

DAYTON
women
IN THE
Word

SUMMER

2 TIMOTHY

STUDY

2 TIMOTHY
GROUP LEADER GUIDE

#dwitw2timothy

2 TIMOTHY GROUP LEADER GUIDE

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DEAR SISTER,

Thank you for choosing to lead other women through the study of 2 Timothy with Dayton Women in the Word this summer. We are aware that this year's Summer Study will be different from past years, and that COVID-19 has changed many things-- not only for our study and personal lives, but for our whole world. Two things that have not changed, however, are the mission of *DWITW* and the work of God's Spirit through His Word.

In this guide, you'll find group leader expectations, as well as resources for preparing for study, cultivating strong group dynamics, and finishing the study well. You'll also find a list of additional recommended resources that might help you on your way. Whether you're embarking on this study with a *DWITW* group, a Personal Group, or a group within your local Church, we hope this guide will give you the structure and tools you need to guide others as you dig deeper into God's Word together.

Our prayer for you as you lead, whether your group is comprised of one or two friends, or fifteen women from your local church, is this: *that God would soften your hearts and open your eyes as you consider the beautiful and challenging truths of his Word.* We pray that God gives you fresh awe and wonder, and out of that heart change you will be able lead others to the fountain of life as well.

If there are any ways we can serve you as you study and lead others, please reach out to us!
We would love to aid you in any way we can.

- *The Dayton Women in the Word Team*

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Summer Study Hashtag: #dwitw2timothy



GROUP LEADER EXPECTATIONS

PRAY

Pray for the women in your group daily, or set a specific time to pray for them each week. Pray for God's guidance as you lead others each week. Pray for your personal study, for each woman in your group and for their study. Pray specifically for group cohesion, for women to keep their commitment to study, and for God to open their eyes to the beauty of His Word and our amazing Savior!

STUDY

Complete your study each week and be well prepared for discussion. It is important that you communicate with God throughout the week and receive truth from His Word before leading others.

HOST WEEKLY DISCUSSION GROUP

Begin your Zoom meeting or chosen means of gathering at the scheduled discussion time each week. If using Zoom, refer to our **Hosting Groups on Zoom Quick Guide** on the [Group Leader Resources](#) page for basic instruction. Warmly welcome women into the discussion time. Begin discussion time with prayer. Ask how personal study went for your group members over the past week and discuss the study tools used. Lead the group through the response questions for that week's text. Make note of any women not in attendance, and reach out to check in with group members who might have missed the discussion group time.

STAY CONNECTED

Stay current with weekly Summer Study updates. Share any important information with your group during weekly discussion or via email. Connect with other group leaders through the [DWITW 2 Timothy Group Leaders Facebook Group](#). You will also receive a weekly Group Leader email throughout the eight weeks of study.

Teaching videos and audio will be released weekly each Wednesday on the [2 Timothy Resources](#) page. We treat our teachings as commentary, so we encourage you to wait until you've completed your personal study and group discussion to watch or listen each week. Please encourage your group members to do the same.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR LEADING A GROUP

PRAY

Prayer, again? Yes! This is our first and most valued step in preparing to study God's Word. Ask Him boldly to bless your study of the Scriptures and to do the same for the women in your group. Consider writing out a short prayer over your study that expresses what you hope to learn or how you hope to grow. Keep that prayer with your study materials and return to it as often as you'd like.

MAKE A PLAN

Establish when and how/where you will meet with your group.

If leading a *DWITW* Group, you have already volunteered for a specific day and time, and will be using Zoom to meet with your group. If you are leading a Personal Group or Church-Hosted Group, choose a platform or location and time that works for all the participants.

Establish a way to communicate with your group throughout each week of the study.

We recommend creating a Facebook Group, email, text thread, or some other form of communication for group participants to interact with one another throughout the week. This could be a place to ask questions about the weekly study tools, share resources, ask for prayer, etc.

Consider childcare needs.

Ask group members if they have children, and whether they need help accessing the kids resources on the *DWITW* website. Regularly check in to ask how the kids' lessons are going for them throughout the study.

Don't forget to share the plan!

We have found that women love to know what to expect before they come to the first session. Help them to feel prepared by sharing as many helpful details as possible.

PREPARE YOUR PERSONAL STUDY MATERIALS

Print the [2 Timothy Companion Guide](#) and add it to a three-ring binder or folder. You may find it helpful to use tabs to separate the content from each section of the guide. This companion guide includes a double-spaced copy of 2 Timothy for you to take notes and better interact with the text.

MAKE THE TIME

Strive to devote a specific block of time each day to your study. Ask God regularly to protect this time. You can write it on your calendar, set an alarm, stay accountable to a friend, or use other modern helps to promote consistency.

If you find that you are struggling to stay consistent in your study, ask the Lord what might be preventing you from meeting with Him. He is faithful to answer and He longs to spend daily time with you!

GET FAMILIAR WITH THE TEXT

We recommend reading or listening to 2 Timothy one to three times straight through before study begins. This will help you become familiar with the overall themes and structure of the book.

GET FAMILIAR WITH THE STUDY TOOLS

During Summer Study, we use various tools to deepen our understanding of the text. Each week we introduce a new tool and give you the opportunity to practice it on that week's text. See the [2 Timothy Companion Guide](#) for a basic description of these tools. Each tool is taught in more detail in our [At Home In The Word](#) video series.

GET FAMILIAR WITH THE READING PLAN

The Reading Plan (see next page) lays out the schedule for studying through 2 Timothy this summer. Our studies are designed for women at all levels of Bible literacy. We encourage you to take time to get familiar with the schedule for this summer's study. Each week's assignment builds on the week before.

ONE WEEK BEFORE STUDY (WEEK OF JUNE 1)

Contact your group. If you haven't already, contact each woman individually (by phone, email, or text) or email them as a group.

Details to include in your first email:

- Weekly meeting day and time
- Online platform or location
- How to access and print the 2 Timothy Companion Guide
- How to prepare for Week 1 Discussion by studying context
- Reminder of additional resources found online
- Communicate expectations about attendance. Ask members to contact you if they plan to be absent on any given week. Encourage attendance whenever possible, and encourage women to return to the group even if they miss a week or more of study.

Download Zoom as an app on the device you will be using for remote groups. This applies to all *DWITW* Group leaders, as well as any Personal Group or Church-Hosted Group leaders who have opted to use Zoom for weekly discussion sessions.

Study the context of 2 Timothy. Prepare to discuss and lead your group members through the Context Questions page for the first week of group discussion (see page 9 of the 2 Timothy Companion Guide). For help answering context questions, use the introductory material in your study Bible or the background information in a commentary or bible dictionary. You can also Google search "ESV Study Bible Intro 2 Timothy" to find the ESV introductory material online.

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS FOR WEEK 1 (WEEK OF JUNE 8)

Make sure all group members have [registered](#) by May 29 so they receive the weekly 2 Timothy update emails. Check in with the women in your group to be sure that everyone has been able to print the 2 Timothy Companion Guide. Encourage all group members to prepare for Week 1 by completing the Context Questions page of the companion guide.

2 TIMOTHY READING PLAN

To learn more about each study tool, reference pages 5-8 of the 2 Timothy Companion Guide.

WEEK	TEXT:	PREPARE FOR DISCUSSION USING:
1	Context of 2 Timothy (You can use the introduction to 2 Timothy in your study Bible)	Prayer, Print Companion Guide, and Context Questions
2	All of 2 Timothy	Repetitive Reading and begin Annotation (Taking Notes)
3	2 Timothy 1:1-14	Cross Referencing (<i>Try starting with 2 Timothy 1:7</i>)
4	2 Timothy 1:15-2:13	Compare Translations
5	2 Timothy 2:14-26	Looking Up Definitions (Word Study) (<i>Examples: gangrene, enduring, honorable, gentleness, knowledge, babble</i>)
6	2 Timothy 3:1-9	Outlining
7	2 Timothy 3:10-4:5	Paraphrasing
8	2 Timothy 4:6-22	Commentary

WEEKLY TOOLS

We encourage the use of these tools repeatedly throughout the study:

- Prayer
- Repetitive Reading (of the passage for the week)
- Continued Annotation
- Responding to the Text

CHALLENGES

If you are looking for additional challenges in your study, try these tools:

- Read Contemporary Books for further context (e.g., 1 Timothy, Titus, Ephesians, Acts, other Epistles/Letters)
- Attributes of God Handout (see page 17 of the 2 Timothy Companion Guide)
- Prayer Journaling
- Memorizing Scripture (Try starting with 2 Timothy 2:1-3)

CULTIVATING STRONG GROUP DYNAMICS

We pray that as the women in your group get to know God better, they get to know one another better as well. Women who form strong ties within their discussion groups are more likely to commit to personal study throughout the week, and more likely to finish all eight weeks of study. We want to offer you some ideas for creating a strong group dynamic to form these relationships within your group this summer.

Lead your weekly gathering by facilitating discussion of study questions in a way that enables sharing from all those who wish to share and discouraging oversharing by any group member. Be mindful of the time during discussion, **keeping the group on track** to cover all response questions **within your allotted time frame**. We encourage doing this in a relaxed, conversational way. **Gently steer discussion away from stray topics or other study materials than that week's Biblical text.** Acknowledge any other topics that come up as important, but something that can be covered later, outside of the scheduled discussion time.

Reach out to each group member individually prior to the first week of study, and each week afterward if possible. Aim to welcome and support each woman in her study. Encourage questions, and be content answering, "I don't know." Reach out to Lauren Steckling, DWITW's Bible Initiatives Director at lrsteckling@gmail.com, other group leaders via the [DWITW 2 Timothy Group Leaders Facebook Group](#), or the pastor at your local church to find answers to questions when needed.

Try asking group members for prayer requests that can be shared with the group, as well as any private requests the group member wishes to share with you alone. Maintain strict confidentiality with information shared within discussion time and personal conversations with group members. If possible, learn which members are comfortable being called on to answer questions or pray aloud.

When possible, encourage attendance. Touch base with any women who miss the weekly discussion time to ask about their personal study time and to pray for them. This kind of communication will help them to return the following week if they are feeling discouraged.

FURTHER TIPS FOR GROUP DYNAMICS

Always endeavor to begin and end the weekly gathering time with prayer. This is essential! We need God to help us as we seek to understand his Word.

For the first few weeks, try beginning discussion by asking each woman to share a brief (60 second) high and low from her life that week to allow members to know each other better.

Get comfortable with silence. Eventually someone will speak up and answer. Be patient with the group as they get comfortable sharing with one another.

For virtual meetings, try to arrange a place for yourself with minimal distractions and good lighting for your face so your group members can see you. You also will want to find a quiet corner of your home if possible, and wear headphones to help with hearing group members.

Deal gently with overshayers. Learn to lead the conversation back toward the response questions when discussions veers off-topic. Make a simple transition to the next question or ask other participants to share by name if one person tends to dominate the discussion.

Keep the gospel central. If you find the discussion straying from the text toward questionable theology, gently transition back to the questions, or find a way to correct them in a loving way. You may want to do this at another time outside of the discussion time. If you have questions about a particular text, we encourage you to reach out to a trusted mentor or pastor in your local church for clarity.

Tell them what's next. Be sure to cover the assigned text and study tools for the coming week with them at the end of each session. Answer any questions they might have about the Bible study tools, or refer them to the [DWITW website](#) for additional resources.

You may want to create an index card or written list for each woman in your group with information and prayer requests to help you focus during your prayer time for each member. Keep these in a secure place!

Be warm, loving, kind and patient with your group. They are your little flock to shepherd during this study!

FINISHING WELL

Well done! You're nearing the end of your study of 2 Timothy. Here are some ideas for how to finish well.

NEXT STEPS

Be sure to review the “Next Steps: Wondering What To Do Next?” page with your group before the end of study. If you’ve noticed any giftings for teaching or leading in members of your group, encourage them to take some of these next steps in their walk with Bible Study, especially getting involved with their local church and attending DWITW’s monthly [Teaching Collective](#).

If you are able to attend DWITW’s upcoming conference: [Yet Even Now: A Weekend in Joel](#), October 23-24, invite your group members to register for the conference with you!

If you or any of your group members have questions about how to continue being involved with the mission of DWITW throughout the year, please contact us! Team position openings for 2021 will be shared on the DWITW website and social media outlets in the fall.

FINISH WELL AND CELEBRATE

We like to end our studies by celebrating what God has done, sharing stories and reviewing all that He has taught us. Find a way to do this that works for your group.

Maybe that’s sharing testimonies, praying or singing together, or making a long list of all God’s attributes you saw this summer as a group-- whatever helps you to remember what God has done and celebrate His faithfulness. And be sure to share on social media and tag us [@daytonwomenintheword](#) with the hashtag [#dwitw2timothy](#) so we can celebrate along with you!

GROUP LEADER FAQS

HOW LONG ARE WEEKLY DISCUSSION SESSIONS?

Depending on your group's size and specific needs, we recommend discussion time lasts between 45 minutes to 1 hour and 15 minutes.

WILL WE WATCH THE VIDEO BEFORE OUR DISCUSSION TIME OR AFTERWARD?

Each week's teaching video will be released on Wednesday, beginning June 10. We hope you and your group members will spend time each week in personal study and time in discussion with one another **before** watching the teaching video for that week. Discussion group time is meant to be used to discuss what the Lord has taught each member throughout her personal study that week. The video will remain available to watch online for the remainder of the study.

WHY ARE THE WEEKLY QUESTIONS THE SAME EACH WEEK?

In past years, each week of study has included discussion questions specific to that week's text to answer during personal study time and discuss during group time. This year, we want to focus on the study tool or tools introduced that week, as well as personally responding to the text. Watch our [2 Timothy Group Leader Introduction](#) video to learn more tips from Lauren for leading your group's discussion through these response questions each week. Please reach out to us with any questions about this change.

WHEN DOES SUMMER STUDY BEGIN AND END?

The 2020 Summer Study of 2 Timothy begins the week of June 8 and lasts for eight weeks, ending the last week of July.

WHO DO I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

Please remember you're not alone! If there is any way we can assist you with your study, please reach out to us and ask. We'd love nothing more than to equip you, pray for you and help you lead successfully.

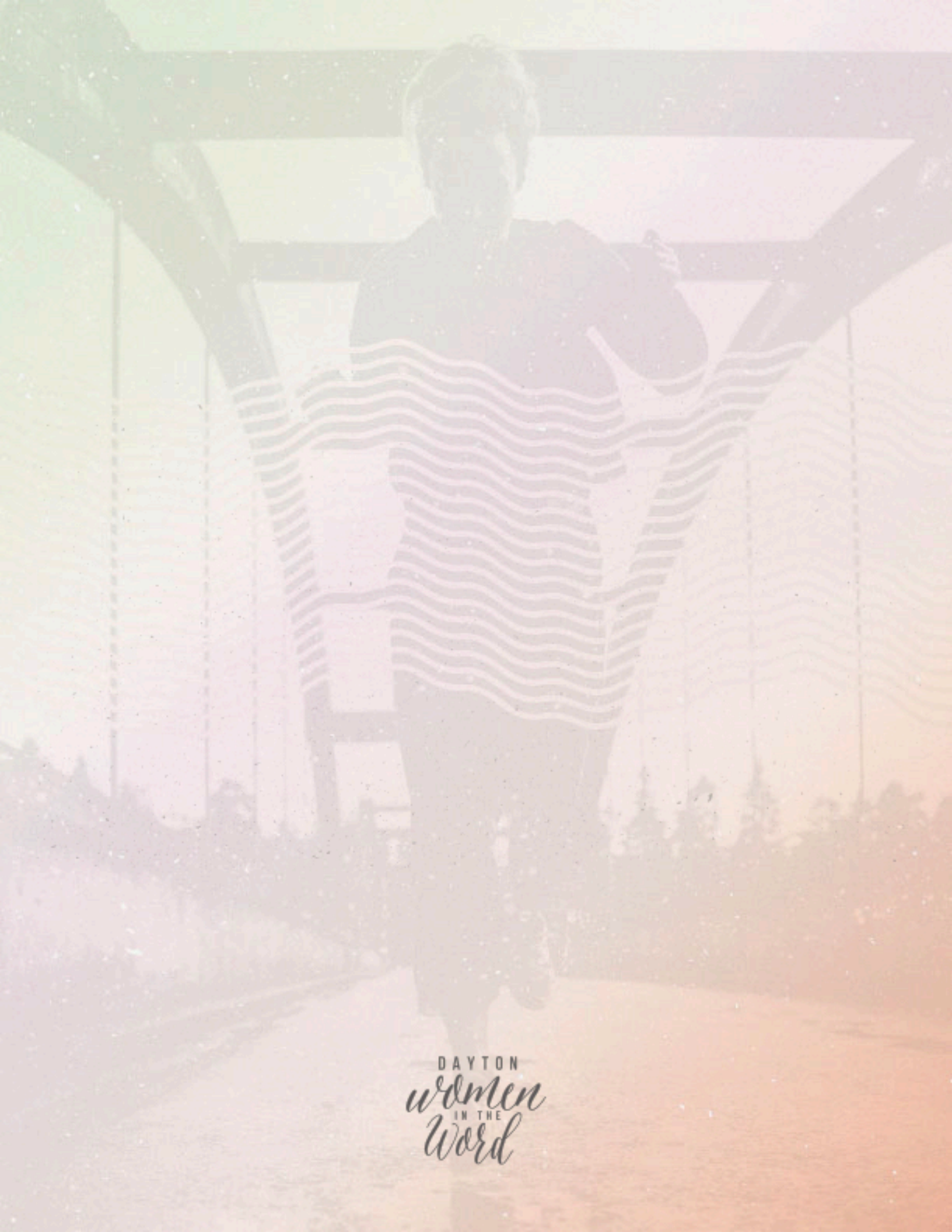
Contact **Lauren Steckling**, our Bible Initiatives Director, at lrsteckling@gmail.com.

HOW DO I ACCESS ZOOM FOR MY GROUP DISCUSSION TIME?

If you are leading a *DWITW* Group, or have requested to use a *DWITW* Zoom account, you will receive an email before the week of June 8 with a unique link to your Zoom meeting to be used for your scheduled weekly discussion time. You will pass this link on to your group members. More details about leading groups on Zoom can be found in the **Hosting Groups on Zoom Quick Guide**, available soon on our [Group Leader Resources](#) page.

WHAT IF A WOMAN IN MY GROUP DISCLOSES A SOCIAL NEED TO ME, SUCH AS A HARMFUL SITUATION OR MENTAL HEALTH ISSUE?

If, while getting to know your group members, you come across a social need such as a harmful situation or mental health issue, please reach out to *DWITW* Bible Initiatives Director, Lauren Steckling, immediately for assistance. Maintain confidentiality, but do not try to handle extreme situations alone.



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