

The Faith-Filled Catholic Women's Bible Study Program

A Leader's Guide for Group Discussion

Loyalty
Song: "*Sanctum Nomen*"
CD 2, Track 4

Insert O-1 through O-4
Composer: Margaret Rizza
Faith-Filled Catholic Women's Bible Music CD

Materials Needed

Faith-Filled Catholic Women's Bible and Music CD, CD player, Participant's Worksheet, Index Card (each).

Setting the Stage

Before this session, mail (or e-mail) any member of the group that may not have been present at the last session the Participant's Worksheet for this session. Also, send a reminder of the date and time of the session as well as directions to the meeting place (if different from the church). To enhance an atmosphere of **Loyalty**, have the song "*Sanctum Nomen*" from the Faith-Filled Catholic Women's Bible Music CD playing in the background when the participants arrive.

Warm Up - Optional (15 minutes)

Many people in the Bible lived lives or made critical decisions in their life that demonstrated loyalty in faith. Give each participant in the group an index card with one of the 10 following names on the card. Her challenge is to introduce herself to the rest of the group by answering only their "yes" or "no" questions designed to determine who she is. If a questioner gets a "no" answer, the next person in the group gets to ask a question. After each "yes" answer, the woman who asked the question gets **ONE** chance to guess the identity of the subject. Continue until each woman has had an opportunity to be the mystery "Biblical guest" or as long as time permits. Example of questions: (If the Subject is Ruth) – Q. Did you live in the New Testament Times? A. No (next questioner) Q. Are you a man? A. No. (next questioner) Were you loyal to another family member? A. Yes (same questioner gets to guess) Are you Sarah? A. No (next questioner) Do you have a Book of the Bible named after you? A. Yes (same questioner gets to guess) Are you Ruth? A. Yes. Choose from these (or any other 10) Biblical characters: The Blessed Virgin Mary, Simeon, Ruth, Mary Magdalene, Father of Prodigal Son, Esther, the Apostle John, Joseph of Arimathea, Job, Anna.

Opening Discussion (10 minutes)

Ask each participant to share her answers to the following questions: When you hear the word loyalty, what do you think of? Relate a story from your experience that best illustrates loyalty. How can loyalty be misplaced, or even misunderstood in relationships?

Plan and Purpose (15 minutes)

Read (as a group) the **Plan and Purpose** article on insert page O-1. Then, discuss these questions: What is (or was) the nature of the relationship between you and your husband's mother? How is it different from the relationship he has with your mother? After the discussion, read aloud together **Chapter 1 of the Book of Ruth (Page 273 OT)**. Discuss what lessons this Scripture holds for us.

Spiritual Awakening - Opening Prayer

Pray together the **Prayer** at the top of insert page O-2.

Spiritual Awakening - Recognizing (10 minutes)

Ask for volunteers to read aloud each of the Scripture passages in the **Recognizing** section of **Spiritual Awakening** on insert page O-2. Remind the participants that each reader will pause for a few seconds of silence after each passage to allow anyone to offer any spontaneous thought, prayer, praise or thanksgiving that this Scripture might inspire. After the final Scripture is read, ask the group, "What else do these Scriptures teach us about **Loyalty**?" Share and discuss any responses.

Spiritual Awakening - Reflecting (15 minutes)

Read **Hebrews 13:5-8 (Page 345 NT)**. Discuss your answers to these questions with the group: What is your relationship to wealth and possessions? What are some examples in our society where loyalty is misplaced? Why is remaining loyal to God (being receptive to His will) sometimes difficult? How has God demonstrated His loyalty to you as promised in His words, "I will never forsake you or abandon you?"

Group Prayer (5 minutes)

Leader: Heavenly Father, in Your constant love and devotion, You have never forsaken or abandoned us. Lead us to strive for that same loyalty to You and to those we love. We ask You today to hear our praises, prayers and petitions: **enter aloud all individual intentions.** With loyal and humble hearts, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

Read the **Profile in Faith** article on Mary Magdalene on insert page O-3. Close with this prayer:

**Oh God, help us to imitate the loyalty of Ruth
in all our relationships with others
and the loyalty of Mary Magdalene
in our relationship with Your Son.
Amen.**

Fellowship (15 minutes)

After the session is completed and while refreshments are served, play softly in the background: "*Sanctum Nomen*" from the Faith-Filled Catholic Women's Bible Music CD.

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