

We love questions! There were a few in the webinar Q&A that went unanswered, so we asked the panelists if they would give their input.

1. Is it possible to have closed captioning turned on for the webinar?

Thank you for your request! We were unable to turn that on during this webinar but will work on that for future webinars.

2. Do any of you use any form of AI to create Bible studies?

- *Christine says:* I haven't used AI to create a study because I don't feel that is a reliable source to get a solid doctrinal study. But I have used it to help me take small context and create a discussion question.
- *Christa says:* Yes, sometimes I will ask AI for discussion questions. I don't always use them, and I sometimes have to change them up, but it does offer me a good starting point sometimes. I mostly use them as a starting point to get my brain going (if that makes sense).

3. What's the difference between teaching vs. facilitating the studies?

- *Christine says:* I feel that teaching is more of a one-sided discussion where facilitating is more of a discussion and learning from each other! I think there is definitely a bit of both aspects needed in a study!
- *Mary says:* We are more facilitators than teachers as the guide who comes alongside (Marilyn Sievert's words) and provides tools and resources to study the Bible with us and on their own. We do "teach" the content in the People's Bible series and give additional guidance to other parts of the Bible. We want the process of studying and understanding God's Word to be a joy and blessing.
- *Christa says:* This will probably depend on the study you choose. Some studies have great leader's guides and might not have a lot of additional work needed, or you may offer a study with a video of a pastor or speaker. I would consider those types of studies as ones that someone would facilitate. For a teaching study, you are digging more into the Bible and commentaries yourself and are leading a guiding discussion. When I teach these types of studies, I am typically sending my pastor more questions.

4. Where can we find the Evangelical Heritage Version (EHV) study Bible?

You can find the online EHV at <https://wartburgproject.org/> and the print version from Northwestern Publishing House at <https://online.nph.net/an-ehv-study-bible.html>.

5. Do you see a difference between leading a group discussion (e.g., reviewing the study questions) versus digging into the Scripture and pulling apart its

meaning? That's why our pastors go back to the original Greek and Hebrew when they study. What I'm really asking is this: How do you keep the discussion focused on the rock-solid truths of Scripture versus the subjectivity of "this is what I think this passage means to me"?

- *Christine says:* I think it's asking, "What is God saying in this verse?" (looking at footnotes, cross-references, etc.) and then using application after it's clear what he is saying.
- *Mary says:* Pastor Arnold (our spiritual growth pastor) has taught us "context, context, context." We simply don't discuss the Bible in terms of what a passage means to us. There is no "I feel" or "I think." If we don't understand the passage we bring it to Pastor Arnold, and he gives us a complete answer. He has studied the Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic. He knows the history, the geography, and the culture of the Bible.
- *Christa says:* I would keep in mind that when reading a verse or passage, there is meaning and there is also application. The meaning of the verse can be reached by understanding the context. The People's Bibles, other commentaries, or a pastor can help to explain the meaning of a verse and how it is meant in the context of Scripture. The application of a verse can be how it makes us feel and how we apply it to our lives. The Bible does make us feel. Sometimes it will be convicting; sometimes it will be comforting. We can apply God's Word to our lives, but it is important to differentiate between meaning and application.

6. What sorts of crafts does Christine do with her class?

Christine says: We have made bracelets, "JOY" boxes, prayer boards, and "I AM" wooden blocks with printed stickers. We've also had volunteers make flatbread from Jesus' time for one of our lessons!

7. When is the 2026 WELS National Conference on Lutheran Leadership?

The conference is January 19–21, 2026, at the Hilton in Chicago. Registration is open now! Visit <https://lutheranleadership.com/> to learn more and register. Early bird registration ends Nov. 15.

8. When is the WELS Women's Ministry conference that is held every two years?

We will not be hosting a Women's Ministry conference in 2026 but are encouraging women to attend the WELS National Conference on Lutheran Leadership instead (see question #7). There are many breakouts that will be women-led and on topics directed toward women. WELS Women's Ministry will be hosting a table with information and access to all our upcoming events. We'll also be leading a Bible study for women before breakfast one morning! You can find more information at <https://lutheranleadership.com/>. A WELS Women's Ministry conference is being planned for 2028.