


**PRACTICING FAITH**

# **LEARNING TOGETHER**

**BOOK CLUB**

**CREATING**



**Practice:** Gather friends for a book club. The creativity of the learning process will grow amongst friends as you bounce ideas off one another and grow through seeing each other's thinking and learning. Here is a short guide to help you form a learning community.

**Assembling your community:** Gather individuals in your community who are interested in engaging in the learning process, reading, and perhaps being challenged together. People who are ready and willing to dialogue and even change their minds are people who will engage well with you in this practice. Consider gathering family members, faith community members, neighbors, friends, or co-workers.

**Choosing a book:** Decide through discussion if there is a topic your group is interested in or if there are any books that immediately come to mind. Be intentional about considering authors that reflect varying perspectives. Are there authors on your list of different genders, ethnicities, or ages? Narrow down your choices to a few, and then decide together. You can even take a vote!

**Creating a reading plan:** Would your group like to meet weekly? Monthly? Bi-weekly? Would you like to read a chapter a week? A chapter per session? Be sure to set a pace which encourages continued engagement with the material but which does not overwhelm the group.

**Structuring your meeting times:** When you meet to discuss the session's text, prepare questions which provoke dialogue and spend time in prayer together during each meeting. It is always good to prepare several questions in order to give your group structure. If you don't get to all or even many of them, that's okay! Here are some questions that will work with any book or chapter. However, feel free to prepare questions specific to your text.

**Discussion Questions:**

What stood out to you from our text for today?

Did anything challenge you when you read it?

Do you disagree with anything in this section?

Do any ideas in this section remind you of anything you've read or seen before?

What do you think the author is trying to say?

Even if God is not mentioned, where do you see God present in this book?

**Concluding your series:** Once you've gone through the entire book, be sure to have a closing discussion. Allow the discussion to encompass the entirety of the book and then choose the next one!

