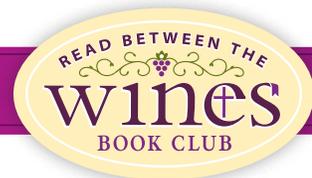




FACILITATOR'S GUIDE



Gaze Upon Jesus

Experiencing Christ's Childhood through the Eyes of Women

GENERAL INFORMATION: *Gaze Upon Jesus* follows the time following the infancy and early years of Christ as seen through the eyes of Mary and other familiar and imagined women in the gospels.

Founder Kelly Wahlquist and ten other members of WINE uniquely blend scripture reflections, imaginative encounters, and visio divina "sacred seeing" with practical spirituality and discussion questions.

Book groups should schedule at least **six meetings (90 minutes to 2 hours)** to discuss the six chapters of the book. **An initial meeting** can be added to hand out materials, get to know the women in the group, and discuss the forward and introduction. *Gaze Upon Jesus companion journal and study guide*, available only through the WINE shop, guides readers through each chapter, providing reflections on each chapter, discussion questions, and beautiful coloring pages.

ORGANIZING YOUR GROUP:

- **Schedule** location and rooms to use.
- Decide whether you will offer refreshments and make arrangements as needed. Leader may wish to cover the first week and then distribute a sign-up for the remaining meetings.
- Invite participants and ask them to register as WINE Members at **CatholicVineyard.com** and order *Gaze Upon Jesus* bundle, which includes a book, Journal & Study Guide, and bookmark. Participants will need to purchase the Journal & Study Guide as it holds special reflections, discussion questions, and coloring pages.
- Let participants know that they will need a Catholic Bible.
- Divide participants into groups of **8-12 people**.
- Ask one person per each small group to facilitate discussion.

PREPARING FOR THE FIRST MEETING:

- Familiarize yourself with how to use the Journal along with the book by **reading Journal pages 3-7**.
- Make sure your group has received their book bundles before the first meeting. (As noted above: If you need to pass out books, add a week to your study and on week 1 read the Forward & Introduction together in small group.)
- If all have their books, instruct your group to read the Foreword through Chapter 1 of the book prior to the first meeting, using the Journal & Study Guide to record their thoughts and answers.

AT YOUR GATHERING:

A. Opening and welcome (15 minutes)

1. Welcome everyone and open with prayer.
2. **First week only:**
 - Ask everyone to introduce themselves.
 - **Discuss schedule** and other organizational details as needed. There is room on **Page 1** of the Journal to write dates, places, and hostess names.
 - **Explain what to expect:** Each week you will read one chapter and record your thoughts in your Journal and Study Guide.

- Review discussion guidelines:

- a. Create an atmosphere that allows everyone a chance to contribute. If you have a lot to share, hold some back until others have spoken. If you are hesitant to speak, look for opportunities to share.
 - b. Listen to others and be respectful of them and their ideas. Try not to interrupt or to hold a private conversation while someone is speaking.
 - c. Stay on topic and answer the questions at hand. Write down other things that come up, to return to if there is time at the end.
 - d. Do your best to come prepared, recognizing that life will happen! If you can't read a chapter, come anyway. Let your group help you stay connected.
3. If personal matters are shared, keep them within the group.

B. Discussion (1 - 1½ hours)

*NOTE: Page numbers are given for **chapter 1** to use the second week you gather; use the same sections of the following chapters for the remaining 5 weeks.*

1. Ask someone to lead the group in prayer.
2. Share thoughts on each of the sections in the companion journal as they relate to the chapter.
3. Discuss the Questions for **Small Group Discussion** in the journal. *Allow approximately 10-15 minutes per question.*
4. Discuss **visio divina** using the corresponding image from the front of the *Gaze Upon Jesus* book.

C. Close (15 minutes)

1. Ask whether anyone has something else to share.
2. Ask group members to read the upcoming chapter for the next meeting.
3. Close by asking someone to offer a prayer.