



LEADER'S GUIDE

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TO THE LEADER

God chose you to be part of His redeemed family. Isn't that an awesome thought? His desire is for all people to become part of that same redeemed family. That's another awesome thought! God has provided the means for this to happen through the witness of the Gospel. Your participation as a Leader for *Faith Talk*® is intended to encourage women in our church to do exactly that: Witness the Gospel. Our goal is that "each woman will be compelled to share the Gospel, pray for and recognize opportunities to do so, and then confidently live and speak her faith." In addition, we pray this material will be used to equip all of God's people to joyfully show and verbally share their love for Jesus and His saving gift of redemption.

AS YOU PREPARE

- Become thoroughly familiar with the materials. As Leader, you should view the entire DVD at least once before the presentation.
- Send out invitation letters and flyers announcing the workshop time and locations. Remind participants to bring their Bibles. There is a sample letter attached. This is a 4 to 5 hour workshop.
- Make enough copies of the Participant's Guide for all those attending. Participant's Guides can be placed in the LWML Pocket Folder (available at the LWML store, # 11600.)
- Check and see that the physical location is available and ready.
- Make sure all equipment and necessary materials are on hand. You will need either a TV and DVD player, or a computer with a projector and screen. Once you have all the equipment, it is a good idea to set it up, play the disc, and set your volume and other settings.
- Read Isaiah 43:10: "*You are my witnesses,*" declares the Lord, "*and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me.*" Think about these Bible truths and their impact on the people of Isaiah's time, and then think about how these words are words of truth for us today.
- Consider providing snacks and ask someone to prepare and serve them.
- Most importantly – spend sufficient time in prayer asking for God's guidance and blessing. Pray specific prayers of concern for how you feel and your hopes for the instruction given. Thank God for your talents and for His beautiful plan for our salvation, a plan that He intends for us to share.

A BLESSING FOR YOU

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
The love of God our Father,
And the blessing of the Holy Spirit be yours. Amen.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Name tags
- Pocket card with Philemon verse 6 imprinted on it. There are 25 included with the *Faith Talk*® packet. More can be ordered from the LWML store.
- Small colored circles for the introductory activity. Have a variety of colors with several of each color. These will be attached later to participant nametags or clothing. Colored ribbons work well also.
- Participant's Guide with extra paper for notes
- *Faith Talk*® DVD
- Bibles
- Pens/pencils
- Acts 4 printed out (optional)
- White board or flip chart (optional)

AS YOU START THE WORKSHOP:

- Place the colored circles in various places throughout the room beforehand.
- Open with prayer.
- Give a welcome, introductions, and a brief overview of the program.
- Pass out the cards with Philemon verse 6.
- Point out the location of the restrooms.
- Make sure everyone has a Bible, Participant's Guide, and a pencil.
- Keep in mind that the suggested times for each activity may vary based on the number of participants and their willingness and need to share.
- Chapters in **Bold** represent small group activities.
- Read the "A Blessing For You" again.
- Start the Video.

SESSION 1



- **Chapter 1. Introduction**

A.) Have participants select colored circles according to the directions on the video.

- **Chapter 2. Opening Group Activity – Participant’s Guide 1**

A.) Form into groups of 3 or 4 people according to the colored circle you chose.

B.) Read the Philemon card.

C.) Give 10 minutes to answer the questions listed on page 1.

D.) Take another 5 minutes to invite people to share their answers.

- **Chapter 3. Stories From the Heart**

- **Chapter 4. Christy’s Story**

- **Chapter 5. Karen’s Story**

- **Chapter 6. Ashlyn’s Story**

- **Chapter 7. Diane’s Story**

- **Chapter 8. Heart Story Reflection – Participant’s Guide 2**

Give the group 5 minutes to discuss the questions.

Optional: Use Naomi’s Faith Walk and the example she set for Ruth as a springboard to start the discussion. White board or flip chart may be used to capture biblical examples for the participants to copy.

- **Chapter 9. Our Faith Story – Participant’s Guide 3**

Give 15 minutes for the entire exercise depending on group size.

Optional: This exercise can be done in small groups or as a total group. Mountaintop and Valley experiences can be listed on a white board or flip chart.

A.) At the top of the page, write a word or thought about a mountaintop adventure and the wonderful things that you have experienced.

B.) Do the same for the valleys you have walked through. (The group may want to give examples of Mountaintop and Valley experiences.)

- C.) Focus on the Mountaintop and recall a verse from the Bible or a promise from God that makes this experience even greater.
- D.) Consider the Valley experiences and recall a scripture verse that comforts you or a promise from God that brings encouragement to your heart. Do this with several of the experiences that you wrote.
- **Chapter 10. Faith Story Reflection - People in the Bible**
Give 10-12 minutes in small groups to share.

A.) Return to your faith story page. Think of people in the Bible with whom you can identify or stories that best express what you think or feel.

B.) What insights of faith can you identify? Take time for thought.

C.) In small groups, give each person time to share a story and how it relates to God's Word or how a Bible story or person in the Bible has become significant in your faith story.
 - **Chapter 11. Prayer Response – Participant's Guide 4**
Read Acts 13.

A.) Give 5 minutes to write a personal prayer of thanks to God on page 4.

B.) Ask a member of your small group to pray with you.

C.) Read your prayer to your partner.

D.) Pray the prayer written at the bottom of the page with your prayer partner.

End of Session 1

Break Time

SESSION 2



- **Chapter 12. Recognizing Personal Opportunities (Introduces faith flags)**
- **Chapter 13. Casual Encounters Vignette 1**
- **Chapter 14. Casual Encounters Vignette 2**
- **Chapter 15. Casual Encounters Reflection – Participant’s Guide 5-6**

Give 10 minutes to practice within your small groups.

A.) Think of some examples of using faith flags in casual encounters, set the scene, and give a conversational line to your friend. Then listen for a faith flag response.

Optional: Have a member from each group write a line and response on the flip chart or white board for others to copy.

B.) After you have practiced several scenes, recall some casual encounters in the life of Jesus and what Holy Scripture tells us were His faith-filled messages.

- **Chapter 16. Long-Term Relationships Vignette 3**
- **Chapter 17. Long-Term Relationships Vignette 4**
- **Chapter 18. Long-Term Relationships Reflection – Participant’s Guide 5-6**

Give 10 minutes to practice in small groups.

A.) Set a scene. Give a conversational line to your friend and listen for a faith flag response.

B.) After you have practiced several scenes, recall some long-term relationship encounters that Jesus had and how He responded with faith-filled conversation. Give each small group the option to share with the large group.

- **Chapter 19. Crisis Times Vignette 5**
- **Chapter 20. Crisis Times Vignette 6- Participant’s Guide 5-6**

Give 10 minutes to practice.

A.) Think of crisis situations, set a scene, give a conversational line to your friend, and listen for a faith flag response.

B.) After you have practiced several scenes, recall some crisis situation that Jesus experienced and how He responded with faith-filled messages. Be prepared to have some examples to share with the group.

Optional: Compare our response to Christ's response. Discuss how we can follow Christ's example.

- **Chapter 21. Recognizing Personal Opportunities Reflection – Bottom of Participant's Guide 5**

Give 5 minutes of personal time to make lists and 5 minutes for prayer.

A.) Think of your personal circumstances. Identify people you know in each of the categories of Casual Encounter, Long-Term Relationships, and Crisis.

B.) List the people and focus on each individual as you prepare to share your faith in Jesus with them.

C.) Silently pray that God will provide opportunities for you to speak personally and directly to these people.

D.) Pray that the Holy Spirit will open the heart of your hearer to His Word.

E.) After you have prayed for the people on your list, pray the prayer at the bottom of page 5 with your partner.

End of Session 2

?? Need another break??

SESSION 3

- **Chapter 22. The Art of Listening**
- **Chapter 23. Listening Vignette – Participant’s Guide 9**
Give 10 minutes to discuss the 4 questions on page 9.
- **Chapter 24. Listening Reflection**
- **Chapter 25. More Faith Flags – Participant’s Guide 6-8**



Give 15 minutes to practice.

- A.) Role-play to learn how to comfortably use faith flags. Look at “Setting of the Scenes” on pages 7 and 8, and choose the one that makes you feel like saying “Let’s do it.”
- B.) Choose a partner with whom you can develop some dialog representing the characters. Try to use some of the faith flags listed on page 6 or use some of your own.

Optional: Have partners share their “scenes” with the entire group for feedback.

- **Chapter 26. More Faith Flags Reflection**

Give 3 minutes.

- A.) Pray that you will be bold in your witness and that faith flags will be a part of your everyday conversation.

- **Chapter 27. The Next Step – Participant’s Guide page 10**

Give 5 minutes.

Suggested next steps:

- A.) Form a prayer support group with those at your table and share names and e-mail addresses in order to give prayer support and encouragement to those gathered here today.

- B.) Register with Ablaze on the LCMS or LWML Web site

*****If you choose to have your own Commission Celebration /Closing service, you may stop the use of the video here.**

- **Chapter 28. Commission Celebration/Closing – Participant’s Guide page 8**

Please stand.

Prayer, response, and song may be used as directed in the video.

End of Video Presentation

Participant feedback on the workshop is appreciated. (A sample evaluation is enclosed).

Sample Retreat Letter



Dear Friend,

Our Retreat centers around a new DVD from LWML titled *Faith Talk*®. This is a program to help each of us learn how to easily share our faith with others. To prepare yourself for the retreat we are asking you to think about your own walk in faith.

- ♥ How can your life experiences help you help others?
- ♥ Are there Bible verses that have helped you? There are highs and there are lows in each person's lifetime. Each adds to your life story of faith.
- ♥ Is there a Bible verse that comforts you? Think about it – if it helped you, it can help another person.
- ♥ Is there a person in the Bible that seems to relate to you in your life?

Suggested reading: Acts 4 — think about verse 13 and verse 20.

As you prepare for the retreat:

- ♥ Pray that God speaks to your heart to show you how He has worked in your life and how He wants you to share your faith with others.
- ♥ Pray for all of the leaders of the retreat.
- ♥ Pray for safe travel for all.

Bring your Bible. Please prepare yourself well for this retreat experience.

We look forward to seeing you.

We are seeking to serve our Lord and Savior with you,



FAITH TALK® RETREAT EVALUATION

Please share your thoughts about the retreat and activities. We need your input for future retreats. Use the scale of 1-10 with 1 being the lowest and 10 the highest.

DVD *Faith Talk*®

1. My overall impression of the *Faith Talk*® DVD was positive. _____
2. The *Faith Talk*® DVD was easy to understand. _____
3. I understood the concept of “faith flags”. _____
4. I feel I received ideas that I will use in sharing my faith with others. _____

Other comments...

Pre-retreat

1. The registration/flyer announcing the retreat was easy to understand. _____
2. The flyer contained the information I needed to attend. _____
3. The invitation letter was helpful. _____

Other comments...



My Prayer Support Group

Get the names and e-mail addresses from those at your table to form your prayer support group for the year.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

Faithfully pray that each of you will:

Proclaim Jesus – Boldly share your faith – Recognize every day opportunities – Make faith flags a part of your conversation.

In addition, remember all Lutheran Women in Mission including your district, zone, and society leaders.

Add other prayer requests from those in your support group.