

*“I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in his word I put my hope.”*

PSALM 130:5

*W*ords to Live By: One Word a Week provides a fresh way of activating and optimizing God's Word in our thoughts, words, and actions. Each week, participants are encouraged to read five devotions related to one specific action word and consider how God may choose to use that word in conjunction with His Word for enhancing our understanding of His will and His work in our lives.

The *Words to Live By* Study Guide encourages participants to incorporate five steps into their daily devotion and weekly discussions: recognizing the need for each word; sharing examples of new understanding related to each word; recalling a specific devotion which helped them perceive the word in a different way; studying God's Word to see how He reveals Himself through each word; and praying that God enables them to activate that word more fully in their lives.

Although the Study Guide provides a simple outline which provides consistency and invites interaction, it may be adapted easily to the preferences of each leader or participant.

It is our prayer that through each of these words God will speak to your heart and draw you closer to His.

LINDA GILDEN and DALENE PARKER,
Co-authors *Words to Live By: One Word a Week*

WEEK 14

WORD OF THE WEEK:

THANK

(pages 79 - 84)

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE: Think of a specific person who has impacted your life in a meaningful way and give him or her a call (or write a note) to demonstrate your thankfulness.

How do you know you *need* to THANK?

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In what ways are you *learning* to THANK?

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Which devotion(s) from this week helped you consider THANKING in a different or deeper way?

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How does the following scripture (and/or other passage) remind you to THANK?

Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

How might you pray, asking God to help you THANK?

WEEK 15

WORD OF THE WEEK:

FOCUS

(pages 85 - 90)

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE: Each day, ask God to direct your focus and help you not to miss the things He wants you to notice or prioritize.

How do you know you *need* to FOCUS?

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In what ways are you *learning* to FOCUS?

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Which devotion(s) from this week helped you consider FOCUSING in a different or deeper way?

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How does the following scripture (and/or other passage) remind you to FOCUS?

We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. (Hebrews 2:1)

How might you pray, asking God to help you FOCUS?

WEEK 16

WORD OF THE WEEK:

FORGIVE

(pages 91-96)

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE: Ask the Lord to help you forgive yourself and others quickly so that you do not get mired in regret or resentment.

How do you know you *need* to FORGIVE?

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In what ways are you *learning* to FORGIVE?

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Which devotion(s) from this week helped you consider FORGIVING in a different or deeper way?

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How does the following scripture (and/or other passage) remind you to FORGIVE?

Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits—who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion.

(*Psalm 103:2-4*)

How might you pray, asking God to help you FORGIVE?

WEEK 17

WORD OF THE WEEK:

HONOR

(pages 97-102)

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE: Show honor and respect to those in authority over you — and ask the Lord to help you be a leader worthy of honor if you are in charge.

How do you know you *need* to HONOR?

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In what ways are you *learning* to HONOR?

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Which devotion(s) from this week helped you consider HONORING in a different or deeper way?

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How does the following scripture (and/or other passage) remind you to FOCUS?

I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart...Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for—both riches and honor—so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings. (1 Kings 3:12a, 13)

How might you pray, asking God to help you HONOR Him those in authority, and/or Honor your commitments?

WEEK 18

WORD OF THE WEEK:

PREPARE

(pages 103-108)

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE: Focus on an area of your heart or your home which is in need of preparation. Ask the Lord to direct you.

How do you know you *need* to PREPARE?

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In what ways are you *learning* to PREPARE?

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Which devotion(s) from this week helped you consider PREPARING in a different or deeper way?

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How does the following scripture (and/or other passage) remind you to **PREPARE**?

If the King regards me with favor and if it pleases the king to grant my petition and fulfill my request, let the king and Haman come tomorrow to the banquet I will prepare for them. Then I will answer the king's question. (Esther 5:8)

How might you pray, asking God to help you PREPARE?

WEEK 19

WORD OF THE WEEK:

OBEY

(pages 109-114)

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE: Examine your heart for ways you have not fully obeyed God's Word or His promptings. This week, determine to walk in obedience to what God is teaching you and note the results.

How do you know you *need* to OBEY?

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In what ways are you *learning* to OBEY?

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Which devotion(s) from this week helped you consider OBEYING in a different or deeper way?

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How does the following scripture (and/or other passage) remind you to OBEY?

The LORD commanded us to obey all these decrees and to fear the LORD our God, so that we might always prosper and be kept alive, as is the case today. (Deuteronomy 6:24)

How might you pray, asking God to help you OBEY?

WEEK 20

WORD OF THE WEEK:

WORK

(pages 115-120)

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE: This week, offer the work that you do unto the Lord, seeking to please Him with your motives, your efforts, and your skill.

How do you know you *need* to WORK?

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In what ways are you *learning* to WORK?

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Which devotion(s) from this week helped you consider WORKING in a different or deeper way?

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How does the following scripture (and/or other passage) remind you to WORK?

The Israelites had done all the work just as the LORD had commanded Moses. Moses inspected the work and saw that they had done it just as the LORD had commanded. So Moses blessed them. (Exodus 39: 42-43)

How might you pray, asking God to help you WORK?

WEEK 21

WORD OF THE WEEK:

PLAY

(pages 121-126)

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE: Allow yourself the luxury/necessity of time to play. You may want to take up a new hobby or schedule something different just for fun. Note the change in your feelings and attitude.

How do you know you *need* to PLAY?

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In what ways are you *learning* to PLAY?

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Which devotion(s) from this week helped you consider PLAYING in a different or deeper way?

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How does the following scripture (and/or other passage) remind you to **PLAY**?

*Sing to him a new song, play skillfully, and shout for joy.
(Psalm 33:3)*

How might you pray, asking God to help you PLAY?

WEEK 22

WORD OF THE WEEK:

PRAISE

(pages 127-132)

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE: Make a list of the awesome wonders God has performed for you. Praise Him for the ways He demonstrates His love and faithfulness to you.

How do you know you *need* to PRAISE?

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In what ways are you *learning* to PRAISE?

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Which devotion(s) from this week helped you consider PRAISING in a different or deeper way?

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How does the following scripture (and/or other passage) remind you to PRAISE?

He is your praise; he is your God, who performed for you those great and awesome wonders you saw with your own eyes.
(Deuteronomy 10:21)

How might you pray, asking God to help you PRAISE?

WEEK 23

WORD OF THE WEEK:

PRAY

(pages 133-138)

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE: Determine to pray fevently each day for a person or situation which concerns you. Couple those prayers with praise as you watch and wait for Gods answers.

How do you know you *need* to PRAY?

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In what ways are you *learning* to PRAY?

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Which devotion(s) from this week helped you consider PRAYING in a different or deeper way?

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How does the following scripture (and/or other passage) remind you to PRAY?

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. (James 5:16)

How might you pray, asking God to help you PRAY?

WEEK 24

WORD OF THE WEEK:

RELATE

(pages 139-144)

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE: Think of a relationship that you haven't put much time or effort into lately. Ask the Lord to help you know how to rekindle that relationship in His way and His time.

How do you know you *need* to RELATE?

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In what ways are you *learning* to RELATE?

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Which devotion(s) from this week helped you consider RELATING in a different or deeper way?

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How does the following scripture (and/or other passage) remind you to **RELATE**?

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourself with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. (Colossians 3:12-14)

How might you pray, asking God to help you RELATE?

WEEK 25

WORD OF THE WEEK:

DREAM

(pages 145-150)

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE: Write down any dream you have had, awake or asleep, which seems significant to you. Ask the Lord to help you understand how to interpret or pursue any dream He has laid on your heart or your mind.

How do you know you *need* to DREAM?

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In what ways are you *learning* to DREAM?

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Which devotion(s) from this week helped you consider DREAMING in a different or deeper way?

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How does the following scripture (and/or other passage) remind you to DREAM?

Then Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dream." (Genesis 40:8b)

How might you pray, asking God to help you DREAM?

WEEK 26

WORD OF THE WEEK:

REMEMBER

(pages 151-156)

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE: Choose to remember only that which will do you good and bring God glory.

How do you know you *need* to REMEMBER?

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In what ways are you *learning* to REMEMBER?

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Which devotion(s) from this week helped you consider REMEMBER in a different or deeper way?

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How does the following scripture (and/or other passage) remind you to REMEMBER?

*Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways;
according to your love remember me, for you are good, O LORD.
(Psalm 24:7)*

How might you pray, asking God to help you REMEMBER?

As you close out this quarter of study in Life Group, consider which of the Words to Live By had the greatest impact on your life. Ask the Lord to help you continue to optimize and activate that word in your life in meaningful ways.

Thank you for the privilege of sharing in your spiritual journey.

We would love to hear from you.

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