

SMALL GROUP *leader guide*

AND LET US NOT NEGLECT OUR MEETING
TOGETHER, AS SOME PEOPLE DO, BUT ENCOURAGE
ONE ANOTHER, ESPECIALLY NOW THAT THE DAY OF
HIS RETURN IS DRAWING NEAR.
HEBREWS 10:25 NLT

Well-Worked
WOMEN CO.

Sister-

First of all, I want to thank you for your willingness to lead a small group of women. Christ sees you and He is greatly honored by your heart to serve him through facilitating this group. In Acts 2:42-47, we see a beautiful picture of what fellowship among believers is to look like. Verse 42 describes it this way, “And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” **CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP IS STIRRED AND DEEPENED THROUGH WORSHIP AND THE WORD.** I pray that your small group mirrors this verse, and that the women you meet with would be devoted to Scripture, to serving one another, and to praying together in Jesus’ Name. I believe that God is going to do a mighty work in your group as you meet weekly to share what you are learning and encourage one another in the Lord.

Second, it is my goal through this leader guide to equip you to lead your group. Coordinating a small group can be intimidating. For some of you, this will be your first time leading a group and you may already have butterflies in your stomach! And then for the rest of you, you might be seasoned Bible study leaders and feel comfortable in this setting. Either way, I pray that we would all come to the Lord with open hands and humble hearts as we seek to pour ourselves into the women around us. **THE BEST PLACE TO START IS BY RECOGNIZING HOW SMALL WE ARE AND HOW GREAT GOD IS.**

In the following pages, you will find some practical encouragement in leading your small group, as well as a few questions to help spark conversation during your meeting times. You know your group better than I do, and I trust that you will prayerfully lead each week and be led by the Holy Spirit. This point of any small group is about knowing Christ more through Scripture and fellowship, and the Word should be the main focus of your sessions each week. **I AM PRAYING THAT WALLS WOULD BE BROKEN DOWN, FEARS WOULD BE CRUSHED, LIES WOULD BE ERASED, AND THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL WOULD BE LIFTED HIGH!**

your friend, Gretchen

Tips for leading a small group:

1. Create a space that is inviting and welcoming. If you are meeting in your home, don't feel that everything has to look perfect each week. God might want to use the mess to bring freedom to another woman! Don't allow a messy house to hinder you from showing up. The way you show hospitality and welcome them in will show them the unfailing love of Christ. If you are meeting in a church or in another local area, try to find a spot that is without distractions and can be a safe place for the women to talk and participate in the group.
2. You set the level of vulnerability for your group. What I mean by this is that as you share from your own heart and personal experiences, other women will open up to share. Along with this, make sure that your group is not a place to gossip. Set the standard from the start the group meetings will be confidential and that any conversation that is steering in the wrong direction will be redirected by the leader.
3. Pray before and after the study. It is easy to rush through group meetings without first quieting our hearts to pray, but this is vital. Lead the group in prayer and ask other women to pray as well. Notice who is speaking and who is staying silent. Do your best to be sensitive to the needs of the women in the group and to help draw out those who aren't speaking as much.
4. Protect the time you meet together. It is good to have some structure and a set limit on a meeting. That way each member of the group can know the allotted time you will be meeting and feel comfortable leaving once the meeting time is over, even if some women decide to stay and fellowship.
5. Throughout this study there will be times to share your story vulnerably and for others to share as well. You pave the way for this conversation, but should also be wise and discerning as you listen and direct which way the session is going. If you encounter that your group sharing time is going too long, consider using a timer for each woman as she shares, that way each person in the group will have her opportunity to speak and will respect the boundaries of time.

Where To begin:

BEGIN BY SHARING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE GROUP. BOUNDARIES COULD INCLUDE:

- This group is a confidential safe place, unless there is any indication of harm or danger.
- This group is a commitment. Share the dates and times that you will be meeting so the women know ahead of time and can commit to be there.
- This group is a place to ask questions, encourage, and seek Christ together. It is a place where we will speak life, hope, and freedom into others, and not a place to gossip.

ONCE YOU HAVE SHARED THE LAYOUT FOR THE GROUP, POSSIBLY INCLUDE AN ICEBREAKER GAME OR QUESTION TO INTRODUCE THE WOMEN TO ONE ANOTHER! YOU COULD ASK FUN “GET TO KNOW YOU” QUESTIONS LIKE:

- If you were stranded on a desert island, what is the one food you would eat?
- Or if you could travel anywhere in the world where would you go and why?
- Questions like these are designed to get women comfortable with each other.

NEXT, SHARE YOUR STORY.

- As the leader, sharing your testimony will help the women to know you and trust you. Tell them how you came to know Jesus and why you are leading the group. There will be plenty of opportunities to share more of your story throughout the following weeks, so you can keep this a brief introduction.
- Go around the group and have the women share their own story within the time frame of 3-5 minutes.

DISCUSS A PLAN FOR THE STUDY.

- Hand them their books if they don't already have them and instruct them to complete the first week's homework before the next meeting. Explain how you will go through the study together.

WRAP UP.

- Close the group by sharing contact info and praying for one another.