

IRSM Leader's Guide

As presented in the *Iron Rose Sister Ministries Bible Studies Format*, the group is encouraged to rotate who leads the discussion each week.

Even if you do not feel equipped to lead or feel that you lack adequate experience to do so, it is a rich opportunity for growth and blessing. You are among sisters and friends that are supporting you in this part of your journey, as well.

Tips or reminders, especially for new leaders:

- Make it your own and allow the Spirit to lead—these studies are a resource, not a script.
 - Select which questions you would like to discuss, and plan for ones you might need to skip if you are running short on time.
 - You are welcome to add questions of your own or highlight portions of the chapter that most stood out to you, whether they were designated for discussion or not.
- Leading is about facilitating the discussion, not about having all the answers.
 - When someone brings up a difficult situation or challenging question, you can always open it up to the group for answers from Scripture, not just personal advice.
 - The answer may merit further study of Scripture or the consultation of someone with more experience in the Word and/or experience regarding that type of situation. That's okay! We're digging deeper.
- Be willing to answer the designated discussion questions first, using your own examples, but avoid the temptation to do all the talking.
 - Allow for awkward silence in order to provide the opportunity for others to share.
 - It's okay to call on someone and encourage them to answer a specific question.
 - "Why or why not?" are good follow-up questions for discussion.
- Include additional examples from Scripture and encourage others to do the same.
 - Online Bible programs such as BibleGateway.com provide excellent resources like multiple versions of the Bible, concordances (to look up the occurrences of a word), Bible dictionaries, and commentaries.

- Give a practical wrap-up conclusion or “take-home” application from the week as you close with the Common Threads.
- Be sure to budget some time for prayer.
- Remember our purposes as students of the Word and daughters of the King. We are striving to deepen our relationships with God and one another—to be Iron Rose Sisters that serve as iron sharpening iron as we encourage and inspire one another to be as beautiful as a rose in spite of a few thorns.