

Living Out Loud

Small Group Discussion Guide

Fall 2026

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help your group have meaningful, honest conversations—not to work through every question. Each chapter includes 2–3 Essential Questions that capture the heart of the discussion, followed by Optional Questions if your group has additional time or wants to go deeper. Feel free to adapt the questions to fit your group. Some weeks may naturally lead to longer conversation, while other weeks may move more quickly.

For Week 1, we recommend building in some time to get to know each other before you dive into the book discussion. This should be a relational time, giving the opportunity for people to sharing briefly about themselves. You can share your vision for the coming weeks with them to set the tone for the group.

We also recommend beginning each week with a simple icebreaker or check-in. It can be fun and completely unrelated to the study. The goal is to get to know one another, enjoy each other's company, and create space for meaningful conversation.

We pray that this book and study will inspire and equip you to share your faith authentically and naturally, as an overflow of God's love for you to those around you. You go nowhere by accident— God has placed you where you are, for this time, and for His mission!

Week 1

Check-In

When have you seen someone share their faith in a way that felt especially natural—or especially awkward? What made the difference?

Chapter 1 — A Shema Lifestyle

Essential Questions

1. King says we have “come to think of sharing the gospel as a strategy we employ rather than as an identity we live out.” What is the difference between sharing our faith as a strategy and living it as an identity?
2. “Shema” is the Hebrew word for “Hear O Israel.” (It is pronounced “Shhmah” with the emphasis on the second syllable.) What does it mean? King mentions that Jesus said that Shema is the pinnacle of the Christian walk. How is that described in Deut 6:4-9? What would that practically mean for you every day?
3. King says the goal is to move “away from feelings of fear and awkwardness and toward a freedom of letting your love for God spill into your everyday language.” What would it look like for that to become more true in your own life?

Optional Questions

- What is “witnessing,” according to King? How does the idea that witnessing is not a spare-time or once-a-week activity challenge you?
- What potential problem does King see in simply memorizing Scripture verses and preparing a gospel presentation?
- Read Deuteronomy 6:6–9 again. What stands out to you about how God’s people were told to live out the Shema?
- Read page 14 aloud. What key idea from this page do you want to carry with you through the rest of the book?

Next Step

What is one small step you could take this week toward “living out loud” for the Lord?

Week 2

Check In

What “living out loud” experience did you have this week?

Chapter 2 — A New Kind of Person

Essential Questions

1. Read 2 Corinthians 5:15–17. What does Paul say has changed about us in Christ? How should that truth shape the way we live?
2. King describes our lives as “spiritual salt” and says our light should not only be seen but also heard. What might it look like for your faith to be both visible and verbal?
3. How does the idea of actually using words to talk about your faith challenge, encourage, or even scare you?

Optional Questions

- What does it mean that we are a “new creation”?
- What effect should the “spiritual salt” of our lives have on the people around us?
- Read John 12:46–47. What do these verses add to the conversation about light and words?

Chapter 3 — Today’s Harvest

Essential Questions

1. Read Luke 10:1–2 and John 4:35. What do Jesus’ words suggest about the spiritual opportunities around us? Do you tend to see the world this way?
2. King says two people can live in the same city, attend the same church, or even live on the same street and experience very different levels of spiritual awareness and fruitfulness. What might cause that difference?
3. Imagine walking out your front door each morning expecting to encounter people whom God is drawing to Himself. How might that expectation change the way you see and interact with people?

Optional Questions

- What strikes you about the contrast between the research findings King describes and Jesus’ words?
- Where do you see “fields ripe for harvest” in your everyday life?

- What would it look like to become more spiritually attentive to the people around you?

Chapter 4 — Prodigal Farming

Essential Questions

1. Read Matthew 13:3–8. What does the parable suggest about the sower’s responsibility—and what is outside the sower’s control?
2. King encourages us to be generous, indiscriminate “seed throwers.” What does that mean to you? What makes this difficult?
3. Think about the people and places God has already put in your life. Where might you have opportunities to naturally “scatter some seed”?

Optional Questions

- How do the two approaches to spiritual engagement described on pages 34–35 differ?
- Does the parable suggest that the sower knew what kind of soil each seed would land in?
- What keeps us from being more generous in sharing what we know about Jesus?

Next Step

Identify one setting or relationship where you could naturally share your faith. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you there this week.

Week 3

Check-In

Did you have any spiritual conversations this past week? What happened?

Chapter 5 — The Spirit Moves Mouths

Essential Questions

1. Read Acts 1:8; 4:8; and 4:31. What do these passages reveal about the Holy Spirit's role in helping believers speak about Jesus?
2. King says that when the Holy Spirit moves, "spiritual mouths will move." How does this change the way you think about your own ability—or inability—to speak about your faith?
3. Have you ever sensed the Holy Spirit prompting you to say something about God? What happened?

Optional Questions

- What fears about skill or ability do you carry when it comes to spiritual conversations?
- What risks can come with allowing the Holy Spirit to speak through us?
- How can we become more comfortable with the possibility of taking relational or spiritual risks?

Chapter 6 — Practically Speaking

Essential Questions

1. King describes Shema Statements as natural words or comments that point toward God and Jesus. What are some Shema Statements that would feel authentic for you?
2. Why do you think many of us have developed a habit of suppressing spiritual statements? What would help us become more willing to speak?
3. King compares spiritual speech to a volume knob—authentically expressing our faith while still being ourselves. What might that look like in an everyday conversation?

Optional Questions

- Read 1 Peter 3:15. What are the key components of this verse?
- How could you respond with a Shema Statement if a friend shared that they were struggling at work?

- How might you respond if someone commented, “What a beautiful day this is?”
- How might you respond if someone told you they were afraid of death?

Chapter 7 — Only Time Will Tell

Essential Questions

1. Read Ephesians 2:1-5. What was our spiritual condition before Christ? What did God do for us?
2. Looking again at the parable of the sower, what is our role in “seeding,” and what is not our responsibility when it comes to someone else’s spiritual growth?
3. How does this idea—God being responsible for the growth—take pressure off us? How does it connect with the call to “abide in Christ”?

Optional Questions

- What do the seeds represent? What does the growth or lack of growth represent?
- How might Pastor David’s teaching about abiding and grafting during the I AM series connect with this chapter?
- Where do you need to release the outcome to God?

Next Step

Look for opportunities to scatter some seed and speak a few Shema Statements this week. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you and keep it authentic.

Week 4

Check-In

Share a memory of a time when you made a Shema Statement with someone but didn't see its impact until much later.

Chapter 8 — Divine Appointments

Essential Questions

1. Read Anna's story on pages 70–72. What does her story teach you about being expectant and available for the people God brings into your life?
2. How does believing that God can orchestrate “divine appointments” change the pressure you may feel to make something happen?
3. King gives five practical steps for being ready for divine appointments on pages 74–75. Which step feels most natural to you? Which would be most challenging?

Optional Questions

- What do you think about the idea of supernatural moments being part of ordinary life?
- What would it look like to be more “on the ready” this week?
- Which of the five steps could you practice immediately?

Chapter 9 — Collateral Impact

Essential Questions

1. Read the stories on pages 81–83. What do they teach you about the possible impact of a spiritual conversation?
2. Why is it important to remember that we may never know the full impact of something we say or do?
3. Can you think of a time when a spiritual conversation—or something someone said to you about Jesus—had an impact beyond what was immediately visible?

Optional Questions

- What does “collateral impact” mean in the context of this chapter?
- How might remembering the possibility of collateral impact change your willingness to speak?

Chapter 10 — Selling Jesus

Essential Questions

1. King says we can sometimes treat Jesus as one of three “Ps.” What are they? Which one do you most often see emphasized in Christian conversations—and which one are you most tempted to emphasize?
2. King says people are drawn to God not because we have the moral high ground or make claims that seem too good to be true, but because they recognize that we know someone they don’t. What does that mean to you?
3. What would it sound like to talk about Jesus as someone you genuinely know rather than as a product you are trying to sell?

Optional Questions

- What are some examples of overemphasizing Jesus as a product?
- What does it look like to claim the moral high ground because of Jesus?
- Which of the four statements on page 161 best illustrates each of the three Ps?

Next Step

Pray for divine appointments in the coming week and for the courage and confidence to respond when they come.

Week 5

Check-In

Did you experience any divine appointments this past week? Share with the group.

Chapter 11 — The Law of the Farm

Essential Questions

1. Christine Hoover says, “A farmer, perhaps more than most, knows something about faith.” What does farming teach us about faith and spiritual conversations?
2. King contrasts traditional gospel-presentation training with “sowing the seed” evangelism. What are the strengths and weaknesses of each approach?
3. What relational “fields” has God already given you where you could sow spiritual seeds?

Optional Questions

- What do the final words on page 94 remind us to do continually?
- Which approach to sharing your faith have you been taught? How has that shaped you?
- Think beyond your closest friends. What places, routines, or relationships do you regularly encounter that could become opportunities for spiritual conversations?

Chapter 12 — Follow Receptivity

Essential Questions

1. King says spiritual engagement does not mean being forceful. What does healthy spiritual engagement look like?
2. Why is it important to know when to press in and when to be patient? Which comes more naturally to you?
3. Looking back over the past several weeks, where have you seen growth in your own willingness or ability to “live out loud”? Where do you still need to grow?

Optional Questions

- Read the quote at the top of page 101. What stands out to you?

- How can our personalities and temperaments affect the way we engage spiritually?
- What does it look like to develop greater discernment in spiritual conversations?

Chapter 13 — The Doorway of Brokenness

Essential Questions

1. King says, “God often tills the soil of a person’s heart through brokenness.” What does that mean to you? How have you seen it in your own life or the lives of others?
2. Read Matthew 4:23-25. What did Jesus do for people, and what might this teach us about caring for people before or alongside spiritual conversations?
3. How can emotional, physical, or mental pain create an opening for spiritual conversation? What does it look like to approach that opportunity with sensitivity?

Optional Questions

- Have you ever prayed for someone’s healing? What happened?
- Why do you think some Christians are hesitant to pray for healing?
- How can we discern when an opportunity for spiritual conversation is present without taking advantage of someone’s pain?

Next Step

In a conversation this week, ask someone about their family or general well-being and see whether it opens a natural door to spiritual conversation. If appropriate, offer to pray for them.

Week 6

Check-In

Did you have an opportunity this past week to pray for someone's healing, either in person or during your own prayer time?

Chapter 14 — Caving to Culture

Essential Questions

1. King says our language flows out of our worldview. What worldview messages do you encounter most often in our culture, and how do they shape the way you think and speak?
2. Read Romans 12:2. What does this verse teach us about culture, about ourselves, and about how we should live?
3. Which cultural pressure is most likely to keep you from “living out loud”—acceptance, appropriateness, family expectations, materialism, retirement, a sense of scarcity, or something else?

Optional Questions

- What aspects of the American Dream can make it difficult to live a fully “living out loud” kind of Christian life?
- Read the quote on pages 125–126. What challenges or encourages you?
- Where do you see yourself most tempted to “cave to culture”?

Chapter 15 — The Evils of Friendship Evangelism

Essential Questions

1. How would you define “friendship evangelism”? What concerns does King raise about this approach?
2. Review the seven characteristics on pages 129–131. Which one stands out to you most, and why?
3. How can we genuinely love and befriend people without making the relationship feel like a project or a strategy for getting them to believe?

Optional Questions

- Which parts of King's critique do you find most helpful?
- Is there anything about the chapter that you find difficult or worth pushing back on?

- How does this chapter connect with the book's emphasis on authentic, natural spiritual conversations?

Next Step

Use the closing paragraph on page 126 to form a prayer, asking God to renew your mind and helping you to engage the culture as a transformed person.

Week 7

Check-In

Share an example from this past week when your faith and the surrounding culture did not seem to align well. How did you respond?

Chapter 16 — A Sidebar for Introverts

Essential Questions

1. King says, “God is more interested in our availability and our willingness than He is with our temperament.” What does that mean to you?
2. What relational settings feel most natural to you—one-on-one conversations, small groups, or larger gatherings? How can you use your natural relational style rather than seeing it as a limitation?
3. What is one way you could stretch beyond your natural comfort zone while still being authentically yourself?

Optional Questions

- Read King’s friend’s quote on pages 147-148. What is insightful, encouraging, or challenging?
- Do you think people can grow more comfortable in relational settings that are not natural to them? Why or why not?

Chapter 17 — Seeking Daily Intimacy

Essential Questions

1. Read 1 Peter 1:1-2. What does it mean that we are “set apart”? How should that shape the way we live?
2. Read the section on Habits beginning on page 154. What daily habits are shaping you? Which are drawing you closer to God, and which may be pulling you away from greater intimacy with Him?
3. King says we cannot let our love for God naturally flow into our everyday language unless we actually love God. How do we grow in our love for God?

Optional Questions

- What are some of the main points in Elliot Clark’s challenging statements on page 152?

- How do your daily habits shape your spiritual life, whether you intend them to or not?
- What is one habit you might begin, stop, or change?

Chapter 18 — A Worthwhile Invitation

Essential Questions

1. King says knowing about God is different from knowing God. What is the difference? How does that distinction affect the way we live?
2. Read the C.S. Lewis quote on page 164. What does Jesus want from us, and what does He give in return? How does that strike you?
3. King says that “living out loud” is fun. As you look back over this study, what excites you most about living this way?

Optional Questions

- What does the distinction between Savior Jesus and Lord Jesus mean to you?
- Where have you experienced greater freedom or joy as you have practiced living out loud?

Bringing Shema Statements Into Your Daily Language

Review the Shema Statements on page 168. Which ones resonate with you most? Think of 3–4 ordinary statements you commonly make that you could turn into Shema Statements. Take a few minutes to write them down, then share them with one another.

Closing Conversation

- What is one insight, challenge, or encouragement from this study that you want to carry with you?
- Where do you sense God inviting you to live more “out loud”?

Close by thanking God for what He has taught you and asking the Holy Spirit to help you live authentically and speak naturally about your love for Jesus.