

Widows of the Old Testament
Overall Study Guide
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These studies were written in lecture form because they were originally prepared for a group of widows in Kenya. The teacher presented the studies by lecture, and gave opportunities for response. The group met weekly and one study often took one month to complete due to class participation.

Widows of the Old Testament is designed to give an overall view or survey of God's plan for His people revealed in the Old Testament. It touches lightly on many topics that could be studied in depth. The purpose of this chronological study is to give understanding of Biblical history leading up to the context surrounding each widow. Our focus is on God's relationship with His people, especially the specific widows and their families. The ultimate purpose of this book is to bring about in us a personal application of what God is teaching from the study of these widow's lives; an application that will produce godly living and a significant relationship with the Lord.

Very Important - I was asked to prepare a study guide to help adapt the book to non-lecture type studies. I would suggest that each member of the study group have their own copy of the book *Widows of the Old Testament*. I will post a study guide for each of the nine Widow Studies as I complete them. These can be printed out or downloaded to an individual's computer, whichever is most convenient. Each group member should have their own study guide at least one week before the class so the lesson can be prepared in advance. This will give the greatest opportunity to learn in the group setting. The study guide could be copied into an e-mail and sent to the students who have computers.

The teacher/facilitator and student would benefit most by reading the study in the book first and then read and fill in the study guide. There will be answers and notes at the end of each study guide for the teacher/facilitator.

General Guidelines.

There will be three types of questions: 1. Observation questions – ask about the basic facts – who, what, when, where and how. 2. Interpretation questions – delve into the meaning of the passage. 3. Application questions – help you discover implications of the text for growing in Christ.

These three keys unlock treasures of Scripture. Write the answers in the space provided by the study guide and any special questions you have on the blank pages provided in the back of the book. When those questions are answered to your satisfaction you can record what you learned for a permanent record. Writing brings clarity and deeper understanding about yourself and of God's Word.

Members of group study would benefit most if they:

1. Come prepared.
2. Participate in discussion as the leader asks the questions found in the book and guide.
3. Stick to the topic being discussed. Answers need to be based on the verses being discussed – not outside authorities or other Scripture passages. If another passage pertains, jot it down and if there is time at the end include it.
4. Be sensitive to other group members. Many questions assume a variety of answers, especially those directed to meaning and application. Affirm others and tie in to other responses. There are no wrong answers as there are different levels of growth in Christ.
5. Be careful not to dominate the discussion. Allow others to participate.
Note to leaders – Be prepared to bring the discussion back to the group if one dominates (firmly but sweetly).
6. Be prepared to learn through the Scriptures being discussed and through other group members
- 7. Stress confidentiality. Do not discuss personal information outside the group without permission.**

These guidelines are adapted from *LifeGuide Bible Studies*. Inter Varsity Press.