

Guidelines for Facilitating Small Group Studies of Cindi's Books

Thank you for your desire to lead a small group study on one or more of my books.

Preparing to Start the Group:

Send out personal, hand-written invitations, email invites and make personal phone calls inviting women to be a part of this group. Start praying ahead of time for each woman you have invited to be a part of the group.

Make sure each woman who would like to participate has a copy of the book to be studied and let them know to read a chapter each week and come to the group with the book and their Bible, and prepared to discuss that week's particular chapter.

Having a schedule printed out ahead of time...with the date and the chapter to be studied...is helpful, especially for group participants who miss a week or two, so they can still keep up.

It is most helpful for the facilitator to have read the entire book (and answered all of the application questions) before starting the group study. This way the leader knows what's coming, and can keep discussion centered on each chapter (by letting participants know that their particular concern – if off subject -- is addressed in a later chapter, and so on).

Leading the Introductory Session:

1. Welcome the women to the study. Introduce yourself as their facilitator. Have each woman introduce herself and tell the group why she is interested in this particular study.
2. As their leader, tell the group why you are interested in facilitating this particular study and share with them what you hope to get out of it personally, as well as your goal for the women attending. Your group will only be as open and honest as you are so begin the study by being as transparent with them as possible.
3. Open the session in prayer.
4. Have someone that you know reads well and enjoys reading publically to read the introduction aloud as others follow along. Or, split this up with two or three women who have all agreed ahead of time to read.
5. Read through the book's Table of Contents. Ask the participants which chapters they see as most needed in their lives right now.
6. Commit to pray for each other in the areas they indicated above. You may want to assign prayer partners for this study, or have the women voluntarily team up with another one or two women to pray together each week.

7. Assign the women to read the first chapter of the book during the week and close your time together in prayer.

Leading Subsequent Sessions:

1. Greet women as they arrive and ask them about their week.
2. Open each session in prayer as close as possible to the advertised start time of the study.
3. Have an Opening Discussion Question to get the women talking early on in the study and to pique their interest in the topic at hand. (For example: Chapter 1 of *Letting God Meet Your Emotional Needs* is called "Finding the Only One Who Satisfies." The Opening Discussion Question for that session could be: "Who or what do you find yourself looking to for fulfillment in your life?")
4. Ask the participants to briefly share with the group what they gleaned most from the chapter in discussion. (This could be reading small portions they highlighted or reiterating a lesson learned in that particular chapter.)
5. Have the women look up in their Bibles key verses or passages that you have selected ahead of time that are included in that particular chapter.
6. Go through the application questions together at the end of each chapter. (Ideally, participants will have read the chapter and completed the application section ahead of time.) Call on those who feel comfortable sharing to briefly share their answers with the group. Only those who feel comfortable speaking should be called upon. However, be sensitive to the entire group by being careful not to let one or two people verbally dominate the group.
7. Summarize the assignment for the following week and close the session in prayer, or have women pair up with a prayer partner or divide into smaller groups to pray.



For specific questions regarding studies of any of my books, please contact me at the email address below.

May God bless your time as you prepare to lead women closer to His heart,

Cindi