ORGANIZING SMALL GROUPS
Prayerfully project how many people you anticipate going through the War Room Bible Study. Once you have that number, gather committed leaders to lead 8–12 people each.

With a leadership team, prayerfully assign people into groups. Decide whether you want groups gathered by age or common interest, or do you put them together in order to meet new people or share life with people of ages they rarely experience?

It would also help for each leader to have a designated contact person (it doesn’t have to be a staff member) for encouragement and moral support. These leaders of leaders can serve as a resource to help equip group leaders to meet specific needs or to bring ideas on how to move the group along.

An important element is to prepare for what happens with these individuals once this study concludes. These five weeks should serve as momentum to move men and women into a deeper prayer life. Make sure you are prepared to walk with them once the time for this study ceases.

This study can be used before a church/group sees the movie, or after.

FORMING SMALL GROUPS
In order to have successful groups, focus on the right elements.

THE RIGHT LEADER
It is imperative to place solid, godly leaders over each of your groups. Not only will these leaders assume the serious responsibility of teaching God’s Word (see Jas. 3:1), they also will serve in the capacity of a shepherd watching over their members’ spiritual well-being (see Heb. 13:17). Your leaders don’t have to have a seminary degree, but they do need to be consistent hearers and doers of the Word themselves (see Jas. 1:22).

THE RIGHT NUMBER
The right number of participants is critical to the success of a small group. Some people like being a part of a larger group where there is little pressure for each person to contribute to the conversation. Others like being part of a smaller group to know each person better.

For this study, it is important that the group be small enough that each person will feel safe to be honest. Just realize that people will be absent from time to time, so if you make the group too small, you might have an awkward meeting when a few are missing. If the group is too large, you may risk not getting to know each person and some may end up being inactive if no one checks in on them.

THE RIGHT TIME
Providing different options for meeting times will provide more people a chance to participate. To ensure good conversation, try to allow some buffer time between the end time and the next thing participants have to attend (worship service, picking up preschoolers, etc.). Considering the timing, make sure that you either have child care provided or guidance for obtaining child care.

THE RIGHT LOCATION
In order to make your small group work, make sure everyone in the group knows how to find you. Meeting in either a church building or someone’s home will work fine, it just depends on the comfort level and ease for those participating in the study.
THE RIGHT DYNAMIC
When groups begin to meet and share life, the leader will need to set the expectations for the group dynamic. Share how you will lead to facilitate discussion but not be the only person talking. Be sure to avoid closed questions (those that are answered with a yes or no). Give permission for members to ask questions and to share and assure them that the group will keep confidence.

THE RIGHT DIRECTION
Many small groups never move from being a small-group experience for a season into engaging Christlike relationships. If the group is only going through this study together, the leader needs to provide the right direction for the members once the time is over. Belonging to a group after a specific study is vital for the long-term growth of a Christian. Follow up this study with men’s Bible study, women’s Bible study, prayer groups, or other accountability groups.

FACILITATING SMALL GROUPS

AUTHORITY
Make sure each member knows that the authority of this study is the Bible. The movie, the teacher, the pastor, the books, and the group are all helpful; but the group is neither a counseling nor a self-help group. The only true authority with the ability to change our lives is the Word of God.

AUTHENTICITY
To ensure that your group accomplishes more than solely transfer information, your group members must speak with authenticity. Speaking honestly will not only provide healing for the individual but also encouragement for others.

ACCOUNTABILITY
We all want more than motivation to change; we want to actually change and that is why we need each other. In your group, encourage members to ask for help in keeping their commitments and to check in on each other over the weeks together.

AVAILABILITY
While you hope that much life transformation will happen within the meeting time of your group, realize that a lot of life happens outside of times when your group is together. By making yourself available to other group members throughout the week, you become more than a study group—you live as the body of Christ.

GUIDELINES FOR SMALL GROUPS

CONFIDENTIALITY
As you dive into small-group Bible study, members will be prompted to share thoughts and feelings related to the topics of prayer, accountability, and others. All of these expressions are made out of trust and should be kept with the strictest confidence by the group.

RESPECT
It is important that participants commit to respecting one another’s thoughts and opinions and to providing a safe place for those thoughts and opinions to be shared without fear of judgement.

GETTING EXTRA HELP
As the small-group facilitator, you are the leader of the group. However, there might be issues that come up that you cannot answer or handle in your Bible study time. Know when to refer someone to get any extra help they may need.