

ALL THINGS NEW A DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY FOR HEALING

—THIRD EDITION—

*For Christians Experiencing
Unwanted Same-Sex Attraction*

Facilitator's Guide



2 Cor. 5:17

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All Things New: A Discipleship Ministry for Healing, Third Edition *For Christians Experiencing Unwanted Same-Sex Attraction* Facilitator's Guide

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INTRODUCTION

ALL THINGS NEW: A DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY FOR HEALING is a Bible study and discipleship ministry for people who are experiencing unwanted same-sex attraction or are conflicted about their own lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ) identity. This revised edition incorporates recommended topics and a ministry structure drawn from the author's doctoral dissertation research, which included interviews with 60 people and survey data from 85 participants and leaders involved in ministries like this and associated with Restored Hope Network, with over 190 years of collective experience, to help individuals overcome unwanted same-sex attraction. You can find a link to the complete author's doctoral dissertation on the Resources page at <https://dbarrministries.org/>. This facilitator guide is a comprehensive resource containing everything you need to minister to Christians who desire help, including the content of the accompanying participant workbook that participants seeking help from this ministry will need to complete the assignments (*All Things New: A Discipleship Ministry for Healing: For Christians Experiencing Unwanted Same-Sex Attraction, Third Edition, Participant Workbook*).

Lay leaders can facilitate this material in a church or non-profit recovery ministry. The purpose of the All Things New Ministry is to aid in the spiritual healing and growth of people in bondage to false identities and unwanted feelings and to enable them to understand their true identity as children of God. Participants in the Ministry will experience true love and healing from the Lover of their souls, Jesus Christ.

Facilitators should complete the homework each week in preparation for leading the next meeting. You might want to consider using a journal or notebook to record your answers to the homework questions, keeping this book clean for future use.

Ministry leaders must create a safe environment for healing; train participants in the ministry to examine their lives in light of biblical truth; and cultivate personal intimacy with Jesus Christ that leads to true discipleship. The ministry leader must be transparent about their own struggles with sin, be honest about their relationship with God, and not pretend to be an expert in spirituality. It is not necessary to expose every detail, but by being transparent about our struggles with sin, we open the dialogue and create a safe environment for healing.

The Facilitators must maintain the confidentiality of all participants in the ministry to provide a safe environment for people to discuss their feelings and struggles with sin. All information shared in the group should be kept confidential, with limited exceptions, for example, if you believe a participant is at risk for suicide, or if you believe someone intends to harm another person.

It is important to be aware that some participants in this ministry may need professional counseling services in addition to the weekly Bible study, as areas of pain are uncovered. Be prepared to provide information about how to connect them with professional counselors through your church or in the community. See the resources page for potential national Christian counseling resources.

SETTING EXPECTATIONS

Sexual orientation change – this ministry does not promise a shift in orientation from gay to straight or from homosexual to heterosexual; instead, we offer biblically based guidance, tools, and support toward Christ-centered healing and wholeness. Some people will experience a significant transformation in their desires, and others will not. The goal is to help participants align their sexuality and gender identity with their faith and God's Word, often resulting in a diminishment of unwanted same-sex attractions.

The Journey Begins

LESSON 1

HOMEWORK

You are beginning a journey of healing and transformation. Congratulations on committing to invest in yourself and your well-being. The Lord Jesus Christ invites you to walk with him on this healing journey. The first and most crucial step on this path to wholeness is ensuring that you have a personal relationship with Jesus. That you have repented of your sins, received the forgiveness of your sins, accepted him as your Lord and Savior, and that you desire to grow deeper in your faith and in your relationship with him. He alone is the healer and deliverer (Matthew 9:35; Mark 3:10; Isaiah 61:1; Luke 4:18).

If you have never repented of your sins and accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you can do that right now before we begin this healing journey. Jesus died on the cross for our sins, and the Bible says that there is no other name under heaven by which we must be saved (Acts 4:10, 12).

The Bible lays out in the book of Romans why we need salvation and how to be saved. We are all born into sin as a result of the sins of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. The story goes on to reveal the amazing love of Jesus Christ for all men: while we were still living in sin, Jesus Christ died on the cross to take away the sins of the world. The only requirement for a person to be saved is to accept the free gift of salvation offered by God. There is absolutely nothing we can do to earn the right to be called a child of God and to attain salvation and eternal life. Salvation is a free gift offered by God to anyone who recognizes the sacrificial death of Jesus and believes by faith alone that Jesus died for them. When that person calls on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, they will be saved.

Romans Road to Salvation:

- Romans 3:10 – *As it is written: There is none righteous, no, not one;*
- Romans 3:23 – *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*
- Romans 5:12 – *Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned* (see Genesis 2:16-17; Genesis Chapter 3; 1 Corinthians 15:22).
- Romans 5:8 – *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*
- Romans 6:23 – *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
- Romans 10:9-10 – *that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*
- Romans 10:13 – *For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”*

You can receive the gift of salvation by saying a prayer like this: “Lord Jesus, I recognize that you are the Son of God and you alone have the power to forgive my sins and save me. I believe that you died on the cross, were buried, and rose from the dead. I repent of my sins and turn my life over to you. Amen.”

The second foundational principle of this healing journey is understanding that the Bible, or the Word of God, changes and transforms lives. If you will commit to reading the Word every day, and allowing God to speak to your heart as you trust this process, your life will indeed be different than when you began. God speaks to us today through his written Word. It is living and powerful and discerns the thoughts and intents of our hearts (Hebrews 4:12-13). God inspires it and equips us for the work he has for our lives (2 Timothy 3:16-17). There are numerous Scriptures in the Bible where God tells us about the power of His Word to guide and transform our lives:

Joshua 1:8 - *This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.*

Psalms 119:105 - *“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path”*

1 Peter 1:23 - *...the word of God ... lives and abides forever.*

1 Thessalonians 2:13 - *For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.*

John 17:17 - *Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.*

Acts 20:32 - *So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.*

God’s Word guides our steps, makes us prosperous and successful; it lives and abides forever; effectively works in our lives; brings truth; builds us up, and gives an eternal inheritance. What incredible power and amazing promises!

We will walk together through the Word of God to learn how He transforms lives and brings hope and healing to his children who desire to know him more. God loves you, and he demonstrates his love throughout the Bible, which is his written word of hope for all people. Let’s begin our journey together and see what he has in store for you.

This Week’s Memory Verse

Psalms 1:2-3 (NKJV) *“But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.”*

FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

COED OPENING SESSION GUIDE

- Begin with Worship
- Introduce the leaders of the ministry
- Go over the memory Scripture in detail, breaking it down and explaining its meaning using a Bible dictionary or commentary (Psalm 1:2-3), and compare it with Jeremiah 17:7-8, highlighting what God says to us about the importance of meditating on His Word and what He promises as a result.
- Share two short testimonies (preferably from a male and female leader) with the group on overcoming unwanted same-sex attraction.

SMALL GROUP FACILITATOR BREAKOUT GUIDE

TRANSPARENCY

- Discuss salvation and ensure all small group participants have accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior.
- Share reflections on the testimonies shared during the opening session
- Discuss the importance of commitment to daily Bible study
 - The small group may want to follow the same Bible study plan using a Bible app like YouVersion available on [Bible.com/reading-plans](https://www.bible.com/reading-plans)
- Discuss the challenges and insights faced by the lesson content and memory verse

ACCOUNTABILITY

- Recite the memory Scripture.
- Discuss whether each person read the whole Gospel of John this week, and if this is a new practice (to read scripture daily)

PRAYER

- Ask for prayer requests and pray for each person.