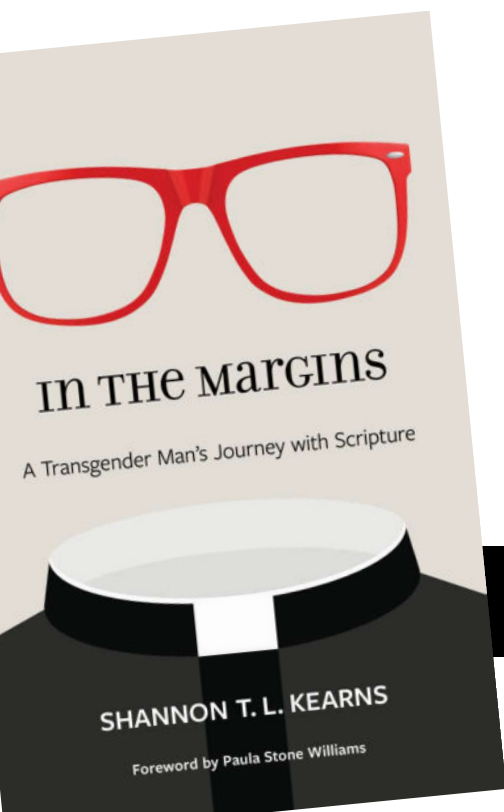


How To Start & Run A Book Club



An In The Margins pre-order bonus

1.

Identify some friends/acquaintances you think would resonate with this book. They don't have to be local.

If you're not sure who to ask, or you need a couple more folks:

- You could post about the group on your Facebook/insta/twitter/tiktok and see if anyone wants to join.
- You could have your pastor announce it or put it in the church bulletin.
- You could ask folks you're interested in having in the group if they know anyone who might like to join.
- You could ask a local bookstore to let people know about the upcoming discussions.

Tip: Between 5-9 people is a good number

It's small enough to still have conversations, but large enough that if a couple people can't make it one week the group can still go on.

If you only have 2-3 people, make sure they are committed to showing up every time (and you might want to consider meeting for a shorter period of time).

2.

Decide on a structure.

If you plan on leading the group, look at the list of things to consider below and make some decisions. Then, once everyone has signed on, send an email outlining the plan. When you'll meet, where, what chapters you'll discuss, etc.

If you want to decide as a group, either start an email thread with the questions *or* set up a short meeting to make decisions about structure.

Here are some suggestions for breaking down the book:

- **10 Weeks:** Focus on one chapter each week with the Introduction as Week 1.
- **4 Weeks:** read the introduction and chapters 1-3 for week one, chapter 4-6 for week two, 7-9 for week three, and read chapter 10 and the conclusion for week four.
- **1 Week:** have everyone read the book before you meet then choose one question from each chapter in the study guide to discuss.

3.

Plan the logistics. Before your first meeting here are some things to consider:

- What is the date of your first meeting?
- Will you always meet on the same day/time? If not, how will you decide the next day/time?
- Where will you meet? (Someone's house? Your church? A public place?)
- How often will you meet? Once a week? Every other week? Once a month?
- How long will you meet? One month? Six months? A year?
- Will you meet online or in person?
- If online, what platform will you use? (Note that free Zoom plans have a max time of 40 minutes unless one person has a paid plan.)
- If in person, will you meet at the same place each time, or different places each time?
- Will there be refreshments? (If so, who will bring them? Does anyone have food restrictions or allergies? Are there a variety of beverages? Is anyone sober?)
- Decide who will lead the discussion. Will it be the same person every week? Will you rotate a host?
- Will someone email/text reminders about meetings? Who will that person be?

4.

Here's a proposed structure for your meeting:

1. Take some time for introductions:

Name, pronouns you want used in this space, give everyone a chance to check in about where they are. You could do highs and lows, set a timer and give everyone three minutes to share whatever is on their mind, do a life/work/God check in, whatever works for your group.

Group Discussion: for your first meeting, discuss what shared values you have? How do you want to conduct yourselves in this space?

2. Enter into the book discussion using the study guide.

3. Close with one of the prayers found in the study guide.

4. Reminders:

Next meeting time, who's hosting (if relevant), who's bringing snacks (if relevant), and what chapters you'll be discussing.

5.

Share your book club so others might be inspired. This step is totally optional, but if you're comfortable, sharing about your book club as it's happening or after it's over can be helpful to others.

They might decide to read the book and learn something new and grow as a result. Or they might be inspired to start their own book club to read a different book and deepen their friendships (and make new ones) in the process.

You never know who might touch just by sharing your journey.

If you do share pictures or reflections from your book club on social media, please tag me in them so I can see and celebrate with you. I'm @shannontlkearns on Instagram and Shannon TL Kearns on Facebook.