

PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE

I SAW THE LORD

A WAKE-UP CALL FOR YOUR HEART

ANNE
GRAHAM
LOTZ

with Henry Blackaby, Crawford Lorritts, and John Tolsma

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I Saw The LORD Participant's Guide
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Requests for information should be addressed to:
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About Anne Graham Lotz

Anne Graham Lotz, founder of AnGeL Ministries, has passionately proclaimed God's Word to people around the world for over thirty years. Her gripping narratives and heart-touching teaching have inspired listeners in arenas and prison cells, stadiums and Bible studies, sanctuaries and seminaries, the United Nations and Amsterdam 2000. The daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Billy Graham, Anne launched *Just Give Me Jesus* in the year 2000. Anne is an award-winning and bestselling author. Her ten books include her signature book *Just Give Me Jesus* and her most recent release *I Saw The LORD*. Anne and her husband, Dr. Dan Lotz, reside in North Carolina.

Preface

Have you ever missed a wake-up call? Several years ago, it happened to me while delivering a session at the Billy Graham Training Center at The Cove, where we filmed this series.

I had been speaking in back-to-back sessions for three days, and that night I collapsed into bed, dead to the world before my head hit the pillow . . .

Eventually, the brilliant rays of the not-so-early morning sunlight coming through the blinds pried my sleeping eyes open. As I lay in bed, enjoying the warmth of the down comforter, my mind began to stir before my body did. My first thought was, *Why is the sun up so early?* Then my body stirred, and I rolled over to look at the clock. It said 7:30! For a moment I lay in stunned stupor — then I hit the floor with a muffled, “Oh, no!”

You can imagine the rest. I spent the remainder of my day catching up from being behind since I missed being ready at the appointed time.

Have you ever slept through your alarm? Have you slept on peacefully, oblivious to what time it was and missed an important commitment?

I have learned the hard way that I need wake-up calls when I’m on the road in ministry, so I don’t miss something important. But, from time to time, I also need them in my own life.

Sometimes, in the busyness of my days, or the duties of my ministry, or the familiar habits of my worship or the everyday routine of my home, I sleep through opportunities to be with Him. That’s when I most need a wake-up call — a jolt that pushes me to seek out a revival of the passion that began as a blazing, powerful fire but somehow tends to die down to a comfortable but weak ineffective glow.

It is my joy to invite you to participate in a video-based Bible study series that, I pray, will help you experience an authentic, deeper, richer relationship with God.

I have been joined in this series by two dear friends, Drs. Henry Blackaby and Crawford Loritts. We invite you as, together, we’ll study some of the Bible’s greatest examples of those who experienced personal revival in their love for the Lord. For each session you’ll have a Bible passage you’ll study on your own. Then, to

complement your personal study, you'll sit in on our DVD dialogue as we discuss the passage and what it means to live it out.

To get the most out of your personal assignments, in the very first session you'll join me in a Bible study workshop where I'll teach you a simple method I use each day in my own devotions — so that you can more effectively read God's Word and hear Him speak to you, personally, through its pages.

This study is designed to be a roadmap for your journey toward a revival of your heart and a fresh encounter with God. My prayer is that as you study His Word, discuss your answers, and share in our videotaped discussions you will be able to exclaim with the prophet Isaiah, "I saw the Lord."

ANNE GRAHAM LOTZ

About the Study

This participant's guide is primarily to be used with the video course *I Saw The LORD: A Wake-up Call for Your Heart*. An integral part of this course is a format for Bible study that serves as the basis for both small group use (Bible study classes, women's or men's groups, home or neighborhood studies, one-on-one discipleship) and individual use. Believing that God speaks to us through His Word, this guide teaches you how to listen as it leads you through a series of questions. The questions enable you not only to discover for yourself the eternal truths revealed by God in the Bible, but also to hear God speaking personally through His Word. You are then prepared to view a video presentation by Anne and her guests, then participate in a meaningful small group experience as you discuss with other participants.

Individual Study

The course begins with a Bible study workshop. After participating in the workshop, you will be familiar with questions that will challenge you to hear and apply God's Word as never before. Then you will use this approach as you study the Bible.

The first section of sessions 2 – 8 contains several portions of Scripture for individual study in preparation for the small group time. The video presentation during the small group time will be more meaningful if *all Scripture portions* are completed prior to the group meeting.

Effective daily Bible study will occur if you:

- Set aside a regular place for private Bible study.
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- Pray before beginning the day's assignment, asking God to speak to you through His Word.
- Write out your answers for each step in sequence.
- Make the time to be still and listen, reflecting thoughtfully on your response in the final step.

- Don't rush. It may take you several days of prayerful meditation on a given passage to discover meaningful lessons and hear God speaking to you. The object is not to get through the material, but to develop a meaningful relationship with God as you learn to listen to His voice.

Spiritual discipline is an essential part of a person's ability to grow in his or her relationship with God through knowledge and understanding of His Word. Take your individual study seriously and allow God to speak to you from His Word.

Group Study

I Saw The LORD: A Wake-up Call for Your Heart includes the Bible study workshop and seven additional sessions. If your group uses a 60-minute session format, the study can be completed in eight weekly sessions, eight monthly sessions, or any schedule your group determines is best.

Group study begins with a workshop on how to study and apply God's Word. At the conclusion of the workshop, you will be instructed to complete the individual study for session 2. For sessions 2 – 8, you will gather to watch a video presentation and share insights from your individual study.

Space is provided in the participant's guide for you to take notes during the video presentation. After the presentation, your group facilitator will lead a discussion using the leader's guide included with the DVD. If the group is large (12 members or more), the facilitator may divide the large group for discussion with moderators chosen to facilitate each small group.

Bible Study Workshop

This Bible study workshop has a single purpose: to present an approach that will help you know God in a personal relationship and communicate with Him through His Word as you learn to listen to His voice. The following information is introduced in detail in the video presentation. Use this section of the participant's guide as your viewing guide and workshop material. Underline key thoughts and take additional notes as you participate in the workshop. (The passage used as the example in the video workshop is on pages 12 – 13; a sample of a completed study is on pages 14 – 15.)

What You Need for Bible Study

- Bible
- Pen or pencil
- Notebook
- Time
- Prayer, open attitude



Steps to Bible Study

STEP 1: Read God's Word.

Begin by reading the designated passage of Scripture printed in each session which is divided into days (if your group meets less frequently than once a week, you may want to extend your study time for each passage). When you have finished reading the daily passage, move on to step 2.

STEP 2: What does God's Word say? *(List the facts.)*

When you have finished reading the passage, make a verse-by-verse list of the outstanding facts. Don't get caught up in the details; just pinpoint the most obvious facts. Ask yourself: Who is speaking? What is the subject? Where is it taking place? When did it happen? As you make your list, do not paraphrase, but use actual words from the passage itself.

STEP 3: What does God's Word mean? *(Learn the lessons.)*

After reading the passage and listing the facts, look for a lesson to learn from each fact. Ask yourself: What are the people in the passage doing that I should be doing? Is there a command I should obey? A promise I should claim? A warning I should heed? An example I should follow? Focus on spiritual lessons.

STEP 4: What does God's Word mean to me? *(Listen to His voice.)*

Though step 4 is the most meaningful, you can't do it effectively until you complete the first three steps. In order to complete step 4, rephrase the lessons you found in step 3 and put them in the form of questions you could ask yourself, your spouse, your child, your friend, your neighbor, or your coworker. As you write the questions, listen for God to communicate to you through His Word.

There are some challenging passages in this study. Don't get hung up on what you don't understand. Look for the general principles and lessons that can be learned. The introduction prior to the passages in sessions 2 – 8 as well as the examples offered in steps 2, 3, and 4 of this session will help you get started.

Remember, don't rush. It may take you several moments of prayerful meditation to discover meaningful lessons and hear God speaking to you. The object is not to get through it, but to develop a vibrant personal relationship with God.

STEP 5: How will I respond to God's Word? (*Live it out!*)

Read the assigned Scripture passages prayerfully, objectively, thoughtfully, and attentively as you listen for God to speak. He may not speak to you through every verse, but He *will* speak. When He does, record in the step 5 column the verse number (if applicable), what it is He seems to be saying to you, and your response to Him. You might like to date it as a means not only of keeping a spiritual journal, but also of holding yourself accountable to following through in obedience. God bless you as you seek to learn this simple yet effective method of reading His Word, that you might hear His voice speaking to you personally through it.

STEP 1

Read God's Word

Mark 9:2 – 8.

- v.2 After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them.
- v.3 His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them.
- v.4 And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.
- v.5 Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters — one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.”
- v.6 (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.)
- v.7 Then a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and a voice came from the cloud: “This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!”
- v.8 Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

STEP 2

What does God's Word say?

List the facts.

STEP 3

*What does God's Word mean?
Learn the lessons.*

STEP 4

*What does God's Word mean to me?
Listen to His voice.*

STEP 5

*How will I respond to God's Word?
Live it out!*

STEP 1

Read God's Word

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STEP 2

What does God's Word say?

List the facts.

- v.2 Jesus led Peter, James, and John alone up a mountain where he was transfigured.
- v.3 His clothes became dazzling white.
- v.4 Moses and Elijah appeared.
- v.5 Peter said, “Let us put up 3 shelters.”
- v.6 He didn't know what to say.
- v.7 A voice spoke from the cloud saying to listen to My Son.
- v.8 Suddenly they no longer saw anyone but Jesus.

STEP 3

What does God's Word mean?

Learn the lessons.

- v.2 We need to get away with Jesus — He wants to be alone with us.

- v.3 When we are alone, He reveals Himself to us in fresh ways — we have a fresh vision of who He is — His glory.
- v.4 Jesus is the focus of history — and eternity.
- v.5 Sometimes we want to stay on the mountain.

- v.6 If we don't know what to say, it's best to say nothing.
- v.7 God speaks to us — commands us to listen to Jesus.

- v.8 When everything passes away, there will still be Jesus.

STEP 4

What does God's Word mean to me?

Listen to His voice.

- v.2 When do I make time to get alone with Jesus?

- v.3 What fresh revelation of Jesus do I have because I make time for Him?
- v.4 What is my attitude toward the Old Testament?
Where is my focus?
- v.5 Why am I reluctant to go back to the valley?

- v.6 When have I spoken when I should have been silent?
- v.7 Will I be obedient to God's command and make the time to listen to His voice?

- v.8 How am I investing in that which will last?

STEP 5

How will I respond to God's Word?

Live it out!

As I begin this study, I need to commit to regular time alone with the Lord, listening for His voice to speak to me through His Word.

Wrapping Up

Have you had an aversion to reading the Bible? Have you thought it was boring or irrelevant or confusing? Then I want to invite you to climb up into the Lord's lap and let Him "read" it to you. Hearing His voice within its pages will transform your aversion into a lifetime of joyful discovery and keep you seeing Him . . . *always*.

I Saw The LORD, p. 194

Now that you've had a chance to practice this method, use it! Pick your favorite passage from the Bible and try doing the three questions (Steps 2 – 4) to unlock new meaning from the Scripture for your life. Enjoy the thrill of hearing God speak to you! Personally!

Preparing for the Next Session

First, read 2 Chronicles 34 in one sitting for the overview of the Scripture to be discussed in session 2. Then, in the time prior to your meeting, complete the four daily Bible study portions on pages 18 – 25. As you do, be prepared for what God will do as He reminds you and me that many of us are sleeping! It's time to begin the process of personal revival!