



IN SEASON & OUT OF SEASON

Confidently share Jesus whenever and wherever
God has planted you

USER GUIDE

Welcome to *In Season and Out of Season*. In his second letter to Timothy, apostle Paul wrote, “Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season” (4:2). Although originally written as an encouragement to a first-century pastor, Paul’s words are equally applicable to twenty-first-century Christians. We have the same message to share with sinners who desperately need to hear it. *In Season and Out of Season* seeks to encourage and equip God’s people to share that message in any and every situation.

HOW TO USE THIS STUDY

The leader has two options for using *In Season and Out of Season*. He may wish to show the provided videos to the group, pausing at the appropriate places for discussion. Or he may watch the videos in preparation for leading the study himself.

Discussion

The study is designed to be interactive and encourage discussion. Be sure to pause long enough in the appropriate places for healthy discussion to take place. This kind of sharing lets participants know that they are not alone in having fears, concerns, etc., when it comes to sharing their faith. It also allows them to be encouraged as they hear their fellow believers discuss their evangelism experiences and advice. For larger groups (more than ten) one of two options is recommended:

- **Pair/Share & Group Discussion**

When the first discussion question of the lesson is asked, pair up all the participants. These will be the discussion partners for the rest of the lesson. For each discussion question, ask the pairs to share their thoughts with each other. After a period of time (appropriate for the question asked), ask participants to wrap up what they are saying. Wait until everyone has stopped sharing and then say, “I would love to hear what you discussed. Who will share?” and call on volunteers to share with the entire group. Allow as much sharing as seems appropriate and beneficial. The advantage of this approach is that far more people share their thoughts than in a group discussion or even a breakout group discussion. Those who might be hesitant to speak to a group, even a small group, are usually willing to share with a partner.

- **Breakout Group Discussion**

Arrange seating in such a way as to create groups of 6–10 participants. For each discussion question, ask participants to share their thoughts within their group. After a period of time (appropriate for the question asked) ask participants to wrap up what they are saying. Wait until everyone has stopped sharing and then say, “I would love to hear what you discussed. Who will share?” and call on volunteers to share with the entire group. Allow as much sharing as seems appropriate and beneficial.

SCHEDULE

In Season and Out of Season videos are divided into three lessons. The leader will want to note, however, that some lessons may be challenging to finish in just one session. For example, the video for lesson one is thirty-eight minutes long. In a one-hour Bible class setting, this allows for just twenty-two minutes of discussion. There are twelve discussion questions. To finish in an hour, each discussion could only last for less than two minutes. And this assumes no additional commentary from the lesson leader.

For this reason, the leader will want to carefully preview all the videos/lessons, and based on the length of each video and how many discussion questions are asked in each lesson, decide how many sessions the entire course will comprise. The number of sessions could range from three to six.

Once again, keep in mind that the discussions play an important role in the study. It is better to err on the side of too many sessions than too few.

May God bless your time in his Word and with his people!