

# share together

*cultivating constructive discussion*

Some of the most powerful moments of breakthrough come when we open up and share. The questions provided in each devotional are intended to help women gain deeper insight into the scripture or topic, receive personal revelation, and open up to the work of the Holy Spirit.

As a leader, you want to focus on keeping discussion honoring, on-topic, and encouraging balanced participation. Here are some tips to help!

**SHARE A PERSONAL EXAMPLE .** Leaders who model vulnerability and authenticity will see these attributes in their small group. Pray in advance about a personal example that relates to the devotional that you can share. If conversation takes off on its own, you may not need it, but it is useful to have *something* prepared.

**ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION .** Don't be tempted to fill silence. Sometimes it takes a moment of quiet space to prompt women to open up. When a woman shares, acknowledge her with an affirmation or thank you - "I'm so glad you shared that," or "Thank you for being so honest with us." Then, present an open invitation for the next woman. A simple, "Who else has something to share?" can be all that's needed. Be sensitive to new people or reluctant members who aren't ready to share and use discernment about how and when you prompt them. If you give them a safe setting, they will open up when they're ready.

**ASK FOR READERS .** Sharing the responsibility of reading is a great way to engage group members and cultivate ownership. Invite women to read the Bible passages provided. Remember, clear is kind, so make sure to offer a specific request, such as, "Who can read John 4:1-15 for us?"

**KEEP CONVERSATION HONORING .** Cultivating honoring discussion is as much about what is said as it is when it's said. Politely redirect side conversations that could be distracting with a kind, "Let's bring it back to the lesson/reading/question at hand." Language should always reflect an environment where the Holy Spirit would want to linger. Negative speech against others should never be tolerated. If things start to go off course, stop that train! Speak up firmly but kindly to redirect, reminding women of group values if needed. "Let's pause for a moment. I can tell this is a sensitive area for you. Let's come back to what we feel Jesus is saying here."

**UTILIZE BREAKOUTS .** For groups of ten or more, it can be useful to break into smaller groups. This is especially effective for closing prayer because it will allow each woman to share and receive personal prayer. If you have a very large group (thirty or more), consider forming breakout groups with a designated facilitator for each group so that women are able to gain connections and share with vulnerability and authenticity.