

10 THINGS
JESUS
NEVER
SAID

and why you should
STOP believing them

WILL DAVIS JR.

LEADERS GUIDE

10 THINGS JESUS NEVER SAID

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WELCOME TO THE **LEADER'S GUIDE** FOR *TEN THINGS JESUS NEVER SAID: AND WHY YOU SHOULD STOP BELIEVING THEM.*

I'm honored that you've chosen to study *Ten Things*, and I applaud you for taking on a small group leadership role. I believe that God will use this study not only to help you and your group members grow in your relationships with Christ and with each other, but also to grow and mature you as a leader.

In this guide,

I want to equip you to lead your group's sessions in a meaningful and practical way. I want you to feel totally set up to win as you embark on this leadership journey. Beyond that, I want to prepare you to see firsthand the life-change that can come to others when the realities of grace really get hold of them. You're going to see "the lights come on" for some of your group members in the coming weeks, and those are going to be unforgettable moments for both you and them.

STUDY GOALS

Below are five goals I have for you and your group as you begin this study:

GOAL #1

To have your group members better understand Jesus' invitation to rest and to fully embrace it in each of their lives. If that's all that happens, if you never discuss any of the things Jesus didn't say, but you grasp the power of the Matthew 11:28-30 promise discussed in the first and last chapters of the book, then we've still been successful. It's that important.

GOAL #2

To change how your church members view God. Most of us have some type of God-baggage. It comes with being both sinful and finite. We've believed those lies about him that Jesus never ever said. This study is going to help you and your group members jettison your poor thinking about God and embrace the wonderful and humbling truths of who he really is and how he really sees us.

GOAL #3

To change how your church members view themselves. The devil plants all kinds of lies in our brains about who we are and how God views us, and I discuss several of them in the book. *Ten Things* is going to help you and your group members develop a better biblical view of who they are in Christ and how God really sees them. It will be very liberating for them.

GOAL #4

To change how your church members view others. A few of the chapters in *Ten Things* address our legalistic or immature views toward others. We write them off or just simply judge them and gossip about them. So along with applying the concept of grace to ourselves, *Ten Things* is going to challenge you and your group members to apply it to others as well. These sessions may surprise you and should be fun to lead.

GOAL #5

To multiply the message of Ten Things through group reproduction. As your group studies *Ten Things*, you're each going to think of people who need to hear what it's saying. I want you to challenge your group members to act on those feeling and to invite others to join them in a study of *Ten Things* over coffee, in their homes, or in another formal small group setting that they lead. This challenge will grow your members and will help others discover the life-changing message of *Ten Things Jesus Never Said*.

GETTING STARTED

Below are a few suggestions for getting your group off to a good start.

1. **Start praying for the group.** Pray every day for your group members during the study. Your prayers will add momentum to the group and will increase the Holy Spirit's activity during your meetings.
2. **Group size.** Pray every day for your group members during the study. Your prayers will add momentum to the group and will increase the Holy Spirit's activity during your meetings.
3. **Group members.** *Ten Things* is written with Christians in mind. It assumes the reader is a believer who wants and needs to better understand grace. Use your judgment on whether a nonbeliever would enjoy the group. While most of the chapters will probably speak to and encourage them, one or two might be offensive to them.
4. **Confidentiality.** You'll want to establish early on the safety and confidentiality of the group. I strongly recommend that you complete a small group covenant together at the first meeting, where you agree to meeting times, attendance requirements and most of all, confidentiality. The topics in *Ten Things* can yield some revealing and even life-changing conversations, but only if group members feel safe. As the leader, you can help set the tone from day one by modeling a non-judgmental attitude, by being the first to share some of the more intimate details of your own struggles with grace, and by insisting on confidentiality.

GROUP SESSIONS

1. Meet weekly rather than every other week. Meeting bimonthly adds twice the length to your schedule and can inhibit group momentum and intimacy.
2. Try to keep your meetings at to one-and-a half to two hours. This should provide ample time for discussion and prayer.
3. Delegate group responsibilities. Give group members various jobs, depending on their comfort levels. Ask one to be the prayer leader. Ask another to serve as timekeeper. You might also ask different members to lead the discussion on various chapters. That will take some pressure off you and allow others to take on a leadership role.
4. There are thirteen chapters and an appendix in *Ten Things*, which may be more than you want to try to tackle for a small group study. You're certainly welcome to try. But, you might consider choosing as a group which chapters you want to study in your sessions. Good small group studies are anywhere from 3-8 weeks, so pick your favorite 5-8 chapters and have at it! My only request is that you start your study with Chapter 1--*The Most Important Thing Jesus Ever Said*--as it sets the tone for the rest of the book.
5. There are study questions at the end of each chapter in *Ten Things*. They're written to move your discussion toward application and thinking about life-change as you move through them. Feel free to add to them and/or reword them to suit your group's needs. The questions are there as conversation starters and to help you better process the information in each chapter.

POSSIBLE STUDIES

FROM *TEN THINGS JESUS NEVER SAID*:

OPTION 1

Things Jesus Never Said... About God's Relationship with You

(3-6 weeks, depending on how many chapters you study.)

- Week 1** Read and Discuss Chapter 1—*The Most Important Thing Jesus Ever Said*
- Week 2** Read and Discuss Chapter 2—*You're too Far Gone to be Saved*
- Week 3** Read and Discuss Chapter 3—*I'm so Disappointed in You*
- Week 4** Read and Discuss Chapter 7—*Try Harder*
- Week 5** Read and Discuss Chapter 9—*You Missed God's Will*
- Week 6** Read and Discuss Chapter 10—*You are No Longer a Christian*

OPTION 2

Things Jesus Never Said... About Your Relationship with Others

(4 weeks)

- Week 1** Read and Discuss Chapter 1—*The Most Important Thing Jesus Ever Said*
- Week 2** Read and Discuss Chapter 5—*You Only have to Love Other Christians*
- Week 3** Read and Discuss Chapter 6—*Other Christians must Live and Believe Like You Do*
- Week 4** Read and Discuss Chapter 8—*You Don't have to Forgive Everyone*

OPTION 3

Top Three Things Jesus Never Said (That most People Think He Said)

(4 weeks)

- Week 1** Read and Discuss Chapter 3—*I'm So Disappointed in You*
- Week 2** Read and Discuss Chapter 4—*If You were a Better Christian, this wouldn't be Happening.*
- Week 3** Read and Discuss Chapter 11—*This is Just a Cross You must Bear*
- Week 4** Read and Discuss Chapter 1—*The Most Important Thing Jesus ever Said*

I pray that God will use *Ten Things Jesus Never Said* powerfully in you and your group's life. If you have any stories of how God uses the book, I'd love to hear them. Feel free to email me at srpastor@acfellowship.org.