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Engaging Faith and Friendships in a Book Club

Creating New Ideas and Learning Spiritual Truths from Book Clubs

Denver, CO – When Group Publishing’s Amy Nappa joined a book club a few years ago, she discovered new authors with spiritual messages in unexpected places. “So many books, even if they weren’t by Christian authors, had messages of redemption, growth, and enduring love—things I could relate to my relationship with Jesus,” she said.



Soon an idea grew into Group Publishing’s *Lit ‘n’ Lattes: Adding Faith and Fun to Your Book Club* (December 2008), created to equip women to start book clubs on their own, with book selections ranging from Christian, secular, contemporary and classics, with discussion questions, themes and recipes to make each meeting a success.

“*Lit ‘n’ Lattes* provides an overview of 24 books without spoiling the ending. There are selections from classic literature, thrillers, dramas, romances. Women will share their own thoughts on the selected title while exploring spiritual themes and getting to know other group members better,” Nappa

says.

Each title was selected to ignite great spiritual discussions, from C.S. Lewis’ allegorical classic through the realms of the afterlife in *The Great Divorce*, to the recently revived true life-and-death story of Jon Krakauer’s *Into the Wild*, to Anne LaMott’s popular and telling spiritual memoir *Traveling Mercies*. Other *Lit ‘n’ Lattes* selections include:

- *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë.
- *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd.
- *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee.
- *The Last Sin Eater* by Francine Rivers.
- *The Memory Keeper’s Daughter* by Kim Edwards.

The variety of titles is what sets *Lit-N-Lattes* from other book club studies. The depth of the study for each of the 24 titles includes:

- **A short plot summary**—including comments on why women will like it.
- **“A Novel Treat”**—recipes that tie into the book’s theme.
- **“Cracking the Spine”**—discussion questions and Scriptures to help women explore the spiritual themes of the book.
- **Book Quotes and Fascinating Facts.**
- **Pizzazz**—a decorating, gift, or invitation idea that connects with every title.

Lit ‘n’ Lattes is another addition to the *Girlfriends Unlimited!* series from Group Publishing, a nationwide women's ministry association found in churches across the country. For more resources, visit www.girlfriendsunlimited.com and www.group.com/women.

About *Lit ‘n’ Lattes*:

Lit ‘n’ Lattes: Adding Faith & Fun to your Book Club. Published by Group Publishing. January 2009. Paperback, 112 pages. \$21.99. 8.5” x 11”. ISBN: 978-0-7644-3714-4. Religion/Christian Life/Women.

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Suggested Interview Questions

Based on *Lit 'n' Lattes* by Group Publishing

1. Where did the idea for *Lit 'n' Lattes* come from?
2. What book genres are represented in *Lit 'n' Lattes*?
3. *Lit 'n' Lattes* features Christian authors as well as mainstream titles. Why is it important to include mainstream books that have important spiritual elements?
4. How can *Lit 'n' Lattes* serve as a bridge to sharing your faith?
5. Why is it important that leaders read a book themselves before endorsing it to others?
6. How often do you recommend *Lit 'n' Lattes* book clubs meet?
7. *Lit 'n' Lattes* equips women with everything they need to start a book club and organize the meetings, minus the books and the ingredients for the snack. Ultimately, it's about friendship and reading. What do you recommend for a *Lit 'n' Lattes* meeting?
8. What are a few of your favorite books in the *Lit 'n' Lattes* series?
9. What is the *Girlfriends Unlimited!* program from Group Publishing?
10. How is Biblical scripture included in the *Lit 'n' Lattes* program?

Book Club Basics

Book Club Tips from *Lit 'n' Lattes* by Group Publishing

- Be sure you've read the book first before recommending it.
- Gather girlfriends who like to read. You can create a *Lit 'n' Lattes* group that meets monthly to read and discuss books. Take turns hosting and leading discussions.
- Prep by reading the ideas provided in *Lit 'n' Lattes*.
- Pray that God will use the time together to deepen friendships and to help women draw closer to Jesus.
- When everyone arrives, welcome them with coffee or tea and delicious treats and get everyone chatting.
- Relax and have fun!

Basic Discussion Questions

Book Club Tips from *Lit 'n' Lattes* by Group Publishing

- Which character can you relate to most and why?
- What were the key themes of this book?
- Which events in this book touched you in a surprising way?
- Has this book changed your opinions about anything? If so, what?

For an interview or to discuss an excerpt, contact Ben Laurro at Pure Publicity at 818.753.4056 or Ben@purepublicity.com.

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