

Girls Book Club Discussion Group Tips

“Treat others the same way you want them to treat you.” Luke 6:31 (NASB)

Tip #1: Be prepared to discuss!

Preparation shows that you respect the other person’s time. For book club discussion, preparation means reading the book that will be discussed before the club meeting and discussing it with mom with mom, because the time you spend with her discussing what you’ve learned is very important in preparing your opinions about the book.

Tip #2: Everyone gets a chance to share, but we can’t all take “center stage” all the time!

Giving someone else your undivided attention also shows that you respect them. It’s fun to be the “star of the show” sometimes, but discussion group isn’t the time for a dramatic retelling of the latest funny story or hilarious joke — it’s a chance to share your opinions of the book we’ve all read. It’s important that everyone gets a chance to speak and also be heard with your full attention. When it’s time to share your answers, be thoughtful about how much time it takes to express your thoughts — keep it brief and to the point so everyone understands your points and gets a chance to share as well!

Tip #3: She who holds the teddy bear has “the floor” until she is finished!

We don’t have a microphone, but we do have a teddy bear! The girl holding the teddy bear has “the floor” — in other words, she’s on the “mic” and it’s her turn to speak. When you’re holding the teddy bear, it’s your turn to share your answer. When you’re done, pass the teddy to another girl raising her hand, and once teddy has been passed, your lips are sealed! If you want to respond to someone else’s opinion and don’t have the teddy, raise your hand quietly and wait until the teddy is tossed back to you. Every girl will get to hold the teddy at least once during every discussion!

Tip #4: Use thoughtful language and adjectives to describe your ideas and opinions!

*Remember what you learned in Luke 6:31 (also in Matthew 7:12): Treat others the way you want to be treated! What **words** would offend you if someone was giving you their opinion of something you’ve written? You would not want to hear words like “hated,” “boring,” “stupid” or “lame” used to describe your work. But what if you don’t like something? Think about how can you describe that opinion with respect. You could say, “I didn’t like this part in particular because...” or “This didn’t keep my interest as much as...” or “I would have handled it this way because...” Think about how others might feel about your words before you share.*

Tip #5: The Bible is our guide!

We might not always agree on things like our favorite parts of a book or how a certain character is portrayed, but one thing we can always agree on is that God’s word is always true and we can trust what He says in His word! As we are reading these stories together, look for those nuggets of God’s truth in the story. You may recall a Bible verse that you’ve learned that also applies God’s truth to a situation in the story. Make note of those verses and share them with us. The Holy Spirit will point things out to you when you are listening with your spirit as well as reading with your mind. If you are wondering if the Bible has something to say about something you read in the book, make sure to ask during our discussion time so we can investigate together what God’s word says about those questions.