

THE MAGNIFICENT OBSESSION

EMBRACING *the* GOD-FILLED LIFE

LEADER'S GUIDE
7 SESSIONS



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7 SESSIONS

ANNE
GRAHAM
LOTZ

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Requests for information should be addressed to:

Zondervan, *Grand Rapids, Michigan 49530*

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Thank You

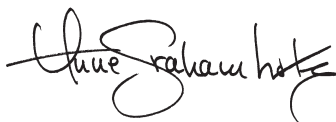
Thank you for serving as the primary guide for the participants who will join you in this study. While I will have the privilege of speaking to them through the video series, your leadership is essential. Your thoughtful and loving guidance will encourage them to consistently do their homework, as well as feel comfortable sharing their discoveries in your group. Please be assured that I, and others on this curriculum development team, have been praying for you.

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:3-6

As you lead others on this journey of faith, I pray that you will experience the fullness of God's blessing as you, too, embrace the magnificent obsession.

For His Glory,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne Sakamoto". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

For Starters

Thank you for choosing this Zondervan small group DVD curriculum. Please take a few minutes to read this helpful information before you begin. It should answer most of the questions you may have.

WHAT'S ON THE DVD?

The accompanying DVD features the following components:

- An introduction to the curriculum from Anne Graham Lotz
- An interactive workshop in session 1 describing the format Anne Graham Lotz uses to study the Bible
- 6 additional video sessions with Anne Graham Lotz which draw principles from each week's Bible study

WHAT OTHER MATERIALS ARE NEEDED FOR A SUCCESSFUL SMALL GROUP?

- Television monitor with DVD player (stand, extension cord, etc.)
- Watch or clock with which to monitor time

- Participant's guide (one per group member)
- This leader's guide (also on the DVD)
- Bible (one per group member)
- Pen or pencil for everyone
- Book: *The Magnificent Obsession* by Anne Graham Lotz (recommended for leader; optional for participants)

GOOD TO KNOW

This curriculum can work equally well in church or home groups. Each of the seven sessions is planned to be 60 minutes in length. In more formal, time-sensitive church settings, leaders will likely need to follow the time frames provided in the session outline more closely in order to finish all the content. In less formal home settings, leaders can “round off” time frames and still end up with about an hour of study material. In either case, remember these are suggested time frames and are open to adjustment as you see fit.

SESSION 1

Bible Study Workshop

BEFORE YOU LEAD

For the best experience in facilitating this study, it's important to preview session 1 on the DVD and complete all session 1 written exercises in the participant's guide prior to leading your group. Familiarize yourself with the session outline and gather the necessary materials.

Most importantly, please pray for the participants by name (if known). Pray Ephesians 1:17–18 for them, that God will open their hearts to His Word, that they will get to know Him better as a result of the Spirit's revelation.

SESSION OUTLINE

As participants enter, have written materials available for pickup.

- I. Introduction/Opening Prayer (2 minutes)
- II. Explanation of Bible Study Sessions (3 minutes)
- III. DVD Teaching Segment and Group Work
(53 minutes)
- IV. Conclusion and Preview (2 minutes)

INTRODUCTION/OPENING PRAYER (2 MINUTES)

At this first session, introduce yourself and give your contact information. If it can be done quickly, ask the participants to introduce themselves. It may be helpful in a larger group to provide name tags. Also, ensure that all participants have picked up the written materials. Then pray that God would use the coming hour to help everyone present to become more effective students and doers of His Word.

EXPLANATION OF BIBLE STUDY SESSIONS (3 MINUTES)

Explain the structure of this seven-session study. Each of the remaining sessions in this Bible study will consist of five segments: (1) an introduction that will help you get started with the group, (2) a review of the Bible study “homework,” (3) a video presentation on the passage studied in that session, (4) a summary of the study and follow-up discussion, and (5) a conclusion with a preview of the next session. This first session is unique, however, in that Anne will describe a method for studying the Bible that everyone will use in their personal quiet time throughout the study.

**DVD TEACHING SEGMENT
AND GROUP WORK** (53 MINUTES)

Show the video, following the instructions in the participant's guide at the beginning of page 11.

CONCLUSION AND PREVIEW (2 MINUTES)

Conclude by referring group members to the "Personal Pre-Session Bible Study" section on page 21 of the participant's guide, which describes the Bible study assignment for session 2. Remind them to pre-read the passage and then complete the five days of study before the next session. Close in prayer.

SESSION 2

Leave Everything Behind

BEFORE YOU LEAD

For the best experience in leading your small group, it's important to preview session 2 on the DVD, complete all session 2 written exercises in the participant's guide; and, if possible, read chapter 1 of *The Magnificent Obsession* by Anne Graham Lotz. Familiarize yourself with the session outline and gather the necessary materials.

Remember also to pray for the participants who will be attending, that they will choose to take the first step in embracing a God-filled life.

SESSION OUTLINE

- I. Introduction (5 minutes)
- II. Review of Bible Study Assignment (15 minutes)
- III. DVD Teaching Segment (25 minutes)
- IV. DVD Small Group Discussion (10 minutes)
- V. Conclusion and Preview (5 minutes)

INTRODUCTION (5 MINUTES)

Welcome any new participants; then use this time to reflect on what you have learned as a part of your individual study this week.

REVIEW OF BIBLE STUDY ASSIGNMENT (15 MINUTES)

Refer the group to their Bible study notes on pages 22–31 of the participant's guide. For each passage/day, have one or two participants:

- Share the lesson(s) they learned from each verse (Step 3).
- Share the most meaningful question they wrote out in response to Step 4, citing the verse on which the question was based.
- Tell what God seems to be saying to them through the study and how they plan to respond (Step 5).

DVD TEACHING SEGMENT (25 MINUTES)

Watch the teaching video for session 2 on the DVD, reminding everyone there is space to take notes on page 32 of the participant's guide.

DVD SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (10 MINUTES)

Ask group members to share any personal encouragement, challenge, or inspiration that they received from the video teaching. Use the DVD Small Group Discussion questions on page 33 of the participant's guide to stimulate discussion if needed.

CONCLUSION AND PREVIEW (5 MINUTES)

Encourage the participants to take a few minutes to complete the "Choices" section on page 34 as a way of making sure they are not just "hearers," but "doers" of the Word.

The next session will focus on the need to let everything go in the magnificent obsession. Refer group members to "Personal Pre-Session Bible Study" on page 39 of the participant's guide, which describes the Bible study assignment for session 3. Close in prayer.

SESSION 3

Let Everything Go

BEFORE YOU LEAD

For the best experience in leading your small group, it's important to preview session 3 on the DVD, complete all session 3 written exercises in the participant's guide, and, if possible, read chapter 2 of *The Magnificent Obsession* by Anne Graham Lotz. Familiarize yourself with the session outline and gather the necessary materials.

Remember also to pray for the participants who will be attending, that God will convict them to let everything go.

SESSION OUTLINE

- I. Introduction (5 minutes)
- II. Review of Bible Study Assignment (15 minutes)
- III. DVD Teaching Segment (25 minutes)
- IV. DVD Small Group Discussion (10 minutes)
- V. Conclusion and Preview (5 minutes)

INTRODUCTION (5 MINUTES)

Encourage the participants by giving personal testimony about some of the things you have let go of in order to follow Him.

REVIEW OF BIBLE STUDY ASSIGNMENT (15 MINUTES)

Refer the group to their Bible study notes on pages 40–49 of the participant's guide. For each passage/day, have one or two participants:

- Share the lesson(s) they learned from each verse (Step 3).
- Share the most meaningful question they wrote out in response to Step 4, citing the verse on which the question was based.
- Tell what God seems to be saying to them through the study and how they plan to respond (Step 5).

DVD TEACHING SEGMENT (25 MINUTES)

Watch the teaching video for session 3 on the DVD, reminding everyone there is space to take notes on page 50 of the participant's guide.

DVD SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (10 MINUTES)

Ask group members to share any personal encouragement, challenge, or inspiration that they received from the video teaching. Use the DVD Small Group Discussion questions on page 51 of the participant's guide to stimulate discussion.

CONCLUSION AND PREVIEW (5 MINUTES)

Encourage the participants to take a few minutes to complete the "Choices" section on page 52 as a way of commitment to the Lord if they have not already done so.

The next session will focus on the need to entrust everything to God as a part of the magnificent obsession. Refer group members to "Personal Pre-Session Bible Study" on page 57 of the participant's guide, which describes the Bible study assignment for session 4. Close in prayer.

SESSION 4

Entrust Everything Completely

BEFORE YOU LEAD

For the best experience in leading your small group, it's very important to preview session 4 on the DVD, complete all session 4 written exercises in the participant's guide, and, if possible, read chapter 3 of *The Magnificent Obsession* by Anne Graham Lotz. Familiarize yourself with the session outline and gather the necessary materials.

Bring AnGeL Ministries' contact information to give to participants who want more information about making a decision for Christ: www.annegrahamlotz.com and 5115 Hollyridge Drive, Raleigh, NC 27612.

Pray especially for anyone who needs to enter into a covenant relationship with God through faith in Jesus, that they will choose to completely trust Him.

SESSION OUTLINE

- I. Introduction (5 minutes)
- II. Review of Bible Study Assignment (15 minutes)
- III. DVD Teaching Segment (25 minutes)
- IV. DVD Small Group Discussion (10 minutes)
- V. Conclusion and Preview (5 minutes)

INTRODUCTION (5 MINUTES)

Use this time to personally give your own testimony of when you put your faith in Jesus Christ for your salvation and were counted right with God.

REVIEW OF BIBLE STUDY ASSIGNMENT (15 MINUTES)

Refer the group to their Bible study notes on pages 58–67 of the participant's guide. For each passage/day, have one or two participants:

- Share the lesson(s) they learned from each verse (Step 3).
- Share the most meaningful question they wrote out in response to Step 4, citing the verse on which the question was based.
- Tell what God seems to be saying to them through the study and how they plan to respond (Step 5).

DVD TEACHING SEGMENT (25 MINUTES)

Watch the teaching video for session 4 on the DVD, reminding everyone there is space to take notes on page 68 of the participant's guide.

DVD SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (10 MINUTES)

Ask group members to share any personal encouragement, challenge, or inspiration that they received from the video teaching. Use the DVD Small Group Discussion questions on page 69 of the participant's guide to stimulate discussion.

CONCLUSION AND PREVIEW (5 MINUTES)

Encourage the participants to take a few minutes to complete the "Choices" section on page 70 if they have not already done so.

The next session will focus on the need to lift everything up in prayer. Refer group members to "Personal Pre-Session Bible Study" on page 75 of the participant's guide, which describes the Bible study assignment for session 5. Close in prayer.

SESSION 5

Lift Everything Up

BEFORE YOU LEAD

For the best experience in leading your small group, it's important to preview session 5 on the DVD, complete all session 5 written exercises in the participant's guide; and, if possible, read chapter 5 of *The Magnificent Obsession* by Anne Graham Lotz. Familiarize yourself with the session outline and gather the necessary materials.

Remember also to pray for the participants who will be attending, that they will begin to pray effectively for family, friends, and others who need to be saved.

SESSION OUTLINE

- I. Introduction (5 minutes)
- II. Review of Bible Study Assignment (15 minutes)
- III. DVD Teaching Segment (25 minutes)
- IV. DVD Small Group Discussion (10 minutes)
- V. Conclusion and Preview (5 minutes)

INTRODUCTION (5 MINUTES)

Use this time to give a personal testimony about your prayer life and some of the lessons that God has taught you as a result of this week's personal Bible study.

REVIEW OF BIBLE STUDY ASSIGNMENT (15 MINUTES)

Refer the group to their Bible study notes on pages 76–85 of the participant's guide. For each passage/day, have one or two participants:

- Share the lesson(s) they learned from each verse (Step 3).
- Share the most meaningful question they wrote out in response to Step 4, citing the verse on which the question was based.
- Tell what God seems to be saying to them through the study and how they plan to respond (Step 5).

DVD TEACHING SEGMENT (25 MINUTES)

Watch the teaching video for session 5 on the DVD, reminding everyone there is space to take notes on page 86 of the participant's guide.

DVD SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (10 MINUTES)

Ask group members to share any personal encouragement, challenge, or inspiration that they received from the video teaching. Use the DVD Small Group Discussion questions on page 87 of the participant's guide to stimulate discussion.

CONCLUSION AND PREVIEW (5 MINUTES)

Encourage the participants to take a few minutes to complete the "Choices" section on page 88 if they have not done so already.

The next session will focus on the importance of casting out sin as a necessary part of the magnificent obsession. Refer group members to "Personal Pre-Session Bible Study" on page 93 of the participant's guide, which describes the Bible study assignment for session 6. Close in prayer.

SESSION 6

Cast Everything Out

BEFORE YOU LEAD

For the best experience in leading your small group, it's very important to preview session 6 on the DVD, complete all session 6 written exercises in the participant's guide; and, if possible, read chapter 6 of *The Magnificent Obsession* by Anne Graham Lotz. Familiarize yourself with the session outline and gather the necessary materials.

Remember also to pray for the participants who will be attending, that they will choose to cast sin out of their lives.

SESSION OUTLINE

- I. Introduction (5 minutes)
- II. Review of Bible Study Assignment (15 minutes)
- III. DVD Teaching Segment (25 minutes)
- IV. DVD Small Group Discussion (10 minutes)
- V. Conclusion and Preview (5 minutes)

INTRODUCTION (5 MINUTES)

Use this time to give personal insight about a sin you have cast out, or habit you have broken. This will create an environment for open sharing and vulnerability.

REVIEW OF BIBLE STUDY ASSIGNMENT (15 MINUTES)

Refer the group to their Bible study notes on pages 94–103 of the participant's guide. For each passage/day, have one or two participants:

- Share the lesson(s) they learned from each verse (Step 3).
- Share the most meaningful question they wrote out in response to Step 4, citing the verse on which the question was based.
- Tell what God seems to be saying to them through the study and how they plan to respond (Step 5).

DVD TEACHING SEGMENT (25 MINUTES)

Watch the teaching video for session 6 on the DVD, reminding everyone there is space to take notes on page 104 of the participant's guide.

DVD SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (10 MINUTES)

Ask group members to share any personal encouragement, challenge, or inspiration that they received from

the video teaching. Use the DVD Small Group Discussion questions on page 105 of the participant's guide to stimulate discussion.

CONCLUSION AND PREVIEW (5 MINUTES)

Encourage the participants to take a few minutes to complete the "Choices" section on page 106 if they have not done so already.

The closing session will challenge them to lay everything down as the final step in the magnificent obsession. Refer group members to "Personal Pre-Session Bible Study" on page 111 of the participant's guide, which describes the Bible study assignment for session 7. Close in prayer.

SESSION 7

Lay Everything Down

BEFORE YOU LEAD

For the best experience in leading your small group, it's important to preview session 7 on the DVD, complete all session 7 written exercises in the participant's guide; and, if possible, read chapter 7 of *The Magnificent Obsession* by Anne Graham Lotz. Familiarize yourself with the session outline and gather the necessary materials.

Please pray for the participants to choose to receive all that God wants to give them by laying everything down.

SESSION OUTLINE

- I. Introduction (5 minutes)
- II. Review of Bible Study Assignment (15 minutes)
- III. DVD Teaching Segment (25 minutes)
- IV. Commitment Time (10 minutes)
- V. Conclusion (5 minutes)

INTRODUCTION (5 MINUTES)

Use this time to reflect on what God has taught you throughout the study. What has God called you to lay down as a result of your own Bible study?

REVIEW OF BIBLE STUDY ASSIGNMENT (15 MINUTES)

Refer the group to their Bible study notes on pages 112–121 of the participant's guide. Ask a participant to read aloud the Scriptures for this session (Genesis 22:1–18). Then, for each passage/day, have one or two participants:

- Share the lesson(s) they learned in the passages (Step 3).
- Share the most meaningful question they wrote out in response to Step 4, citing the verse on which the question was based.
- Tell what God seems to be saying to them through the study of the passage and how they plan to respond (Step 5).

DVD TEACHING SEGMENT (25 MINUTES)

Watch the teaching video for session 7 on the DVD, reminding everyone there is space to take notes on page 122 of the participant's guide.

COMMITMENT TIME (10 MINUTES)

Ask group members to move from the video session to the “Commitment” section on pages 124–125, and then have them use the next 10 minutes to complete the cross graphic as an opportunity to solidify personal decisions made as a part of this study. If time allows, encourage the group to share decisions they have made. (If your group is not bound by a 60-minute time limit, you may use the DVD Small Group Discussion Questions on page 123 prior to Commitment Time.)

CONCLUSION (5 MINUTES)

Wrap up the study by making the participants aware that they may contact you or AnGeL Ministries about decisions they have made over the course of the study. The web address for AnGeL Ministries is www.annegrahamlotz.com. Encourage them to continue reading God’s Word and to regularly attend a local church for support and accountability. Close by giving opportunity for prayer. Then close in prayer yourself.

Share Your Thoughts

www.annegrahamlotz.org/contact/

Free Online Resources at

www.annegrahamlotz.org/free-resources/

Daily *Joy of My Heart* e-Devotions: Enrich your life with Anne's daily devotions that help you start every morning focused on God. Visit www.annegrahamlotz.org/category/joy-of-my-heart/.

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