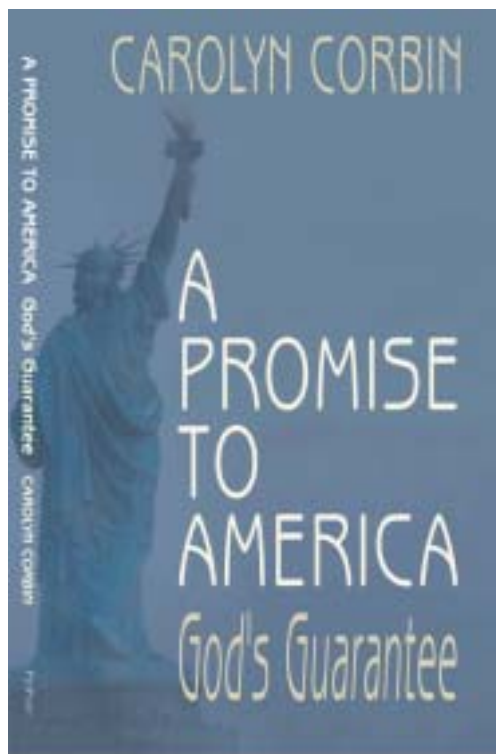


Leader's Guide

for
A Promise to America: God's Guarantee



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Leader's Guide

A Promise to America: God's Guarantee
by Carolyn Corbin

Introduction

We are living in history-making times. America is at the crossroads of her future. The role she plays at home and abroad is being shaped today. And Christians are critical to America's future. As followers of Jesus Christ, we stand in the gap between preservation of the way of life in America that honors God and the destruction of Godly principles that made our nation great.

As group leader, please read the Preface to *A Promise to America: God's Guarantee* on pages ix and x of the book. Emphasize the main points of the Preface to the group in order to alert them to the critical status in which America finds itself at this time.

The objective of *A Promise to America: God's Guarantee* is twofold: (1) to provide a wake-up call to all Christians and (2) to challenge Christians to exercise their God-ordained personal responsibility for making every effort possible to restore America's moral fiber and preserve the United States as "one nation under God."

This guide consists of eight lessons—one lesson per chapter in *A Promise to America: God's Guarantee*. Each lesson consists of suggested background reading materials, the main point of the lesson, dialogue session questions to be used in group discussion and interaction, and a conclusion for you to use in summarizing the lesson. All page numbers referenced in the text of this guide apply to the book *A Promise to America: God's Guarantee*. If the word "book" is referenced such as "in the book," that refers to *A Promise to America: God's Guarantee*.

It will be helpful if each member or family unit of the group has a copy of *A Promise to America: God's Guarantee* so that they can read each lesson and be prepared to discuss the ideas presented.

Your role as group leader is to be thoroughly familiar with the content of *A Promise to America: God's Guarantee* in order to facilitate discussion and guide the presentation of principal thoughts. Each lesson is designed to last from 45 minutes to one hour, and the lessons can be presented in eight to thirteen sessions. A suggested timeline with lesson plans is outlined in Appendix C at the end of this Leader's Guide. Depending on session length, the dialogue can take place appropriate to the timeframe. If time does not allow, the lesson may be extended or some questions/modules can be eliminated. The lesson length and schedule are to be decided by you, the leader.

Participant lesson sheets may be copied from Appendix A of this guide, which houses a fill-in-the-blank summary of each lesson for the participant to fill out. Answers for your review are located in Appendix B of this guide.

May God inspire you as you serve Him through your important leadership role in this critical study!

Lesson 1

Christian Responsibility for America's Future

Background Reading

Chapter 1 in *A Promise to America: God's Guarantee*
Genesis 15:13-16
Deuteronomy 9:5
2 Chronicles 7:14

Main Point

Because America was founded on Godly principles, the responsibility for continued dominance of the American way of life rests in the hands of God's people—Christians.

Dialogue Session

Module 1

Ask the participants the following question: What do you think the nuclear professional cited on page 3 meant by the following statement?

“We cannot have relative values in a nuclear world. We will destroy one another.”

As you ask this question, please analyze varying viewpoints. First, work with the participants in defining “relative values.” By definition, “relative values” are beliefs that humans make up based on a particular situation. For example, some people would say that it is acceptable to steal if you are out of money and your children are hungry. Relative values contrast with “absolute values” in that absolutes are based on the Bible. For example, theft by an individual through his own volition, according to the Bible, is absolutely wrong anytime, no matter what the circumstance is.

The trend today is toward relative values wherein humans determine right and wrong—not God's word. A result of this trend is that there will be no moral standard. Thus we will have moral anarchy.

Discuss the dangers involved in this trend in our own lives and in global security.

Module 2

Open discussion of September 11, 2001, by telling your most poignant memory of that day.

Ask the participants the following question: What do you believe is the greatest impact of the events of September 11, 2001?

Ask the participants to comment on Carolyn Corbin's interpretation of the events of 9/11 on pages 5-6. Was God in the details? Was He trying to send a message to America? If God does not cause bad things to happen, does He possibly let evil forces cause bad things to happen?

Before beginning this module, you might wish to review the book of Job and relate Job's story to the group and open that topic up for discussion in light of God's permitting bad things to happen.

Module 3

Refer to the topic "Freedom is Earned" in the book on pages 8-9. Discuss the cases in which destruction took place and the reasons why the devastation happened. Did God directly destroy these cities and empires or did they, in effect, destroy themselves? Gather group ideas on the reasons for destruction. Ask participants to justify their answers.

Have the group discuss whether God sometimes sits back with no intervention and lets nations judge themselves through their Godly obedience or lack thereof.

Conclusion

God is always in America's details whether He is active or chooses to be passive. Christians, working in God's will, ultimately determine America's destiny.

Lesson 2

Humble Yourself

Background Reading

Chapter 2 in *A Promise to America: God's Guarantee*
Exodus 20:3-17
Matthew 5-7
Matthew 22:36-40

Main Point

God values humility from His people.

Dialogue Session

Module 1

Discuss 2 Chronicles 7:14. List the four requirements of God's people and three promises of God to His people. The four requirements are listed in a specific order. Why is that? Open this question up for group discussion.

In the first paragraph on page 13, you will find Carolyn Corbin's definition of "humility." Open the group to discussion of that definition (admitting that we are not in control and are in need of help). Ask for volunteers to provide examples of times in their lives when they have been humbled.

Module 2

Sometimes people are surprised to find that God actively works against arrogant, proud people. Have someone read aloud James 4:6 and Proverbs 3:34 to support this idea. Ask for comments and examples. Explore these questions: Why does God require humility? Why does He actively resist proud people? What are some ways God might use to work against arrogant people?

Module 3

On page 15, under the topic "Exercising Humility," the author comments that humility can always be practiced by learning to be truthful. Open the group to discussion of this idea.

Module 4

Review Exodus 20:3-17 and Matthew 22:36-40. Discuss why humility is required for obedience to these commandments.

Module 5

As time permits, cite practical examples for practicing humility with other people in the following ways (see pages 15-24):

Listening skills;
Willingness to serve;
Comparison to Jesus Christ;
Giving up control;
Yielding your need to be right;
Showing empathy;
Reducing attachment to material possessions;
Recognizing the need to worship with God's people.

One of the most arrogant habits that people have is comparing their morals and behaviors to one another rather than to those of Jesus Christ. What is the danger in human-to-human comparisons? Discuss this question with the group.

Conclusion

For God to heal our land, He requires humility of His people. Arrogance usurps God's prerogatives and causes people to become their own gods.

Lesson 3

The Power of Prayer

Background Reading

Chapter 3 in *A Promise to America: God's Guarantee*
Deuteronomy 4:29

Main Point

It is impossible to know God without communicating with Him.

Dialogue Session

Module 1

Read page 25 in the book. Present the idea that good friendships entail good communication. Discuss the elements of effective communication (talking and listening). You might point out that in Lesson 2, we discussed listening skills as a form of humility (see pages 15-16).

It stands to reason that effective communication is necessary for relationships to grow and prosper. If Christianity is a relationship with Jesus Christ, not a religion demanding observance of legal rules, then what is necessary for a relationship to grow and prosper with Jesus Christ? Please open this question up for group discussion.

The answer to the previous question is “communication in the form of prayer.” Dialoguing with God (talking and listening) causes Christians to really know Him.

Module 2

On page 28 in the book, read the information about the study of a “God spot” in the human brain. Ask the group for comments. Also cite the author’s example in that same paragraph about the wall socket and lamp plug. Emphasize that God is waiting to light our path. But we must actively make the move toward connection.

Pages 28-32 list qualities of prayer as exemplified in the prayers of Jesus Christ:

Highest expression of human spirituality;

Display of humility;

Evidence of trust;

Private and/or public;

On behalf of others;

Important.

Discuss each topic briefly as time allows. Supporting Bible verses are listed in the text of each topic in the book. Read those as time allows.

Module 3

Emphasize to the group that each individual is in charge of his/her prayer life. Read pages 32-38 of the book and discuss, as time permits, the following topics and look up supporting Bible verses listed in the content of each topic.

Block off time for God;

Grow close to God;

Practice authenticity;

Be specific, if possible;

Approach God positively;

Listen;

Meditate.

Ask people to share any ideas or insights on prayer that they have discovered.

Conclusion

One cannot have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ without communication, which involves both talking and listening to God. Prayer is a necessary ingredient for a healthy relationship with our Lord.

Lesson 4

Seek God's Presence

Background Reading

Chapter 4 in *A Promise to America: God's Guarantee*

Psalm 84:2

John 14:26

Matthew 14:28-31

Main Point

Christians must actively pursue God's presence and specifically focus on Him.

Dialogue Session

Module 1

Carolyn Corbin opens Chapter 4 on page 39 with her feelings as she senses God in nature—in her backyard gardens. Her favorite hymn is *In the Garden*, depicting a person dialoguing with God in a garden in the early morning-time while “the dew is still on the roses.”

God is with us all the time. He is omnipresent. Ask the group to identify times when they most sense God's presence. On pages 45-47, you will find examples of times and circumstances in which we can sense God's presence (also referred to as God's face in the scriptures).

Module 2

Have someone from the group read Matthew 14:28-31. On page 40, the author discusses the story from that passage in Matthew and how it parallels many circumstances today that result from losing our God-focus. Ask the group to discuss the meaning of the following sentence: “When people lose their God-focus, they lose their way.”

To aid in this discussion, consult page 40, paragraph three, which cites times when people have lost their God-focus in the past. Also refer to examples on pages 8-9 in Chapter 1 of the book wherein people lost their way (their God-focus).

Module 3

On page 41 is the story of Nicodemus and his conversation with Jesus. Have someone from the group read that story in John 3:1-8.

In John 3:3, Jesus told Nicodemus that no person can see the kingdom of God without being “born again.” The word “see” in this context means “comprehend.” “Born again” indicates that one is spiritually transformed from self-focus to God-focus in full submission to God (Jesus Christ) as Leader of his/her life. Discuss the meaning of John 3:3 with the group while keeping the above ideas in mind.

Module 4

Have someone from the group read John 3:5 and discuss the meaning of that verse. Jesus indicates in verse 5 that physical birth does not gain one access to the kingdom of God. Only spiritual birth (transformation) accomplishes access to the kingdom of God.

Module 5

On pages 47-48, the author expresses that Christians transport God because God's spirit lies within Christians. God can be anywhere He wishes at any time. However, often He chooses to prompt Christians to transport His presence to various people and places. In effect, God gives us assignments. Discuss this idea with the group. Ask for instances in which group members have consciously made the effort to transport the Spirit of God to needed places and to people who needed Him.

Module 6

The author comments on page 48: "When you are in intimate, constant communication with God, you will soon recognize His voice. He speaks plainly to those who listen. You will discern a pattern.... When you feel that inner tugging (the Holy Spirit) urging you to do something, do it. Trust your God-instincts."

Ask the group what the above quote means to them. Promote group dialogue.

Conclusion

God is present everywhere twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week. We must actively seek Him. He is never distant. Christians are responsible for their personal closeness to God.

Lesson 5

Focus on Godly Obedience

Background Reading

Chapter 5 in *A Promise to America: God's Guarantee*
Luke 9:23-36

Main Point

All Christians should constantly try to reflect the character of Jesus Christ by endeavoring to live as sinless a life as possible with help from the Holy Spirit.

Dialogue Session

Module 1

Review 2 Chronicles 7:14. Ask for several different translations of this verse to be read—depending on the various types of Bibles the group members are reading from.

After reading the various translations, focus on how “sin” is described by each version. Then ask the group to discuss their view of sin.

Also, discuss with the group the concept of free will. See page 50 for author commentary.

Module 2

Lead the group through the topic “Exploring Sin” on pages 50-51. Ask the class to discuss the following questions:

In Matthew 5:27-28, Jesus says that if you think about committing a sin, you have already sinned. What does this mean?

What does *agape* require (see page 50)?

If God's grace covers our sins, what shouldn't we just keep on sinning? (see page 51)

Why does God dislike sin (see page 51)?

Module 3

Carolyn Corbin explains SIN as an acrostic, meaning Soul In Need. Lead the group in discussion of the meaning of this acrostic. (see pages 51-52).

On page 52, Carolyn lists three holes in each human soul. What are they? (answer: needs for safety, community, and validity)

On pages 52-60, the three soul-holes are discussed. Guide the group through each topic. Discuss how humans try to find safety, community, and validity on their own without God.

Discuss how God provides our safety, community, and validity if we will depend on Him to do so.

Module 4

End with a group discussion of the following statement: “You will never feel fully validated until you find God’s specific purpose for your life.” (see page 59)

Conclusion

When you are on the path God has planned for your life, you will never feel empty, unimportant, detached, or lonely. Your soul will be in a state of pure joy and purpose. Walking through life God’s way provides supernatural strength and power to overcome any obstacle.

Lesson 6

God Hears Our Prayers from Heaven

Background Reading

Chapter 6 in *A Promise to America: God's Guarantee*

Jeremiah 33:3

Matthew 7:7-12

James 4:3

Main Point

In His own way and in His own time, God answers all prayers sincerely and humbly requested of Him.

Dialogue Session

Module 1

If Christians meet God's four requirements, then He will keep His three promises: hear our prayers, forgive our sins, and heal our land. Lesson 6 deals with the first promise.

Ask the group the following question: Why does God require Christian obedience before He heals our land?

Suggested answer to the above question: From the beginning, God has always required obedience from His people. When His people are persistently disobedient, He allows His people to experience His justice. When His people are obedient, He protects and blesses them. Remember that Christian obedience means adhering to Jesus Christ's two commandments in Matthew 22:36-40 and His other teachings, for example, in Matthew 5-7. Obedience is not legalism and adherence to dogma and ritual, but it is obeying the law of love.

Module 2

Open the following questions for group discussion:

Does God answer all prayers? Under what conditions? (see pages 63-64)

Why do some prayers go unanswered? (see page 63 and James 4:3)

Would any of you like to share incidences in which prayers were answered for you or someone you know? (For examples, see pages 64-68)

When prayers seem unanswered, could God be answering in a way best for His kingdom? (see pages 68-69)

Remember that Christians trust God and yield to His will.

Where is Heaven? (see page 70)

Conclusion

God does hear our prayers when we are sincerely humbled to His will. If we ask God to answer our prayers for the wrong reasons, He may not respond in the way we want, but in a way that is best for His kingdom and for us in the long term.

Lesson 7

God Forgives

Background Reading

Chapter 7 in *A Promise to America: God's Guarantee*
Luke 17:3-4
Matthew 18: 21-35

Main Point

God forgives us to the degree that we forgive others.

Dialogue Session

Module 1

Have one volunteer from the group read Luke 17:3-4. Then have another volunteer read Matthew 18:21-25.

Ask the group to discuss the common theme on forgiveness running through both scriptures.

The law of sowing and reaping is used throughout the Bible. On page 72, under the topic “The philosophy of Jesus,” that principle is discussed. Ask the group to discuss that law in relation to forgiveness of us by God.

In summary of the discussion: We must forgive others of their wrongs against us in order for God to forgive us.

Module 2

Open group discussion on the relationship between anger and entitlement. Ask someone to define “entitlement.” Refer to pages 75-76 as a source for the discussion.

Module 3

On page 76, the topic “Forgiveness is not simple” introduces a further consideration in the forgiveness arena. Relate the story of Joseph in Genesis 37-50. (see pages 76-78) Discuss the advantage of forgiving others even when they have not asked us to do so.

Discuss the following quote from pages 77-78. “...the higher level of spiritual maturity for humanity is to perceive that the other person needs to be forgiven, then go ahead and do it.”

Module 4

In America today, there is continuing ethnic, religious, and racial conflict. In light of the discussion of Hitler's Germany, American slavery, and South African apartheid on pages 80-83, how can we apply forgiveness in America's present social situations?

On page 82, Archbishop Desmond Tutu's book, *No Future Without Forgiveness*, is discussed. Compare Archbishop Tutu's philosophy with that of Jesus Christ. Discuss how Archbishop Tutu's philosophy applies to American society.

Module 5

Review the six steps to deliberate forgiveness on pages 83-87. Especially emphasize that forgiveness is a personal choice. Lead discussion of the choices listed on pages 86-87 under the topic "Step 5—Exercise conscious choices."

Module 6

Discuss Proverbs 16:3 in consideration of our future success as a nation. (see page 88)

Conclusion

God always leaves a remnant of His people to rebuild. As long as there are faithful Christ-followers, there is always hope for a positive future.

Lesson 8

God Will Heal Our Land

Background Reading

Chapter 8 in *A Promise to America: God's Guarantee*
2 Chronicles 7:14
Hebrews 11:1
Matthew 17:20-21

Main Point

The faith of America's Christians will cause God to heal our land.

Dialogue Session

Module 1

Compare God's people in the Old Testament to God's people in the New Testament. See pages 89-90 to support this discussion.

Module 2

What are some ways by which God physically protects His people? Consult the list on page 90 for some suggestions.

Module 3

America needs healing in that it is hurting. Impart supporting data from pages 90-93 to indicate to the group the intensity of this issue.

Lead the group in discussion of the various statistics and studies cited on pages 90-93.

Module 4

Have the group complete the personal inventory on pages 93-94 and discuss the results. If anyone does not wish to write in his book, have him write his answers on a separate sheet of paper.

Ask for volunteers to discuss their own scores. Please do not embarrass anyone by calling on someone to reveal personal data. Operate only on a volunteer basis.

The idea is: America is hurting because of misplaced faith. Instead of placing their ultimate faith in God, America's Christians have pursued their own self-prescribed avenues for healing pain and meeting emotional and physical needs.

Module 5

Ask the group the following question: What will cause God to ultimately heal America?

Answer: see page 95, last sentence. The steadfast faith of American Christians will cause God to heal our land. The faith of America's Christians will initiate God's guarantee.

Summarize the two topics, "Our Faith Initiates God's Guarantee" and "What Is Faith?" on pages 95-96.

Module 6

Discuss the topic "Spiritual Maturity" on page 96 with the group in light of God's ultimate goal for Christians—which is Christlikeness.

Another point of discussion on this topic is God's role in the life of a Christian. On page 97, the author states: "...God is in control of your life if you are a Christian. Nothing is an accident." Discuss and expand upon the author's statement.

Module 7

Review Matthew 17:20-21 with the group. Emphasize that faith is actionable.

On pages 97-99 are stories of people who have put their faith into actions. Ask the group to note that sacrifice is often required in "actioning" our faith. Emphasize the positive points about faith-in-action that Carolyn Corbin makes under the topic "Role models" on page 99.

Conclusion

Faith initiates great Godly accomplishments through dedicated Christians.

Closing Topic

Hope and a Future

Background Reading

Pages 99-100 in *A Promise to America: God's Guarantee*
Jeremiah 29:11

Main Point

God wants His people to be successful and live in a successful nation. However, He demands first priority as well as Godly morality. He wants Christians to have a positive future by living within His will for their lives.

Closing dialogue session

Module 1

Review Jeremiah 29:11 with the group. In that verse, God expressed that He had plans for His people (and that included Jeremiah): to provide hope and a successful future. That same plan is available to Christians today. God opens His invitation to all people to follow Him and join Him in His global work.

Please emphasize the positive thoughts Carolyn Corbin expressed on page 100 concerning her vision of a healed America. Indicate that the state-of-the-nation envisioned is possible if Christians will do their part in making it happen.

In conclusion, emphasize the following from the book:

If America's Christians will heed His requirements, He will, in His own time and in His own way, heal our land. That's God's guarantee to America!

Appendix A

Participant Lessons

Fill-In-The-Blank Sheets

Introduction

Each of the eight lessons presented in the Leader's Guide has an accompanying participant sheet with a fill-in-the-blank lesson summary.

Before you begin each lesson, please hand out the appropriate lesson sheet to each participant. These handouts may be given to the participants at the end of the session previous to the one to which the lesson sheet pertains or on the day's that the lesson is presented.

This guide holds master pages that you may copy for each participant. The answers to each fill-in-the-blank statement are given in Appendix B of this Leader's Guide.

Lesson 1

Christian Responsibility for America's Future

Background Reading

Chapter 1 in *A Promise to America: God's Guarantee*

Genesis 15:13-16

Deuteronomy 9:5

2 Chronicles 7:14

Main Point

Because America was founded on Godly principles, the responsibility for continued dominance of the American way of life rests in the hands of God's people—Christians.

Lesson Summary

Relative values are beliefs that humans _____ based on a particular situation.

Relative values contrast with _____, which are based on the Bible.

The result of the trend toward relative values is _____.

Although we realize that 9/11 was perpetrated by people determined to damage America, we also know from Romans 8:28 that God can take _____ and use them for _____ for His people.

Only _____ can save America.

God demands _____ over and above financial and military might although it would be suicidal for America to abandon its financial and military resources.

The healing of America begins with _____, who today are Christians.

When a nation's _____ weaken, a nation is vulnerable.

Freedom is _____ and is never an _____.

America is the only remaining _____ in the world.

America's future rests in _____ hands.

Conclusion

God is always in America's details whether He is active or chooses to be passive. Christians, working in God's will, ultimately determine America's destiny.

Lesson 2

Humble Yourself

Background Reading

Chapter 2 in *A Promise to America: God's Guarantee*
Exodus 20:3-17
Matthew 5-7
Matthew 22:36-40

Main Point

God values humility from His people.

Lesson Summary

God's four requirements of His people in 2 Chronicles 7:14 are _____,
_____, _____, _____.

God's three promises to His people in 2 Chronicles 7:14 are _____,
_____, _____.

One definition of humility, according to Carolyn Corbin, is _____.

God actively works against _____ people. (James 4:6, Proverbs 3:34)
_____ is a demonstration of our love for God.

Eight ways to practice humility in everyday life are _____,
_____, _____, _____,
_____, _____, _____, _____.

One of the most arrogant habits that people have is comparing themselves to _____ instead of
comparing themselves to _____.

Conclusion

For God to heal our land, He requires humility of His people. Arrogance usurps God's prerogatives and causes people to become their own gods.

Lesson 3

The Power of Prayer

Background Reading

Chapter 3 in *A Promise to America: God's Guarantee*
Deuteronomy 4:29

Main Point

It is impossible to know God without communicating with Him.

Lesson Summary

Effective _____ is necessary for relationships to grow and prosper.

Christianity is a _____, not a religion demanding observance of legal rules.

Followers of Jesus Christ must have good _____ with Jesus Christ in order for their relationship with Him to grow and prosper.

After you speak to God, spend quiet time _____ to His conversation with you.

Prayer is the highest expression of _____.

When Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane before His crucifixion, he displayed _____.

Prayers of _____ are prayed on _____ of others. Prayers of _____ can change world events.

God can see right through our _____, therefore it is important to practice _____ in our prayers to Him.

_____ involves selecting a subject or a Bible verse and _____ about it deeply.

Prayer life is incomplete without setting aside time to _____ on the things of God.

Conclusion

One cannot have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ without communication, which involves both talking and listening to God. Prayer is a necessary ingredient for a healthy relationship with our Lord.

Lesson 4

Seek God's Presence

Background Reading

Chapter 4 in *A Promise to America: God's Guarantee*
Psalm 84:2
John 14:26
Matthew 14:28-31

Main Point

Christians must actively pursue God's presence and specifically focus on Him.

Lesson Summary

The _____ of God dwells in all believers.

When believers _____ on God's presence, they will see His _____.

When people and nations lose their _____, they lose their way.

Jesus taught in Matthew 18:20 that if more than one believer is gathered in His name, He is _____ with them.

Music was created by God to give believers a glimpse of _____.

Illness, grief, and times of celebration all provide _____ to seek and experience the presence of God.

In Psalm 23, King David refers to the valley of the shadow of death. For David, that might have been _____ or _____ or _____ or _____. However, in this situation, David was assured that God was present to _____, _____, and restore him. (page 47 in *A Promise to America: God's Guarantee*) That same confidence should grip _____ today.

Christians _____ the Spirit of God wherever they go.

Often, Christians provide the only way God's _____ can enter a place.

When you are in intimate, constant communication with God, you will soon recognize His _____.

When you feel the inner tugging, the _____, asking you to do something, do it, because God uses Christians to _____ His purposes.

Conclusion

God is present everywhere twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week. We must actively seek Him. He is never distant. Christians are responsible for their personal closeness to God.

Lesson 5

Focus on Godly Obedience

Background Reading

Chapter 5 in *A Promise to America: God's Guarantee*
Luke 9:23-26

Main Point

All Christians should constantly try to reflect the character of Jesus Christ by endeavoring to live as sinless a life as possible with help from the Holy Spirit.

Lesson Summary

God considers sin to be evil and declares that we must change our focus from _____ to _____ in order to save our land. (2 Chronicles 7:14)

God created humanity with _____.

In the Bible, the heart is used often to describe the combination of _____ and passion.

God's supernatural love is called _____, which is one-way, unconditional love.

Our sins, or wrongdoings, are covered by God's _____.

Humans are born with three holes in their soul that only God can fill. They are _____, _____, and _____.

The famous psychologist, Abraham Maslow, indicated that the first need of every human is for _____ and _____ safety. Only God can truly provide this.

Humans are designed by God to _____ to Him and to one another.

People want to feel _____. They are searching for _____.

The macro-purpose for every Christian is to emulate the _____ of Jesus Christ.

The micro-purpose for every Christian is to _____.

For God-assignments to Christians, God usually builds on a person's _____ he/she already possesses and _____ the person has already had.

Conclusion

When you are on the path God has planned for your life, you will never feel empty, unimportant, detached, or lonely. Your soul will be in a state of pure joy and purpose. Walking through life God's way provides supernatural strength and power to overcome any obstacle.

Lesson 6

God Hears Our Prayers from Heaven

Background Reading

Chapter 6 in *A Promise to America: God's Guarantee*
Jeremiah 33:3
Matthew 7:7-12
James 4:3

Main Point

In His own way and in His own time, God answers all prayers sincerely and humbly requested of Him.

Lesson Summary

Obedience is not _____ and adherence to dogma and ritual, but it is obeying the _____ of _____.

In His own way and in His perfect time, God _____ all prayers _____ and _____ requested of Him.

God sets certain conditions on our prayers. They must not be _____ requests for accomplishing our own _____ and _____ prayed with _____ and _____ set for God.

Prayers are not answered when people ask with the _____ . (James 4:3)

On most occasions, God depends on our _____ to affect events.

God answers our prayers according to His _____, not necessarily according to our personal requests for specific outcomes.

Christians believe that God's Spirit dwells _____ them, and that Heaven is _____.

In Heaven, there is no _____.

Christians can, in part, experience _____ here on earth.

Paul recognized that Heaven is _____ and about _____ and joy in the _____ . (Romans 14:17)

To enter Heaven, we must have the faith in Jesus Christ of a _____ . (Matthew 18:3)

Conclusion

God does hear our prayers when we are sincerely humbled to His will. If we ask God to answer our prayers for the wrong reasons, He may not respond in the way we want, but in a way that is best for His kingdom and for us in the long term.

Lesson 7

God Forgives

Background Reading

Chapter 7 in *A Promise to America: God's Guarantee*
Luke 17:3-4
Matthew 18:21-35

Main Point

God forgives us to the degree that we forgive others.

Lesson Summary

Forgiveness begins with a _____ to change your way of thinking about another person or situation.

When God forgives our sins, He also _____ them.

If we sow _____, we will reap _____.

God forgave us first through _____ However, we must access Christ through _____ and _____ before we can receive God's forgiveness.

Most anger occurs when we feel _____ to something.

When Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery (Genesis 37-50) and Jesus' persecutors crucified Him, (Luke 23:34) neither man experienced immediate _____ from their evildoers.

Forgiveness brings us _____. It doesn't necessarily remove earthly _____.

For communities and societies to restore peace after terrible ethnic and racial cruelty or religious conflict, _____ must take place. Memories of _____ must be replaced with thoughts of _____.

Conclusion

God always leaves a remnant of His people to rebuild. As long as there are faithful Christ-followers, there is always hope for a positive future.

Lesson 8

God Will Heal Our Land

Background Reading

Chapter 8 in *A Promise to America: God's Guarantee*
2 Chronicles 7:14
Hebrews 11:1
Matthew 17:20-21

Main Point

The faith of America's Christians will cause God to heal our land.

Lesson Summary

Christians can expect God through Jesus Christ to make our nation _____ again if we _____ Him.

America is _____. America needs _____.

To a great extent, Christians reflect the _____ and _____ of everyone in America.

America's _____ has dropped substantially since the 1970s.

Under stress, Americans are turning to _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, relationship addictions, and overeating or undereating as a few of their outlets instead of turning to God.

From the evidence presented by aggregating the statistical studies cited in *A Promise to America, God's Guarantee*, people in America are _____ in spite of living in a wealthy country and the only superpower on earth. They are searching as never before for _____.

Faith is the reliance on something we perceive to be _____.

When we trust anything or anyone above God we set ourselves up for _____.

_____ initiates God's guarantee.

In Hebrews 11:1, in defining faith as the "substance of things hoped for", *substance* means _____.

God's ultimate goal for every Christian is _____.

If you are a Christian, God is in control of your life and _____ is an _____.

Without action, faith is _____. (James 2:14-18)

Conclusion

Faith initiates great Godly accomplishments through dedicated Christians.

Closing Topic

Hope and a Future

Background Reading

Pages 99-100 in *A Promise to America: God's Guarantee*
Jeremiah 29:11

Main Point

God wants His people to be successful and live in a successful nation. However, He demands first priority as well as Godly morality. He wants Christians to have a positive future by living within His will for their lives.

Lesson Summary

In Jeremiah 29:11, God expresses that He has plans for His people: to give them _____ and a _____.

God opens His plan to _____ people to _____ Him in His work.

The United States has never experienced such _____ and _____ as will be possible when our nation's Christians _____ their Godly faith.

Only God knows exactly how the _____ will happen.

But we do know for certain that God keeps His _____.

Conclusion

If America's Christians will heed His requirements, He will, in His own time and in His own way, heal our land. That's God's guarantee to America!

Appendix B

Leader's Answers to Participant Fill-In-The-Blank Sheets

Introduction

Here are the answers to the fill-in-the-blank statements from the participant guide presented in Appendix A.

Lesson 1

Christian Responsibility for America's Future

Lesson Summary

Relative values are beliefs that humans **make up** based on a particular situation.

Relative values contrast with **absolute values**, which are based on the Bible.

The result of the trend toward relative values is **moral anarchy**.

Although we realize that 9/11 was perpetrated by people determined to damage America, we also know from Romans 8:28 that God can take **horrible events** and use them for **good outcomes** for His people.

Only **God** can save America.

God demands **priority status** over and above financial and military might although it would be suicidal for America to abandon its financial and military resources.

The healing of America begins with **God's people**, who today are Christians.

When a nation's **morals** weaken, a nation is vulnerable.

Freedom is **earned** and is never an **entitlement**.

America is the only remaining **superpower** in the world.

America's future rests in **God's** hands.

Lesson 2

Humble Yourself

Lesson Summary

God's four requirements of His people in 2 Chronicles 7:14 are **humble themselves, pray, seek His face, turn from their sins.**

God's three promises to His people in 2 Chronicles 7:14 are **I will hear from Heaven, I will forgive their sins, I will heal their land.**

One definition of humility, according to Carolyn Corbin, is **admitting we are not in control and in need of help.**

God actively works against **arrogant (or proud)** people. (James 4:6, Proverbs 3:34)

Obedience is a demonstration of our love for God.

Eight ways to practice humility in everyday life are **listening to others, willingness to serve, comparing our character to that of Jesus Christ, giving up the need for control, yielding the need to be right, showing empathy, reducing attachment to material possessions, recognizing the need to worship with God's people.**

One of the most arrogant habits that people have is comparing themselves to **others** instead of comparing themselves to **Jesus Christ.**

Lesson 3

The Power of Prayer

Lesson Summary

Effective **communication** is necessary for relationships to grow and prosper.

Christianity is a **relationship**, not a religion demanding observance of legal rules.

Followers of Jesus Christ must have good **communication** with Jesus Christ in order for their relationship with Him to grow and prosper.

After you speak to God, spend quiet time **listening** to His conversation with you.

Prayer is the highest expression of **human spirituality**.

When Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane before His crucifixion, he displayed **humility**.

Prayers of **intercession** are prayed on **behalf** of others. Prayers of **interception** can change world events.

God can see right through our **pretenses**, therefore it is important to practice **authenticity** in our prayers to Him.

Meditation involves selecting a subject or a Bible verse and **thinking** about it deeply.

Prayer life is incomplete without setting aside time to **think** on the things of God.

Lesson 4

Seek God's Presence

Lesson Summary

The Spirit of God dwells in all believers.

When believers focus on God's presence, they will see His face.

When people and nations lose their God-focus, they lose their way.

Jesus taught in Matthew 18:20 that if more than one believer is gathered in His name, He is there with them.

Music was created by God to give believers a glimpse of eternity.

Illness, grief, and times of celebration all provide opportunities to seek and experience the presence of God.

In Psalm 23, King David refers to the valley of the shadow of death. For David, that might have been depression or sadness or grief or danger. However, in this situation, David was assured that God was present to comfort, protect, and restore him. (page 47 in *A Promise to America: God's Guarantee*) That same confidence should grip Christians today.

Christians transport the Spirit of God wherever they go.

Often, Christians provide the only way God's presence can enter a place.

When you are in intimate, constant communication with God, you will soon recognize His voice.

When you feel the inner tugging, the Holy Spirit, asking you to do something, do it, because God uses Christians to accomplish His purposes.

Lesson 5

Focus on Godly Obedience

Lesson Summary

God considers sin to be evil and declares that we must change our focus from sin to salvation in order to save our land. (2 Chronicles 7:14)

God created humanity with free will.

In the Bible, the heart is used often to describe the combination of human intent and passion.

God's supernatural love is called agape, which is one-way, unconditional love.

Our sins, or wrongdoings, are covered by God's grace.

Humans are born with three holes in their soul that only God can fill. They are need for safety, need for community, and need for validity.

The famous psychologist, Abraham Maslow, indicated that the first need of every human is for physical and psychological safety. Only God can truly provide this.

Humans are designed by God to relate to Him and to one another.

People want to feel important. They are searching for purpose.

The macro-purpose for every Christian is to emulate the character of Jesus Christ.

The micro-purpose for every Christian is to pursue individual God-assignments.

For God-assignments to Christians, God usually builds on a person's skills he/she already possesses and experiences the person has already had.

Lesson 6

God Hears Our Prayers from Heaven

Lesson Summary

Obedience is not legalism and adherence to dogma and ritual, but it is obeying the **law** of **love**.

In His own way and in His perfect time, God **answers** all prayers **sincerely** and **humbly** requested of Him.

God sets certain conditions on our prayers. They must not be **selfish** requests for accomplishing our own **goals** and **ambitions** prayed with **arrogance** and **timetables** set for God.

Prayers are not answered when people ask with the **wrong motives**. (James 4:3)

On most occasions, God depends on our **initiative** to affect events.

God answers our prayers according to His **will**, not necessarily according to our personal requests for specific outcomes.

Christians believe that God's Spirit dwells **within** them, and that Heaven is **near**.

In Heaven, there is no **evil**.

Christians can, in part, experience **Heaven** here on earth.

Paul recognized that Heaven is spiritual and about **right living** and joy in the Holy Spirit. (Romans 14:17)

To enter Heaven, we must have the faith in Jesus Christ of a **little child**. (Matthew 18:3)

Lesson 7

God Forgives

Lesson Summary

Forgiveness begins with a **decision** to change your way of thinking about another person or situation.

When God forgives our sins, He also **forgets** them.

If we sow **forgiveness**, we will reap **forgiveness**.

God forgave us first through **Jesus Christ**. However, we must access Christ through **faith** and **obedience** before we can receive God's forgiveness.

Most anger occurs when we feel **entitled** to something.

When Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery (Genesis 37-50) and Jesus' persecutors crucified Him, (Luke 23:34) neither man experienced immediate **repentance** from their evildoers.

Forgiveness brings us **peace**. It doesn't necessarily remove earthly **consequences**.

For communities and societies to restore peace after terrible ethnic and racial cruelty or religious conflict, **forgiveness** must take place. Memories of **past abuses** must be replaced with thoughts of **present possibilities for harmony**.

Lesson 8

God Will Heal Our Land

Lesson Summary

Christians can expect God through Jesus Christ to make our nation **spiritually whole** again if we **obey** Him.

America is **hurting**. America needs **healing**.

To a great extent, Christians reflect the **values** and **behaviors** of everyone in America.

America's **social health** has dropped substantially since the 1970s.

Under stress, Americans are turning to **alcohol, drugs, workaholism, anger, revenge, conflict, pornography,** relationship addictions, and overeating or undereating as a few of their outlets instead of turning to God.

From the evidence presented by aggregating the statistical studies cited in *A Promise to America, God's Guarantee*, people in America are **spiritually** hungry in spite of living in a wealthy country and the only superpower on earth. They are searching as never before for **soul satisfaction**.

Faith is the reliance on something we perceive to be **trustworthy**.

When we trust anything or anyone above God, we set ourselves up for **disappointment**.

Faith initiates God's guarantee.

In Hebrews 11:1, in defining faith as the "substance of things hoped for", *substance* means **guarantee**.

God's ultimate goal for every Christian is **Christlikeness**.

If you are a Christian, God is in control of your life and **nothing** is an **accident**.

Without action, faith is **stagnant (or dead)**. (James 2:14-18)

Closing Topic

Hope and a Future

Lesson Summary

In Jeremiah 29:11, God expresses that He has plans for His people: to give them hope and a future.

God opens His plan to all people to join Him in His work.

The United States has never experienced such greatness and progress as will be possible when our nation's Christians actualize their Godly faith.

Only God knows exactly how the healing will happen.

But we do know for certain that God keeps His promises.

Appendix C

Suggested Timeline for Lesson Presentation

These eight lessons are designed to offer flexibility in session presentation. Some lessons are longer than others. A minimum of eight weeks with lessons lasting from 45 minutes to one hour is suggested. However, these lessons have been summarized by some leaders in as few as four total hours due to time limitations. That short time period does not do the material justice and causes the leader to cover only the major points while giving the impression of rushing the participants.

Thus, eight sessions might be the shortest presentation time to consider. During the eight sessions, it is suggested that you divide the material up as presented below for 45 minutes of group discussion.

Introduce the background reading and main point before starting the dialogue session. Always review the conclusion before going over the fill-in-the-blank participant sheets.

Specific modules have been suggested for some of the sessions wherein discussing all modules would take longer than time allows. If discussion is short for some of the modules, feel free to move on to others. Use your own discretion in presenting the modules.

Eight-Session Study

Session 1

Introduce yourself, and then have the participants introduce themselves so that the group will feel more at ease with one another.

After introductions have been made, briefly review the Preface of *A Promise to America: God's Guarantee* (hereafter referred to as APTA) with the group (pages ix and x). This will set the stage for the study. On page 1 of this Leader's Guide, you will find the objective of APTA. Please review that with the group.

Then review the organization of each session as you have set them up. You might tell them what the sessions ahead will hold and how they will be presented. You may wish to hand out an outline of your plan.

Also, please explain that each lesson is accompanied by a fill-in-the-blank participant sheet which they will receive from you before the appropriate lesson material. That sheet will have the necessary background reading that each participant is asked to do before each lesson. Also on the participant sheet are the main points of the lesson along with a lesson summary they are to fill in after the lesson is complete.

Please indicate to the group that you will review the answers with them at the end of each lesson. Also each participant sheet has a lesson conclusion at the end of the lesson summary. You will also review that with them after each lesson.

Ask for questions and any discussion.

Then cover Lesson 1. At the end of the session, have the participants fill in the blanks in the lesson summary as you guide them. Hand out Lesson 2 fill-in-the blank-page from Appendix A. Answers to the fill-in-the-blanks are found in Appendix B. Ask the participants to do the background reading before the next session.

Session 2

Introduce Lesson 2, and then select three modules from Lesson 2 for group discussion. At the end of the session, have the participants fill in the blanks as you guide them. Hand out Lesson 3 fill-in-the blank-page from Appendix A. Answers to the fill-in-the-blanks are found in Appendix B. Ask the participants to do the background reading before the next session.

Session 3

Introduce Lesson 3. Then discuss Module 1. After discussing Module 1, either briefly discuss Modules 2 and 3, or choose one of the modules to discuss in detail as time allows. At the end of the session, have the participants fill in the blanks as you guide them. Hand out Lesson 4 fill-in-the blank-page from Appendix A. Answers to the fill-in-the-blanks are found in Appendix B. Ask the participants to do the background reading before the next session.

Session 4

Introduce Lesson 4. Lead group discussion of Modules 1 and 2. Then choose one or two other modules for discussion as time allows. At the end of the session, have the participants fill in the blanks as you guide them.

Hand out Lesson 5 fill-in-the blank-page from Appendix A. Answers to the fill-in-the-blanks are found in Appendix B. Ask the participants to do the background reading before the next session.

Session 5

Introduce Lesson 5. Lead group discussion of Modules 1 and 2. Then select one more module to discuss as time allows. At the end of the session, have the participants fill in the blanks as you guide them. Hand out Lesson 6 fill-in-the blank-page from Appendix A. Answers to the fill-in-the-blanks are found in Appendix B. Ask the participants to do the background reading before the next session.

Session 6

Introduce Lesson 6. Lead group discussion of both modules. At the end of the session, have the participants fill in the blanks as you guide them. Hand out Lesson 7 fill-in-the blank-page from Appendix A. Answers to the fill-in-the-blanks are found in Appendix B. Ask the participants to do the background reading before the next session.

Session 7

Introduce Lesson 7. Lead group discussion of Modules 1 and 2. Then choose one other module to open for discussion. At the end of the session, have the participants fill in the blanks as you guide them. Hand out Lesson 8 fill-in-the blank-page from Appendix A. Answers to the fill-in-the-blanks are found in Appendix B. Ask the participants to do the background reading before the next session.

Session 8

Introduce Lesson 8. Lead group discussion of Modules 1, 3, and 5. Conclude Lesson 8 then move into the Closing Topic. This will conclude the eight-session study of *A Promise to America: God's Guarantee*.

Adjourn the session and thank the group for participating.

Please offer comments and evaluations of your experiences as a group leader and reader of *A Promise to America: God's Guarantee* by writing to Carolyn Corbin, Center for the 21st Century, 21 Country Ridge Road, Melissa, TX 75454 or emailing them to carolyncorbin@c21c.com. We would appreciate hearing from you!

Thank you for leading this important study.

Thirteen-Session Study

Obviously, this lengthier study will provide more flexibility for discussion. The suggestions below are based on sessions that are 45 minutes to one hour in length.

Session 1

Introduce yourself, and then ask each member of the group to introduce him/herself, tell what he/she expects from the course, and how they view America's situation today. This discussion can be freeform. Here we want people to open up and express their opinions. There are no right or wrong answers.

After introductions have been made, carefully review the Preface of *A Promise to America: God's Guarantee* (hereafter referred to as APTA) with the group (pages ix and x). This will set the stage for the study. On page one of this Leader's Guide, you will find the objective of APTA. Please review that with the group.

Then review the organization of the sessions as you have set them up. You might tell them what the sessions ahead will hold and how they will be presented. You may wish to hand out an outline of your plan.

Also, please explain that each lesson is accompanied by a fill-in-the-blank participant sheet which they will receive from you before the appropriate lesson material. That sheet will have the necessary background reading that each participant is asked to do before each lesson. Also on the participant sheet are the main points of the lesson along with a lesson summary they are to fill in after the lesson is complete.

Please indicate to the group that you will review the answers with them at the end of each lesson. Also each participant sheet has a lesson conclusion at the end of the lesson summary. You will also review that with them after each lesson.

Ask for questions and any discussion.

Give each group member a participant sheet for Lesson 1 and adjourn the session.

Session 2

Introduce and discuss Lesson 1 by going over the background reading, talking about the main point, and executing the dialogue session. Have the participants fill in the lesson summary on their participant sheets and go over the answers provided in Appendix B. Present the lesson conclusion.

Hand out Lesson 2 participant sheets for the next meeting. Ask the participants to do the background reading before the next session.

Session 3

Lesson 2 can cover two sessions. In Session 3, go over the background reading, talk about the main point, and then begin the dialogue session. Discuss Modules 1 and 2. Extend this lesson into Session 4.

Session 4

Continue Lesson 2. Execute Modules 3, 4, and 5. Module 5 can take quite a bit of time depending on how the discussion is approached. As the leader, use your discretion in presentation methods and time allowed for discussion. Have the participants fill in the lesson summary on their participant sheets and go over the answers provided in Appendix B. Present the lesson conclusion.

Hand out Lesson 3 participant sheets for the next meeting. Ask the participants to do the background reading before the next session.

Session 5

Discuss Lesson 3 by going over the background reading, talking about the main point, and executing the dialogue session. Have the participants fill in the lesson summary on their participant sheets and go over the answers provided in Appendix B. Present the lesson conclusion.

Hand out Lesson 4 participant sheets for the next meeting. Ask the participants to do the background reading before the next session.

Session 6

Lesson 4 can cover two sessions. In Session 6, go over the background reading, talk about the main point, and then begin the dialogue session. Discuss Modules 1, 2, and 3. Extend this lesson into Session 7.

Session 7

Continue Lesson 4. Execute Modules 4, 5, and 6. Have the participants fill in the lesson summary on their participant sheets and go over the answers provided in Appendix B. Present the lesson conclusion.

Hand out Lesson 5 participant sheets for the next meeting. Ask the participants to do the background reading before the next session.

Session 8

Discuss Lesson 5 by going over the background reading, talking about the main point, and executing the dialogue session. Have the participants fill in the lesson summary on their participant sheets and go over the answers provided in Appendix B. Present the lesson conclusion.

Hand out Lesson 6 participant sheets for the next meeting. Ask the participants to do the background reading before the next session.

Session 9

Discuss Lesson 6 by going over the background reading, talking about the main point, and executing the dialogue session. Have the participants fill in the lesson summary on their participant sheets and go over the answers provided in Appendix B. Present the lesson conclusion.

Hand out Lesson 7 participant sheets for the next meeting. Ask the participants to do the background reading before the next session.

Session 10

Discuss Lesson 7 by going over the background reading, talking about the main point, and executing the dialogue session. Have the participants fill in the lesson summary on their participant sheets and go over the answers provided in Appendix B. Present the lesson conclusion.

Hand out Lesson 8 participant sheets for the next meeting. Ask the participants to do the background reading before the next session.

Session 11

Lesson 8 can cover two sessions. In Session 11, go over the background reading, talk about the main point, and then begin the dialogue session. Discuss Modules 1, 2, and 3 and have the group complete the personal inventory mentioned in Module 4.

You may want to provide an extra sheet of paper on which to write their answers to the inventory since some people do not wish to write in books. Also, you may wish to provide extra pens/pencils in case someone does not have a pen/pencil of their own.

Tell the group that you will review the exercise with them at the beginning of Session 12.

Extend this lesson into Session 12.

Session 12

Continue Lesson 8 beginning with discussion of the results from the exercise the group filled in from Module 4 last session. Please do not embarrass anyone by calling on them to discuss their responses. However, please call for volunteers to discuss some insights about themselves they received from participating in the exercise.

Execute Modules 5, 6, and 7.

Have the participants fill in the lesson summary on their participant sheets and go over the answers provided in Appendix B. Present the lesson conclusion.

Hand out Closing Topic participant sheets for the next meeting. Ask the participants to do the background reading before the next session.

Tell the group that next session, Session 13, will be the wrap-up.

Session 13

Present the Closing Topic by reviewing the background reading, presenting the main point, and executing the closing dialogue session.

Have the participants fill in the lesson summary on their participant sheets and go over the answers provided in Appendix B. Present the lesson conclusion.

Ask the group members to set goals as a result of this course. Encourage them to take a self-inventory of attitudes, characteristics, and behaviors in which they are falling short of their emulation of the character of Jesus Christ.

Then encourage each person to set a goal to vote in local, state, and national elections and to know the character and platforms of the candidates. Also encourage volunteer work outside the church so that they can impact lives other than those touched by the church inside the church walls. Give time for them to think about their goals.

Ask for volunteers to share their goals and discuss them with the group.

Debrief the members on what they have learned from the course and open up for discussion. Adjourn the session and thank the group for participating.

Please offer comments and evaluations of your experiences as a group leader and reader of *A Promise to America: God's Guarantee* by writing to Carolyn Corbin, Center for the 21st Century, 21 Country Ridge Road, Melissa, TX 75454 or emailing them to carolyncorbin@c21c.com. We would appreciate hearing from you!

Thank you for leading this important study.