### A LEADER GUIDE FOR

# CROWN HIIM KING

A STUDY ON THE KINGDOM OF GOD

### A LETTER FROM Gretchen

#### Dear Sister,

First of all, I want to thank you for your willingness to lead a group of women in this study. Christ sees you, and he is greatly honored by your heart to serve him through serving others. In Acts 2:42–47, we see a beautiful picture of what fellowship among believers is to look like. Verse 42 says, "And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." Fellowship begins with worship and the Word. I pray that your small group looks like this verse—devoted to Scripture, to serving one another, and to praying in Jesus' name. I believe God is going to do a mighty work in your group as you meet together weekly to share what you're learning and encourage one another in the Lord.

Second, it's my goal through this leader guide to help equip you to lead your group. Coordinating a small group can be intimidating. For some of you, this is the first group you've led, and you're nervous just thinking about it! Others may be seasoned Bible study leaders and feel comfortable in this setting. Either way, I pray we would all come to the Lord with open hands and humble hearts as we seek to pour into the women around us. Recognizing how small we are and how great God is is the best place to start.

On the following pages, you'll find some practical encouragement for leading your small group and questions to help spark conversation during your meetings. You know your group, and I trust that you will prayerfully lead each week by being led by the Holy Spirit. This study is about knowing Christ more through Scripture, and the Word should be the main focus of your sessions. I pray this time would be protected and blessed in the Lord.

Before we begin, I want to pray for you.

Father, you are high and holy, yet you are also near us and always with us. The treasures you have stored up within your Word are innumerable. We want to spend our days digging for treasure and dining at your table. Thank you for the women who are going to be reading this study. Thank you for their hearts to serve you and to teach others the truth of the gospel. I pray you would first change their own hearts as they study, and in turn, that you would give them the wisdom to teach and lead those around them. Open their eyes to behold wondrous things from your law (Ps. 119:18). I pray Christ would be glorified in this study and in our lives. In Jesus' mighty name. Amen.

Crowning him King of kings,

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### PREPARING TO LEAD a small group

- Create a space that is inviting and welcoming. If you're meeting in your home, don't feel that everything has to look perfect each week. God might use the mess to bring freedom to another woman! The way you show hospitality and welcome them in will show them the unfailing love of Christ. If you're meeting in a church or another local area, try to find a spot without distractions that will be a safe place for women to talk and participate in the group.
- You set the level of vulnerability for your group. What I mean is that as you share from your own heart and personal experiences, other women will open up to share. Along with this, make sure that your group is not a place to gossip. Set the standard from the start that group meetings will be confidential and that any conversation that is steering in the wrong direction will be redirected.
- Pray before and after the study. It's easy to rush through group meetings without first quieting our hearts to pray, but this is vital. Lead the group in prayer and ask other women to pray as well.
- Protect the time you meet together. It's good to have some structure and a set time limit for your meetings. That way, each group member knows the allotted time and will feel comfortable leaving once the meeting time is over, even if some women decide to stay and fellowship.



- 1. Share the dates and times that you will be meeting so the women know ahead of time and can commit to being there. Pass out their study books if they don't already have them and instruct them to complete the first week of study before the next meeting. There are five days of study each week plus a weekend reflection.
- **2.** Begin by sharing the guidelines of the group. Guidelines could include:
  - **\*** This group is a confidential, safe place, unless there is any indication of harm or danger.
  - This group is a commitment.
  - This group is a place to ask questions, encourage one another, and seek Christ together. It's a place where we will speak life, hope, and freedom into others, not a place to gossip.
- 3. Consider an icebreaker game or question to introduce the women to one another. You could ask fun get-to-know-you questions such as: If you were stranded on a desert island and could only have three items with you, what would they be and why? Or, if you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go and why? Questions like these are designed to get women comfortable with each other.
- 4. Next, share your story. As the leader, sharing your testimony will help the women to know you and trust you. Tell them how you came to know Jesus and why you are leading the group. Remember, women will follow your lead about how to share in this group. There will be plenty of opportunities to share more of your story throughout the following seven weeks, so you can keep this just a brief introduction.
- 5. If you have time, go around the group and have the women share their own stories. Give each woman three to five minutes each.
- **6.** Close the group by sharing contact info and praying for one another.



### WEEK ONE: Crown Him King of Creation

Open in Prayer: Ask God to open the eyes of your hearts as you study.

Weekly Memorization: Begin with the weekly memory verse, Psalm 103:19. Offer to practice as a group or ask if a volunteer wants to recite it. Be willing and prepared to share yourself.

**Discussion:** Walk through the following questions from each day with your group. Remember that answering the simple questions can help women feel prepared to answer the more difficult questions as well.

### DAY ONE | COME TO THE KING

What characteristics come to mind when you consider the kingdom of God? (page 8)

Where in your life do you tend to depend upon the kingdom of this world? (page 8)

Are there circumstances in your past or present that have led you to doubt either God's power or his kindness as he rules? (page 8)

When your heart is wrestling with sin, where do you turn to for help? (page 8)

### DAY TWO | WHAT IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

What do Mark 1:15 and Matthew 4:32 reveal about the kingdom of God? (page 10)

What are the three Ps used to describe the kingdom of God in today's study? (page 11)

How does the kingdom of God offer us an unshakable hope? (see page 13)

In what difficult circumstance do you need to remember that God is powerful, you are one of his people, and your eternity is secure in his kingdom? (page 13)

#### DAY THREE | WORSHIP THE KING

What are some ways you've misplaced your worship recently? (see page 14)

How does misplaced worship rob you of peace and keep you from living under God's power? (see page 14)

As you've opened your Bible to see the basics of the kingdom of God in Scripture, what have you learned about God's heart for his people and his creation? (page 18)

Do you ever doubt God's heart for you? For our world? How is your life different when you live from doubt instead of faith? (page 18)

### WEEK ONE: Crown Him King of Creation

### DAY FOUR | THE KING OF CREATION

What do you learn about God's place in the creation account? (page 19)

Take note of *how* God created the world and how he viewed his creative work. What repeated words are used in the creation narrative? (page 19)

What part of creation do you delight in? (page 20)

Look through the pictures on your phone until you find one that showcases the beauty of creation. What in this image leads you back to the Creator? (page 22)

### DAY FIVE | THE KING'S PEOPLE

In what specific ways does God's creation of man and woman differ from the rest of his creative work? (page 23)

The King exercised his power to create through his words. What implication does this carry for his commands to his people? (page 24)

Why does bearing God's image bring him glory? (page 25)

What practical ways can you accomplish your work for the glory of God? (page 26)

Is there anything else from this week's study that stood out to you?

### WEEKLY APPLICATION

Before you wrap up, share something new you learned about God or the gospel in your study this week. Then share how you can apply that truth to your daily life.

Close in Prayer: End your time together by using the weekly memory verse, Psalm 103:19, to guide your closing prayer.

Lord, we praise you for establishing your kingdom, and we boldly come before your throne of grace. Open our eyes to see your kingdom clearly so that we may worship you in truth as the King of our hearts. Amen.

### WEEK TWO: Crown Him King of History

Open in Prayer: Ask God to open the eyes of your hearts as you study.

Weekly Memorization: Begin with the weekly memory verse, Colossians 1:16–17. Offer to practice as a group or ask if a volunteer wants to recite it. Be willing and prepared to share yourself.

**Discussion:** Walk through the following questions from each day with your group. Remember that answering the simple questions can help women feel prepared to answer the more difficult questions as well.

#### DAY ONE | THE KING'S PEOPLE REBEL

What kind of relationship does the serpent tempt Eve to have with the King's place? (page 30) How does the fall of Adam and Eve affect the kingdom of God as seen in the garden? (page 31) What good rules or commands are given in God's Word that you're tempted to reject? (page 32) What is it about that area of your life that makes you want to grab power for yourself? (page 32)

### DAY TWO | THE KING AND THE SEED

What consequences does God say Adam and Eve will face due to their rebellion? (page 33)

How would you describe the relationship the King's people now have with each other and with his place? (page 33)

How does God display his power and authority over the serpent in Genesis 3:14? (page 33)

What past brokenness, sin struggle, or stronghold have you allowed to block your view of God's mercy? (page 35)

#### DAY THREE | THE KING JUDGES

What emotions do you feel when you read about God's judgment? (page 37)

What parts of the flood narrative are a picture of God's future rescue in Christ? (page 38)

How does remembering God's grace affect how you feel about God's judgment? (page 38)

What sin should you confess today to receive the mercy and grace offered by Jesus' work on the cross? (page 39)

### WEEK TWO: Crown Him King of History

### DAY FOUR | THE HOPE OF A KINGDOM

In God's calling of Abram, how do you see the hope of God's kingdom on display in this promise? (page 40)

How did God display his power to Abraham and Sarah, Abraham's wife? (page 41)

In what ways did God's kingly rule over Abraham's life lead him to the place he ordained in Genesis 12? What future place was Abraham looking forward to? (page 41)

What do you need to surrender to God's kingly rule, and how will laying down this hope or desire transform your heart and actions? (page 42)

### DAY FIVE | THE KING'S GREATER PLAN

Who does Joseph attribute his circumstances to? (page 45)

How does Joseph treat his brothers? (page 45)

What circumstances in your past turned out differently than you expected? How can you see that God was working his power for your good despite your disappointment? (page 47)

What current circumstances aren't what you planned? Use God's faithfulness in the past to remind yourself that he will be faithful in this too. (page 47)

Is there anything else from this week's study that stood out to you?

### WEEKLY APPLICATION

Before you wrap up, share something new you learned about God or the gospel in your study this week. Then share how you can apply that truth to your daily life.

**Close in Prayer:** End your time together by using the weekly memory verse, Colossians 1:16–17, to guide your closing prayer.

Lord, we are in awe of your power displayed in creation, and we praise you for ruling over all. We repent for the times we've looked to things of this world or to ourselves to try to hold our lives together, and we acknowledge that it is only you who has true power to do so. You are the only One worthy of our worship. Help us to live for your glory. Amen.

### WEEK THREE: Crown Him King of Kings

Open in Prayer: Ask God to open the eyes of your hearts as you study.

Weekly Memorization: Begin with the weekly memory verse, Deuteronomy 10:17. Offer to practice as a group or ask if a volunteer wants to recite it. Be willing and prepared to share yourself.

**Discussion:** Walk through the following questions from each day with your group. Remember that answering the simple questions can help women feel prepared to answer the more difficult questions as well.

### DAY ONE | THE KING DELIVERS

What does Exodus 2:23–25 reveal about the true King's care for his people while they are under the rule of Pharaoh? (page 51)

From your reading of Exodus 6:6–8, what are the King's promises to the people of Israel as they relate to the kingdom of God? (page 51)

From your reading of Colossians 1:13–20, how have we experienced deliverance through Christ into the kingdom of God? (page 53)

How does knowing that Christ is not only the Deliverer of your soul from sin but also the King of creation who rules over all thrones, dominions, rulers, and authorities change the way you view obstacles in your life? (page 53)

### DAY TWO | THE KING'S LAW

What do you learn about the sacrifice of Jesus in Hebrews 10:11-14? (page 56)

What do you learn about Jesus' relationship to the law in Matthew 5:17-18? (page 56)

What is your relationship with the law of God like? (page 57)

How does living under the reign of God's law differ from living under the reign of sin for God's people? (page 57)

### DAY THREE | THE KING'S PLACE

How does the Lord punish the Israelites for their unbelief? (page 6o)

What do we learn about God's provision for the people as they wandered in the wilderness? (page 61)

### WEEK THREE: Crown Him King of Kings

Is your heart quick to complain when provision seems lacking? Is there anything you've grumbled about lacking in your current season? (page 62)

What kind of season are you walking in? What is the King teaching you about his character, faithfulness, and provision? (page 62)

### DAY FOUR | THE KING CONQUERS

Describe the cycle of rebellion the Israelites are perpetuating. (see page 65)

What does Judges 21:25 reveal about the King's people? (page 66)

Are there any areas in your life that you're withholding from God? What are they? (page 66)

What sin patterns have you excused away instead of repenting and turning from them? (page 66)

### DAY FIVE | THE UNEXPECTED KING

From your reading of 1 Samuel 16:1–13, how does Scripture describe David? (page 68)

Why does God choose him? (page 68)

What leader in your life are you tempted to put your trust in? (page 69)

Consider what you want from that leader. How does King Jesus offer you a better hope for that longing? (page 69)

Is there anything else from this week's study that stood out to you?

### WEEKLY APPLICATION

Before you wrap up, share something new you learned about God or the gospel in your study this week. Then share how you can apply that truth to your daily life.

**Close in Prayer:** End your time together by using the weekly memory verse, Deuteronomy 10:17, to guide your closing prayer.

Lord, we praise you for being God of gods and Lord of lords. You are mighty to save and your works leave us in awe. Thank you for the gift of your Word. Please use it to reveal more of yourself to us. Amen.

### WEEK FOUR: Crown Him King of the Nations

Open in Prayer: Ask God to open the eyes of your hearts as you study.

Weekly Memorization: Begin with the weekly memory verse, Psalm 22:28. Offer to practice as a group or ask if a volunteer wants to recite it. Be willing and prepared to share yourself.

**Discussion:** Walk through the following questions from each day with your group. Remember that answering the simple questions can help women feel prepared to answer the more difficult questions as well.

#### DAY ONE | THE PROMISED KING

How has God dwelt among his people through their years of wandering? (page 74)

How are the King's place and his presence integrally connected? (page 74)

What promises does God make to David? (page 74)

What good plans have you made or hopes and dreams have you had that didn't come to fruition? How does the promise of 2 Samuel 7 offer you hope for these disappointments? (page 76)

### DAY TWO | THE KINGDOM DIVIDED

What does God reveal to Solomon about his kingdom prior to Solomon's death? (page 77)

What do you learn about God's plans and purposes in I Kings 12:15? (page 77)

What connection do you see between what you've learned today and Romans 3:23–26? (page 79)

How can God be both just and justifier through the work of Jesus Christ? (page 79)

#### DAY THREE | THE KING'S PEOPLE ARE JUDGED

What happens to the Northern Kingdom? (page 80)

What happens to Judah, the Southern Kingdom? (page 81)

What stood out to you most from your answers to the idolatry heart check? (page 82)

What do you need to repent from based on your answers? (page 82)

### WEEK FOUR: Crown Him King of the Nations

### DAY FOUR | THE COMING KING

What are you waiting for that has you tempted to give up hope? (page 88)

How does remembering that you are one of the King's people help you wait? (page 88)

How might remembering your King's power help you persevere in the waiting? (page 89)

How does remembering that you will one day dwell in the presence of the King in his place help you keep perspective as you wait? (page 89)

### DAY FIVE | THE HOPE IN EXILE

What does Jeremiah 16:14–15 reveal about God's powerful rescue of his people? How do you see the kingdom of God on display? (page 91)

What sins in your past did you spend a season being blind to? (page 93)

Where in your life are you harboring sin now? (page 93)

How does the description of the new covenant in Jeremiah 31 offer you hope in these broken places? (page 94)

Is there anything else from this week's study that stood out to you?

### WEEKLY APPLICATION

Before you wrap up, share something new you learned about God or the gospel in your study this week. Then share how you can apply that truth to your daily life.

**Close in Prayer:** End your time together by using the weekly memory verse, Psalm 22:28, to guide your closing prayer.

Lord, you are our King. We praise you today for ruling over all the nations with goodness and mercy. Thank you for all that you've done for us and for all that you've taught us through your Word this week. Help us to remember it and apply it. Amen.

### WEEK FIVE: Crown Him King of Life

Open in Prayer: Ask God to open the eyes of your hearts as you study.

Weekly Memorization: Begin with the weekly memory verse, John 1:14. Offer to practice as a group or ask if a volunteer wants to recite it. Be willing and prepared to share yourself.

**Discussion:** Walk through the following questions from each day with your group. Remember that answering the simple questions can help women feel prepared to answer the more difficult questions as well.

### DAY ONE | THE KING IS BORN

Why is it important that Jesus' genealogy includes David and Abraham? (page 98)

What details of Christ's birth indicate that he is the long-awaited King? (page 99)

What do the angels proclaim about the King? (page 100)

What does the humble nature of Jesus' birth reveal about God's power over all places and people? (page 101)

### DAY TWO | THE PURPOSE OF THE KING

As Jesus starts his earthly ministry, what does he declare about the kingdom of God? (page 103)

What is the end goal of the signs and wonders performed by Jesus? (page 104)

How have you seen the King's power at work in your own life recently? (page 105)

What holds you back or distracts you from recognizing and believing in the King's power? (page 105)

#### DAY THREE | THE UPSIDE-DOWN KINGDOM

Which Beatitude are you currently learning in your walk with the Lord? Which Beatitude would you like to grow in? (page 108)

What is an area of your life where you've believed that the path of the world's kingdom is best for you? (page 110)

What truth did you learn about God's kingdom today that shows you the goodness of its path? (page 110)

How could you incorporate more kingdom-oriented prayers in your life to help you follow the path of God's kingdom? (page 110)

### WEEK FIVE: Crown Him King of Life

### DAY FOUR | THE KINGDOM OF ABUNDANT LIFE

Describe what you learned about the kingdom of God from your brief study of the Gospels of Mark, Luke, and John. (see pages 111–114)

Knowing Christ is the Son of God who experienced life on earth as God in flesh, what hope do you have as you go throughout your days? (page 115)

How do Christ's interactions with the lost, the lonely, the sick, and the lame comfort your heart? (page 115)

Are you living the *zoe* life under the headship of Christ? What misconceptions might you have in regard to what abundant life in Christ truly means? (page 115)

### DAY FIVE | THE KINGDOM OF GOD THROUGH CHRIST

What does I Corinthians 15:20–22 reveal about Christ as the true Adam? (page 116)

How do Jesus' death and resurrection fulfill the prophecy of John 2:18–22? How does this display God's authority and power over his place? (page 117)

Who is God's temple? Why can Christians be a temple? (page 118)

In what areas of your life do you need God's power to be a holy temple, set apart unto the Lord? (page 120)

Is there anything else from this week's study that stood out to you?

### WEEKLY APPLICATION

Before you wrap up, share something new you learned about God or the gospel in your study this week. Then share how you can apply that truth to your daily life.

**Close in Prayer:** End your time together by using the weekly memory verse, John 1:14, to guide your closing prayer.

Lord, thank you for sending the Word to become flesh and to dwell among us. Thank you for saving us through the sacrifice of your Son. We kneel in awe at the grace and mercy we don't deserve. Help us to never become indifferent to your gift of salvation. Amen.

### WEEK SIX: Crown Him King Over Death

Open in Prayer: Ask God to open the eyes of your hearts as you study.

Weekly Memorization: Begin with the weekly memory verse, I Corinthians 15:55–57. Offer to practice as a group or ask if a volunteer wants to recite it. Be willing and prepared to share yourself.

**Discussion:** Walk through the following questions from each day with your group. Remember that answering the simple questions can help women feel prepared to answer the more difficult questions as well.

### DAY ONE | THE HUMBLE KING HUMILIATED

How does the anointing of Jesus at Bethany show his kingship? (page 124)

In what ways does the King's prayer in the garden of Gethsemane fulfill God's kingdom purposes since Genesis 3:15? (page 125)

What is the King's greater plan revealed by Jesus in Matthew 26:54-56? How does this show Jesus' submission to the will of the Father? (page 126)

How does Christ redeem your shame? (page 127)

### DAY TWO | THE KING IS JUDGED

When Jesus stands before Pilate, what judgment do the people make concerning Jesus? (page 129)

Why did Jesus endure the cross when it was in his power to deliver himself? (page 130)

What sin in your life do you struggle to experience victory over? (page 131)

Because Christ took your place in judgment, how will you live in victory over sin that so easily entangles? (page 131)

#### DAY THREE | THE KING CONQUERS DEATH

What came through the first person of the King (Adam)? What comes through the Person of the King? (page 132)

What impact do the King's death and resurrection have on the people as they wait for him? (page 133)

Read through the "Because Jesus conquered death" statements from today's study again. Which statement encourages you the most today? Why? (page 134)

### WEEK SIX: Crown Him King Over Death

Which statement makes you the most uncomfortable? Why? What circumstances in your life need the application of that truth? What is one practical way you can remind yourself of that truth this week when your faith starts to falter? (page 134)

### DAY FOUR | THE KING IS RULING AND REIGNING

What will the disciples receive? When will they receive it? What will they do with it? (page 135)

Where do you see Peter declaring the kingship of Jesus in the sermon recorded in Acts 2:22-36? (page 136)

How does Peter call the people to respond? How does this remind you of Jesus' initial proclamation in Mark 1:15? (page 136)

How do your actions proclaim the gospel to those around you? How do you use your words to proclaim the gospel to those around you? (page 138)

### DAY FIVE | THE PEOPLE OF THE KINGDOM

What kind of language is used to describe how the King's people enter the kingdom of God? Why is it necessary for this measure to be taken to enter the kingdom? (page 140)

What commands are the King's people given in regards to sin? What are the King's people to do instead now that they're under his reign? (page 140)

What sinful passions or desires are you currently most prone to let rule over you? (page 142)

What would it look like to come more fully under the King's rule in this area? What does God's Word say about it? (page 142)

Is there anything else from this week's study that stood out to you?

### WEEKLY APPLICATION

Before you wrap up, share something new you learned about God or the gospel in your study this week. Then share how you can apply that truth to your daily life.

Close in Prayer: End your time together by using the weekly memory verse, I Corinthians 15:55–57, to guide your closing prayer.

Lord, we rejoice in the fact that Jesus has conquered the power of sin and death! Thank you, Jesus, for enduring the cross and taking on a punishment you didn't deserve for our sake. Because of your death and resurrection, sin and death have no hold on us anymore. Our victory is only through you. Thanks be to God. Amen.

### WEEK SEVEN: Crown Him King Forever

Open in Prayer: Ask God to open the eyes of your hearts as you study.

Weekly Memorization: Begin with the weekly memory verse, Revelation 11:16–17. Offer to practice as a group or ask if a volunteer wants to recite it. Be willing and prepared to share yourself.

**Discussion:** Walk through the following questions from each day with your group. Remember that answering the simple questions can help women feel prepared to answer the more difficult questions as well.

### DAY ONE | THE KING COMMISSIONS

What command does the King give to his people in Matthew 28:18–20? What promise does the King make that enables his people to respond to this command? (page 146)

How does the Holy Spirit's indwelling display the kingdom of God at work in our lives today? (page 147)

What does the King commission us to do as his ambassadors? (page 148)

Consider how your commissioning as God's ambassador shapes your daily life. How can you share, live, and treasure the good news in the places God has you? (pages 149–150)

### DAY TWO | THE KINGDOM THAT CANNOT BE SHAKEN

What do you learn about the King in Malachi 3:6 and Hebrews 13:8 that demonstrates why his kingdom is unshakable? (page 152)

What are the two responses of the Christian to the unshakable kingdom that are described in Hebrews 12:28? (page 152)

Are you living for the temporary pleasures that the shaky kingdom of earth has to offer, or are you living for the eternal kingdom of God? (see page 153)

What circumstances in your life feel shaky right now? How do God's unchanging nature and unshakable kingdom shape your response to those circumstances? (page 154)

### DAY THREE | THE KING'S FINAL JUDGMENT

What adjectives would you use to describe Jesus' second coming? When can you expect it? (page 155)

Who are the goats on the King's left? Are these the King's people? How do you know? What is the consequence of their actions? (page 156)

### WEEK SEVEN: Crown Him King Forever

How is the King's judgment described in 2 Thessalonians 1:5? (page 156)

How is a person justified before God? How does remembering your positional righteousness on judgment day impact your understanding of good works and sanctification today? (pages 158, 160)

## DAY FOUR | THE NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH: GOD'S ETERNAL KINGDOM

When you think about heaven, what is the first thing that comes to mind? How has your understanding of heaven been shaped? (page 161)

How is the King's power displayed in heaven? (page 162)

What will the experience of the King's people be when they are finally with the King? What will the King's place be like? (pages 163–164)

How has God deepened your understanding of your eternal home through what you've studied? What is one specific promise from today's study that encourages you to endure through a present trial or struggle? (page 165)

### DAY FIVE | CROWN HIM KING

How does Jesus identify himself as King, and what promise does he leave his people with? (page 166)

What will happen to believers at the King's second coming? (page 166)

How does knowing the King is coming again impact how we live today? (page 166)

As you end this study, what area of your life will you commit to crown Jesus King over with the help of the Holy Spirit? (page 169)

Is there anything else from this week's study that stood out to you?

### WEEKLY APPLICATION

Before you wrap up, share something new you learned about God or the gospel in your study this week. Then share how you can apply that truth to your daily life.

**Close in Prayer:** End your time together by using the weekly memory verse, Revelation 11:16–17, to guide your closing prayer.

We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was! We praise you, for you have taken your great power and begun to reign. We look forward to the day of your return, and we rejoice in the glory set before us! Amen.