

Draw
NEAR

Leader Guide

KAREN MAY

If you are leading a small group through this study, there is a timeline and study format on page 2 of the *Draw Near* workbook. As a leader, there are a few things that you can do to help the study run smoothly and allow the group to connect more deeply with God and with each other.

- First, pray for the group. Give thanks for the work of the Holy Spirit within it, ask for grace to fill the discussions, bring each person to mind and pray for their intentions, ask for the right words to speak to the group, etc. Don't worry about exactly what to pray for, just pray. I'm sure you will come up with plenty of things to say.
- Second, if the group is large, create small groups of six to eight people. Much more than that, and it is difficult for everyone to have a chance to share or participate in the discussion. You can assign small group leaders or allow each group to run on its own. Check in with each group during the discussion time, and adjust as needed.
- Third, encourage everyone to participate. Sometimes you will need to thank someone for their participation and move to the next person, sometimes you will need to invite someone directly, if they haven't said anything. Be mindful of the quiet ones and give them space to jump in if they want.
- Fourth, place index cards and pens on each table for people to write down prayer intentions. Encourage each group to pray for each other at the end of their small group time, or leave time for people to add their intentions during the closing prayer of each lesson. If you have time, you could invite people to share any answered prayers from previous weeks.
- Fifth, send an email out to the group each week, giving a brief summary of the topic or highlights of the discussions and encouraging the group to engage in the Soulwork for the week. You might even remind them of the weekly invitation to prayer that they could start the day after your meeting. Make it personal. What touched you in the lesson? How are you putting the Soulwork into practice? Offer and ask for prayers. Share your gratitude for the group and the insights that you are discovering.
- Sixth, the audio lessons are available as an mp3 download or on Youtube. Choose whichever format is better for your group, and make sure you have the right equipment to allow everyone to hear the lessons clearly.
- Finally, have fun! I am praying for you. May God fill you with wisdom, gentleness, and love. May your group be drawn closer to God and to each other in the time that they spend together. Thank you for leading this study!