



How to Start a *Living our Faith – Bible Book Club*

Thank you for your willingness to participate in the ELCIC's *Living our Faith* 2020–21 emphasis on *Read* — a year of reading the Bible, and for taking the initiative to start a book club. For the *Living our Faith — Bible Book Club* the books of the Bible have been preselected and the study questions will be provided for you to use as your group gathers for discussion.

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Your main role in taking the lead for this emphasis will be in organizing your book club. Here are a few things to think about as you begin...

- Consider who you will invite to participate in your book club. Will it be members from your congregation? Perhaps some family or friends outside of the congregation? And ideally how many people will be a part of your book club? We recommend no more than 8–10 so everyone can participate in the discussion.
- How and where are you going to meet? As we were finalizing details for the 2020–21 emphasis our abilities to gather in person changed. As you consider this next step in forming your book club, please consider local context and any public health recommendations. If you need to meet virtually, consider which platform works best for your group: Zoom, Skype, Google hangouts, Facebook rooms or another application? If you can meet safely in person, where will you meet and do you need to ensure physical distancing and other health precautions are met?
- Who will lead your book club discussion? Just because you are organizing the group doesn't mean this necessarily is also your responsibility. It could be! But you may also want to consider identifying another individual from your group or what about rotating this responsibly for each month? You may want to leave this till your first meeting and have it be a group decision.
- When will you meet? What day each month and what time of day works for your group? If you are able to meet in person will refreshments be served? Who will take care of this? Or should attendees be responsible for their own refreshments?
- Although questions for your study are provided, don't feel you have to talk about each question! If the group doesn't have a lot to say about a topic or doesn't seem interested in the question, move on to a question that gets them talking. Or see if anyone in the group has a question they'd like to discuss.

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**Blessings to you and all members of your club as you read and discuss the Bible this year.
May it enrich your lives and strengthen your faith.**

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