



Week 2 (Chapter 1: God Calls You In)  
God calls you... Just as you are

**Reflection and Discussion:**

1. It hurts to feel like we don't "fit in." Have you ever done something you regretted in an attempt to fit in or be accepted by others? What brought on that temptation, and in what ways might God have been calling you closer to him through that pain of being on the "outside"?
  
2. Rahab might have considered herself an outsider to people of faith because she was a prostitute. Are there any negative labels you put on yourself that separate you from God and his Church? What are they?
  
3. Have you ever suffered as a result of someone else's sin and weakness, as Abigail did? What lessons can we learn from the example of her response to her husband's harshness and stubbornness? How might you respond similarly the next time you find yourself victimized by someone else's sins?





Week 5 (Chapter 3: God Gives You Strength) pages 42-56

God gives you power to do great things and the freedom to choose.

**Reflection and Discussion:**

1. Have you ever felt uniquely powerful as a woman—not in spite of being a woman, but because you are a woman? Describe that time. What did it feel like? How did you respond to that experience?
2. What comes to mind when you hear the words “strong woman”? Do you know a woman you would describe as strong? What makes her that way? What do you admire about her?
3. How shocked are you by the story of Judith? What details stand out to you? In what ways might God be using this strange character and this strange story of her triumph in battle to call out to some kind of “battle”?
4. Have you ever witnessed the actions of a woman like Delilah? What do you think motivated her? What does her story teach us about womanly strength?

**Reflection and Discussion:**

1. What do you pray for? Are there things you hold yourself back from praying about because you don't think they are "worthy" of God's attention?
2. How do you feel about bringing your wants and needs to God? Are you ever tempted to approach prayer with a "gumball machine" mentality—Put your prayers in, turn the handle and whatever you want comes out? In what ways might God be calling you to a more real relationship with him that that?
3. Have you ever experienced pain in your motherhood or through longing for motherhood? In what ways does Sarah's story reflect your own experiences?
4. In what ways does Hannah's story give us an example of "hope in the Lord"? Do you identify more with Hannah or with Sarah (who struggles to hope)? How might God's response to both of these women give you greater hope for the things you long for?

**Reflection and Discussion:**

1. What kind of worries occupy your thoughts? Who you bring these worries to? God? Other women?
2. What is your personal response to Jesus' words in Matthew 6 (pg 77), where he teaches us to imitate the birds of the sky and the flowers of the field? What thoughts come to mind when you "consider the lilies"?
3. Can you identify with the widow of Zarephath and her "almost empty" jar of oil? In what was do you feel depleted weak, and "almost empty) How might God be calling you to greater trust through that emptiness?

**Reflection and Discussion:**

1. Have you ever admired someone else's trust in God? What do you think is the person's source of strength? In what ways and with what parts of your life do you struggle to trust in God?
2. In what ways can you relate to the Shunammite woman, who appears to be strong, confident, and self-sufficient yet holds back her greatest desire (for a child) from the Lord? What longings do you "hid" from God and others out of self-protecting fear of them not being fulfilled?
3. Like the Shunammite woman, have you ever felt that you have been thrown on a path of pain you did not ask for? What way is God present in your pain, disappointment, and discouragement. How can you draw closer to him through these experiences?

**Reflection and Discussion:**

1. Do you have a "best friend" or at least a close girlfriend you can share your heart with? If so, describe what that relationship means to you. If not, write down some things that get in the way of your finding female friends.
  
2. Have you ever been wounded in your friendships with other women? How have these wounds hurt you that were different from any hurts you have experienced in relationships with men?
  
3. Think for a moment about Mary's visitation to her cousin Elizabeth (pg. 95). Place yourself here with the two women as Elizabeth calls out her joyful greeting and Mary shares her joy in the words of the Magnificat. What do you think we are meant to learn from Mary's example and her story?





Week 12: Chapter 7: God Made You For Life-Giving Love (pages 114-128)  
God blesses others with the gift of you.

**Reflection and Discussion:**

1. What is/was your relationship with your own mother like? How have you grown in your understanding—good or bad—of what it means to be a woman and a mother through her example?
2. In the Garden of Eden, Satan tempts Eve by telling her that God does not have her best interests in mind, and that he has lied to her. In what ways are you sometimes tempted to withhold trust in God? How does this affect your relationships with God and others?
3. In what ways do you believe that God has made women unique and different from men? How do you see these feminine strengths at work in your own life and in the lives of others?
4. Do you believe, as St. John Paul II said, that the world is “hungrier than ever” for motherhood (pg 124)? In what ways might God be speaking to you through the needs of others about your mission?

