

MODERN MARXISM

STUDY GUIDE

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INTRODUCTION

It's no secret that Western civilization is rapidly changing. Basic truths are being radically redefined. Hostility against Christians is escalating. As the pressure builds, Christians who never guessed this kind of storm could rise so soon, so close to home, confront a question:

Now what?

That's where this study guide comes in. Drawing on insights from Scripture, history, and Christians who have "been there," the *Modern Marxism Study Guide* offers next-level preparation for the gathering storm.

THIS 11-SESSION STUDY WILL EQUIP CHRISTIANS TO:

- Better understand today's cultural trends—and the spiritual agendas driving them.
- Discern how these trends connect to a false gospel rooted in Marxism.
- Uncover vital lessons from historical patterns of persecution, revolution, and resistance.
- Develop strong personal foundations to withstand the gathering storm.
- Respond strategically from the basis of God's Word.

Along the way, opportunities for deeper engagement, personal application, and optional challenges will help Christians translate new insights into practical action.

Believers can journey through the *Modern Marxism Study Guide* either as individuals or—to gain the best possible advantages from this study—in groups.

Ready to get started?

STUDY GUIDE DESCRIPTION

WHAT IT IS

The *Modern Marxism Study Guide* contains materials for 11 weekly (or self-paced) sessions, each of which corresponds to a chapter of the book *Modern Marxism: A Guide for Christians in a Woke New World*. Sessions are designed to help Christians unpack, engage with, and apply the concepts they'll encounter in *Modern Marxism*.

WHO IT'S FOR

The *Modern Marxism Study Guide* can benefit any Christian. This study guide is designed to allow participants to work through the materials either individually or as part of a group. Notably, one of the key concepts this study will highlight is (**spoiler alert**) the importance of building strong Christian community networks. So the best-case scenario is for believers to experience this study together. Just a few possible group makeups include:

- Two or more people going through the study informally as friends, couples, or mentor-mentee pairs
- Parents and teens studying together as a family
- Two or more families meeting to journey through the materials
- Church small groups, youth groups, adult Sunday schools, senior groups, or—better yet—intergenerational

study groups bringing together diverse sectors of the congregation

- Christian student groups from campus ministries, high schools, or homeschool co-ops

HOW IT WORKS

The *Modern Marxism Study Guide* features a series of flexible session templates that individuals or groups can configure to suit their unique situations. For group studies, leaders are encouraged to select the questions, activities, and challenges that best meet their group's needs. Leaders may also choose to add other questions or activities at their discretion. A typical session template includes:

- Scripture references related to the week's chapter of *Modern Marxism*
(As an optional challenge, participants are encouraged to memorize verses from each session's Scripture passages.)
- Discussion questions to check comprehension, encourage reflection, and spark dialogue
- Application questions that guide participants to implement concepts from the chapter
- Prompts for praying in response to specific concepts unpacked during the session
- Optional challenges to enhance learning, promote deeper Scripture study, and encourage the practical application of each session's materials

In addition to session templates, this study guide also features suggestions for group leaders, including optional group activity ideas designed to foster intergenerational team-building connections.

SUGGESTIONS FOR GROUP LEADERS

Readers planning to facilitate this study in a structured group setting can find extra ideas, tools, and inspiration in this section. Readers planning to go through the study individually can find supplemental questions for personal reflection under “Prompts for Open Discussion” but may otherwise prefer to jump straight to Session One.

BEFORE EACH SESSION

Make sure participants have access to each week’s materials in order to preview the learning objectives, discussion questions, and application activities for the session. Ask participants to read the relevant book section, encouraging them to take notes to prepare for the session’s discussion questions. Additionally, encourage participants to write down any questions they have while reading the section. These questions can later be addressed during open discussion times, in breakout groups, or in mentor-mentee pairs.

SUGGESTED SESSION OUTLINE

- Open with prayer.
- Optionally, allow time for an initial connection-building activity, like an icebreaker or a meal.

- Transition into discussion time. Go through selected questions, activities, and prayer prompts, breaking into smaller groups as needed. Remember to allow open discussion time for participants to share other thoughts and questions. (See “Prompts for Open Discussion” below.)
- For groups doing weekly challenges, allow time for participants to complete, discuss, or share results from the previous week’s challenge. (Group leaders using the optional Bible study challenges may want to ask participants to prepare study notes in advance for discussion during the corresponding session.) Highlight any instructions for next week’s challenge.
- Ask participants to read the next chapter in preparation for the following session.
- Optionally, allow time for final team-building activities, mentorship sessions, or fellowship.

PROMPTS FOR OPEN DISCUSSION

Open discussion time allows participants to share their personal reflections about each week’s reading. Here are just some of the many possible questions that can encourage conversation:

- What other truths from God’s Word relate to this chapter?
- What are your thoughts about this chapter?
- What stood out to you from this chapter?
- What’s something new you learned?
- What information did you find the most useful?
- What did you find the most surprising?

- What story or statement from this chapter did you especially relate to?
- Did this chapter raise any concerns for you? If so, what were they?
- How did you first react to what you read? For example, did something make you feel encouraged, apprehensive, or excited?
- What is one action you plan to take in response to what you've read?
- Did you have any questions after reading this chapter?

IDEAS FOR BUILDING INTERGENERATIONAL CONNECTIONS

Part three of *Modern Marxism* notes the importance of intergenerational Christian community networks—and especially of godly adults intentionally discipling youth. Below are ideas for ways that group leaders can structure this study to help forge, foster, and fortify intergenerational discipleship networks.

MENTORSHIP ENHANCEMENT OPTIONS

To further build intergenerational connections, participants may optionally form “small groups” consisting of a mentor (or pair of mentors) and one or more mentees. (Remember to follow appropriate protocols for any meetings between group members.) Members of small groups can work together on the application activities and follow-up discussions of weekly challenges. Other ideas

for challenges that bring together students and mentors are available under “Optional Group Activity Ideas.”

TIPS FOR RECRUITING MENTORS

The word *mentorship* can sound intimidating, potentially making older Christians hesitant to participate in the study. Would-be mentors may also be concerned about the level of commitment participation may require. Here are a few tips to help with overcoming these barriers when recruiting mentors.

- Clarify what mentorship means. A mentor is someone with valuable experience, knowledge, or insight who can benefit others—particularly those who are younger.¹ Mentorship may take many forms, from formal discipleship to informal friendship.
- Reassure mentors that they don’t need to be perfect, have all the answers, or possess special skills to make a difference in another person’s life. A mentor can simply be anyone with a story of God’s faithfulness to share.²
- Emphasize the value and importance of mentorship. For example, research confirms that connections with older Christians are a major common denominator setting apart the church-raised youth who keep the strongest faith into adulthood.³

1 See *Prepare to Thrive* (Hebron: Answers in Genesis, 2022), 147.

2 See “360° in 180—What It Takes to Be a Mentor: A Conversation in Holland (Part 24),” *Answers in Genesis*, May 6, 2020, AnswersInGenesis.org/blogs/patricia-engler/2020/05/06/360-in-180-mentor-conversation-holland-part24/.

3 E.g., David Kinnaman and Mark Matlock with Aly Hawkins, *Faith for Exiles: 5 Ways for a New Generation to Follow Jesus in Digital Babylon*, ebook ed. (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2019); Rick Hiemstra, Lorianne Dueck, and Matthew Blackaby, “Renegotiating Faith: The Delay in Young Adult Identity Formation and What It Means for the Church in Canada,” Faith Today Publications, 2018, p2c.com/renegotiating-faith/.

INTERGENERATIONAL TEAM-BUILDING CHALLENGES

In addition to using any of the optional weekly challenges listed in each session handout for individual participants, try the following challenges to strengthen intergenerational connections within your group.

STORY-SHARING NIGHT

Since mentorship can look as simple as having “a story of God’s faithfulness to share,”⁴ why not host a testimony night where Christians can share stories of how they’ve seen God work in their lives?

INTERGENERATIONAL PRAYER INITIATIVES

Whether “prayer walks,” structured prayer meetings, or informal “prayerful get-togethers,” group prayer initiatives are power tools for building the spiritual and interpersonal foundations every Christian needs. (For more on these foundations, see chapter 9 of *Modern Marxism*.) One easy way to implement these power tools is to incorporate intergenerational prayer time in your group sessions, including prayers for both personal requests and the issues raised in each session’s “prayer prompts.”

INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE PROJECTS

Another fantastic way to build intergenerational connections is to allow younger and older people to serve each other or to serve alongside each other. Arrange for your entire group to complete a volunteer or service project together or encourage small groups to do their own service projects.

4 See “360° in 180—What It Takes to Be a Mentor: A Conversation in Holland (Part 24),” *Answers in Genesis*, May 6, 2020, AnswersInGenesis.org/blogs/patricia-engler/2020/05/06/360-in-180-mentor-conversation-holland-part24/.

Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.

Matthew 7:24–25

CHAPTER 1

THE GATHERING STORM

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This session equips Christians to . . .

- Discern signs of a Marxist “revival” corresponding to increasing hostility against Christians
- Understand what totalitarianism is and how to recognize its variations
- Describe concepts, including social credit systems, ESG scores, and access economies
- Explain how these concepts relate to totalitarian control
- Recognize how diversity, equity, and inclusion policies can contribute to totalitarianism

SCRIPTURES

- John 15:18–21
- 2 Timothy 3:12–17
- 1 Peter 4:12–14

DISCUSSION STARTERS

QUESTIONS TO CHECK UNDERSTANDING

1. How would you explain to someone else what totalitarianism is and what its variations look like?

2. What are some examples of social credit systems in today's societies?

3. What makes social credit systems effective for the purpose of totalitarian control?

4. How do “access economies” relate to communism?

5. What are ESG scores—and why would Christians care?

6. What do diversity, inclusion, and equity policies have to do with soft totalitarianism?

3. How do common cultural uses of the words *diversity*, *equity*, and *inclusion* compare with a biblical view of these concepts?

4. Think of an example of someone in Scripture who lived faithfully in a hostile society. What are a few lessons from this biblical account that offer insights for Christians living in soft totalitarian societies today?

PRAYER PROMPTS

Take a moment to reflect on and pray about the issues discussed in this session. Consider focusing your prayers on the following areas:

- A change of heart (and salvation) for the global leaders promoting forms of social control that would undermine civil and religious freedoms
- Widespread wisdom and discernment for Christians to recognize—and not join in promoting—agendas that enforce unbiblical thinking
- Courage, strength, and grace for Christians currently facing the pressures of hard or soft totalitarianism
- Other points you would like to keep in prayer based on this session:

APPLICATION ACTIVITY

This first session has introduced the nature, strength, and scope of the storm gathering against Christians in many (previously) free nations. Future sessions will continue to unpack vital information about what this storm is, where it came from, and what we can do about it. Take a minute to think through some specific goals you'd like to accomplish through this study. (For instance, how do you hope to grow during the study? How might this study serve to strengthen your connections with other believers? How would you like to use the information you learn to equip others?) Brainstorm some steps you can take along the way to help with achieving these goals. Share your ideas with someone else, writing down your plan and goals for future reference.

IDEAS FOR OPTIONAL CHALLENGES

BIBLE STUDY CHALLENGE

Chapter 1 noted that preparing to weather the gathering storm “requires understanding, internalizing, and committing to the authority of God’s Word.” As a refresher, take some time this week to study what Scripture says about itself and the role that God’s Word plays in believers’ lives.

APPLICATION CHALLENGE

Over the next week, watch for examples of hostility against Christianity that appear in news headlines, social media posts, and other aspects of popular culture.

For each example you encounter, take a moment to pause and pray for the situation and for the individuals involved. This will help orient you to see “signs of the storm” as opportunities to pray rather than as reasons to worry.
