

## Helpful Hints For the Group Leader:

- At the first meeting, the group can decide on a club format based on what suits the majority. There is no one-size-fits-all format. Some book clubs meet at a local church or public place, like a library. Many others meet in homes. Some meet at restaurants. Some meet once a month: some biweekly. Some read one chapter per meeting. Others read one book in six months. There are no rules. It is about what works best for your group. Whatever you do, decide in advance of each meeting how much of the book you will read and limit the discussion of that section to one week only — even if you don't get everything discussed.
- Discussion time can be anywhere from 20 minutes to an hour and a half. Just let the discussion happen.
- Provide an icebreaker that promotes friendships. Women come to book clubs for the spiritual/intellectual stimulation but stay for the relationships.
- Women often build friendships over munchies and coffee before the discussion starts, at a meal afterwards, or through planned starter questions such as, 'What really struck you in this week's reading?' and you are off.
- Encourage good, but non-threatening discussions. At your first meeting, and at every subsequent meeting when someone new joins the club, here are some simple discussion guidelines to share:
  1. Everyone is free to agree or disagree with the author.
  2. Opinions are just opinions. We will not take it personally if someone disagrees with one of ours.
  3. No one is required to talk.
  4. If someone reveals something personal, it stays within the group.

*The point is to make the discussion accessible to everyone.*

- Gently encourage steps of **faith** toward Christ by sharing how the book impacts your relationship with Him. Your job is to introduce Jesus and be open about what He is doing in you. It is the Holy Spirit's job to draw them to Himself.
- Close your discussion time with prayer and invite people to share their prayer requests. This is often where you will see the most growth—when you are able to be vulnerable in prayer and then rejoice and cry with each other when the answers come—that is when faith really grows.