



# Hosting Guide

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## Welcome

We are so excited and thankful that you are taking this bold step! Women of Welcome is a community dedicated to diving into the whole of scripture to understand God's heart for the immigrant and refugee. We believe God calls us to a deep love for the vulnerable, the marginalized, and the forgotten. Together we're on a journey to understand biblical hospitality in an authentic way. Therefore we seek to learn, engage, and grow to be more like Christ in our welcome toward the sojourner.

## Invite Women to Join You

There are so many ways to invite women to join you in a group. If you aren't already plugged into a small group at your church, make sure you're part of our [private Women of Welcome Facebook group](#) so you can connect with other women who are likely doing the very same thing you are in this venture. You're welcome to invite other women in the group to join you, or simply ask your current local small group if they'd like to try a new study.

Ideas to start: Invite friends personally or by phone, or through your social media (message ladies or make a post on your page).

- We suggest that your group be between 2 and 12 people. When the group is small, everyone gets a chance to share.
- If your group is open, other women will be able to find it and request to join by emailing you.
- If it is closed, you will be able to meet privately with just your friends.
- The choice to make your group open or closed is on the signup form. If you want to change your mind, let us know by e-mailing [groups@womenofwelcome.com](mailto:groups@womenofwelcome.com).





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# Preparation

1. We recommend that you first look over the study to familiarize yourself with its cadence and content. Think about how you will encourage your group to progress through the study. Daily readings or weekly reviews are an option and you will want to adopt the flow that works best for your group.
2. Decide where/how you will meet. If you choose virtually, you can use either Zoom or Google Meet (both free). If needed, we have included links (on the last page) to tutorial videos and additional tips for online meetings.
3. Decide how long you want to meet. If you meet in person, you may want to spend a couple of hours together to make time for snacks and mingling. If you meet online, you might want to make it shorter. Have an agenda/plan for your time but be flexible if the meeting doesn't follow your plan exactly. Here is an example:
  - Open in prayer
  - Share a key quote, verse, or the week's video (not all studies have a video).
  - Discuss the week's content and study questions
  - Take testimonies and prayer requests (if time allows)
  - Close in prayer
  - Snacks and fellowship (if meeting in person)

Remember, you do not have to follow this model. Feel free to do it your own way!

4. If you do choose to meet in person, you may want to create a signup sheet so that the women in your group can take turns providing refreshments.
5. Pray! We expect the Holy Spirit to be involved, He is the only one who can bring revelation through his word and change our hearts. Ask him to guide the conversations and protect the unity of the group.

## **Sending Information to Your Group:**

1. Choose how you will communicate with the other women in your group. Email, group text, a private FB message, or WhatsApp are all great depending on what your friends feel comfortable with.
2. Important: Before the study start, send out the day/time/location or virtual platform, and the Getting Ready to Meet document as well as a link to download the study that you have chosen.
3. Let your women know that they should do the first week's reading on their own and that you will discuss it when you get together.
4. You can continue to send reminders of which pages of the study to fill out in between meetings if there are any questions going forward (usually not necessary but it can help people who missed a week or got confused).
5. It can be helpful to regularly post or send out one or two of the week's questions to get people thinking ahead of time and remind them of the week's reading.

# Guide Each Meeting

1. If meeting online, ask all participants to keep themselves on mute unless speaking. This will cut down on background noise.
2. Ask open ended questions. What stood out to you? What impacted you the most? What did you like about this week's reading? Did anything surprise you? You may want to have one woman share what she liked most about Day 1, the next women what stood out to her from Day 2, etc.
3. Create a safe place by committing to confidentiality. Group members need to know that what they share will stay in the group unless they say that they are fine with it being shared.
4. Welcome questions and don't feel pressure to have all the answers. Listening well always gives a good indication of where people are and what they need to hear. If possible, validate and empathize with your friends' feelings and concerns. If it had to do with immigration, it's fine to say, "That is a nuanced and complicated issue and we don't really have the time to dive into it right now, but I will see what resources I can find." Remember that our team and the private Women of Welcome Facebook group are available to ask help for finding good resources and answers.
5. Most arguments can be curtailed by listening first and finding the common ground to build on. Do your best to keep the unity in the group and keep everyone on track with the discussion questions in the guide.

Remember, James 1:19 admonished us to be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry. James 3:17 says "But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere."

It's important to model the attitude that all are welcome in the group even though there may be differences of opinion on certain aspects of immigration. We want women to feel comfortable and safe.



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6. It can be helpful to end the discussion time with a question that is focused on application. Some example questions could be: What do you feel the Lord is saying to you personally? How should this change the way we live? What will you do differently now that you know this? Who can you share this with?
7. If your group is small enough, try to encourage everyone to speak up at least once. You can do this by specifically calling on someone when they haven't yet participated.
8. If you are not able to attend for any reason, choose someone in the group who can lead in your place.

### Let us know how it went

We'd love to know how your study went and how we can best support you!

We have an online form you can complete when your study is complete:

- [Feedback form](#)

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### What if I need help?

Most questions can be asked in the private group. If you feel like the question is of more personal nature, feel free to address a Women of Welcome ambassador directly by emailing [groups@womenofwelcome.com](mailto:groups@womenofwelcome.com).

## What's Next?

## What's Next?

You may find that your group of women bonds together, gets enthusiastic about God's heart for the sojourner, and desires to move forward.

What's next?

### Why not do another study?

Our website has other film and Bible studies. Check out the [Bible Studies & Films](#) page under the Discipleship tab to find your next one.

### Become a prayer group

You might not be ready to start another study, but what about a prayer group? These groups will officially be offered/listed through our website on the Connect page. When you switch your group designation (from a Bible study group to a prayer group) you'll start to receive prayer point emails that you can use with your group to pray for specific needs in the U.S. immigration space. (Coming soon- so stay tuned!)

### Become an advocacy group

Maybe your group is ready to take action and start engaging with elected officials that shape immigration-related policies and laws. These groups will officially be offered/listed through our website on the Connect page. When you switch your group designation (from a Bible study group to an advocacy group) you'll start to receive advocacy emails that will help your group know when and how to use your voice to advocate for the most pressing issues that are affecting immigrants and refugees in our communities. (Coming soon- so stay tuned!)

### Start a reading group

Sometimes an open-ended discussion of immigration can feel scary, but reading a book together can provide teaching and structure. Check out our recommended reading list on our Discipleship Tab under "[Helpful Books](#)" and ask your girlfriends or other ladies in our [private Women of Welcome FB](#) group to start reading a book together. (Reading groups are not currently listed on the website and we encourage you to share and/or meet other women in the private FB group to start a group).

## Access our Bible Studies & Films

- **Far From Home** | 6-week study with daily readings
- **Christ-Like Welcome** | 5-week study with daily readings
- **Bold + Brave** | 4 week study with daily readings
- **Ruth + Naomi** | 5 week study with weekly readings
- **In Pursuit of Peace** | 4-week study with daily readings
- **Who is Welcome Here** | 7-week video series with discussion guide

## Helpful Resources for Hosting

**Getting Ready to Meet Document**

**Tips For Meeting Online**

**Beginner Zoom Tutorial**

**Beginner Google Hangouts Tutorial**

You can find all of our resources for hosts on our website:  
[www.womenofwelcome/resources-groups-host](http://www.womenofwelcome/resources-groups-host)