
- End consistently on time.
- Invite members to linger for informal fellowship (optional).

SET EXPECTATIONS FOR GROWING IN GOD'S WORD

Consider asking your group to affirm these prompts at each meeting:

We will:

- Study lessons weekly.
- Engage with God's Truth in openness and honesty.
- Stay grounded to the authority of Scripture instead of opinions or experiences.



SET GUIDELINES FOR GROWING IN COMMUNITY

We will:

- Listen intently to one another.
- Respect different perspectives.
- Create a safe place where each woman can be known and loved.
- Join the discussion without dominating.
- Keep what is shared confidential.
- Refrain from dishonoring people we love or using this study to gripe about life's disappointments. Instead, we will place our hope and trust in Christ.

MARKING SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Pass out blank cards and envelopes at the first Bible study session. Ask each woman to write down a disappointing area of her life that she desires to surrender to Christ as an act of worship. Have her seal the card in an envelope and sign her name on the outside. At the final meeting, return the envelopes to the women and invite testimonies of how Christ is worthy and how He's working in their lives through the Elizabeth study.



