

# simply relevant

*Relational Bible Series for Women*

## *Finding Joy in Life's Ups & Downs*



Singing in the Rain | FINDING JOY

# simply relevant

{ SINGING IN THE RAIN }

*Relational Bible Series for Women*



Loveland, Colorado

## Group resources actually work!

This Group resource incorporates our R.E.A.L. approach to ministry. It reinforces a growing friendship with Jesus, encourages long-term learning, and results in life transformation, because it's



### **Relational**

Learner-to-learner interaction enhances learning and builds Christian friendships.

### **Experiential**

What learners experience through discussion and action sticks with them up to 9 times longer than what they simply hear or read.

### **Applicable**

The aim of Christian education is to equip learners to be both hearers and doers of God's Word.

### **Learner-based**

Learners understand and retain more when the learning process takes into consideration how they learn best.

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Welcome to *Simply Relevant: Singing in the Rain*! This is your totally relevant six-week Bible series that will help you develop relationships with other women as you grow in your joy in the Lord.

We all want to be joyful people, but it's not as easy as simply singing in the rain! This series will help you and your friends learn more about true joy and how we can experience it in all our circumstances—the ups *and* downs.

Each week, you'll learn what the Bible says true joy is (hint: It's not just happiness), how we can each experience it (it's *not* just putting on a happy face), and how we can be joyful even when we feel like we need an umbrella to shield us from all the bad things that seem to rain down in this world!

You can do this Bible series with five to 50 women—or even more! You want women to really grow in relationships with each other, so always get in small groups of four or five for discussion if you have a larger group. Women at any place in their faith journeys can feel right at home with this Bible series. The discussion questions can be understood and applied by women who don't know Jesus yet or women who are longtime friends with him. All the Bible passages are printed out for you, so those who aren't familiar with the Bible have the verses right in front of them.

So what will you be doing each week? Here's the structure of the sessions:

- *Note to the Hostess*

Your hostess will be the woman facilitating your Bible series. She'll read the session through before the meeting, prepare for the activities, gather any supplies needed, and get the snacks ready. This box contains special tips just for the hostess, such as supplies to gather for the Experience, the atmosphere for the week, and ideas for snacks.

- *Mingling*

Each week, you're going to start with snacks, mingling, and a short prayer. And this is key: Take time to share you how did with your previous week's commitment.

- *Experience*

Each week you'll engage in an experience that will bring a new depth of meaning to the topic you'll explore. The experiences will get every woman involved and having fun. There might be a little bit of preparation or supplies needed, which the hostess will supply.

- *The Word*

Each week, you'll read Scripture passages together and then, using questions from this guide, discuss what they mean. The questions are surprising, personal, and relevant to women today.

- *A Closer Look*

These boxes provide a quick look at the Bible passages you'll be digging into each week. They'll help you develop a deeper understanding of the verses at hand while discussing their meaning in your lives. You can read them together during your session or on your own at home, but be sure to read them as they're important to the discussion.

- *Take Action*

This is where women put faith into action. You'll all commit to apply what you've learned in a practical way during the coming week. You can write your own commitment or choose from the suggested commitments. Then next week, you'll check in with each other to see how you did.

- *Prayer*

At the end of each session, you'll spend time in prayer together. You can ask for prayer requests and pray about the commitments you've made for the upcoming week. We've also given you a verse to read together to focus your minds for prayer.

- *Girlfriend Time*

If you want some more hangout time together after your session is over, we've given you fun suggestions for easy activities to do together to reinforce the session's topic or to just relax. This is an optional bonus that will help you grow deeper in your friendships.

• *Still Thirsty?*

If you want to explore the week’s topic more, we’ve given you additional verses and reflection questions to read and consider in the coming week.

We pray that in the next six weeks, this experience will deepen your friendship with one another and, most of all, deepen your joy in the Lord as you serve and follow him.

—*Group’s Women’s Ministry Team*



## Our Reason for Joy

Rejoicing in Our Relationship With God

### Note to the Hostess:

This is the first week of your study on joy together, so make women comfortable and create an atmosphere of cheer. Greet your guests warmly—with the joy of the Lord! And chocolate chip cookies couldn't hurt either.

Read through the Experience section before your session, so you know how to prepare for this fun activity. The Scripture passage for this study presents the good news of salvation clearly. If you have guests who have never heard this message of salvation, you may want to take more time to discuss your experience of becoming a "friend of God."

Also, at the end of this session, ask women to bring some of their favorite photo albums, such as wedding albums or family vacation albums, for next week's session.



### Get It...Got It?...Good.

- a warm greeting and smile for your guests
- chocolate chip cookies for extra cheer
- DVD or video of the movie *Singin' in the Rain* (and a TV and player so everyone can watch!)

## Mingling

Enjoy the snacks the hostess has set out, and make sure you all know each other's names. Need a little help? Here's a conversation starter:

Hi, my name's [ *your name* ], and when I think about joy, the first word that pops into my head is \_\_\_\_\_.

Before starting, open your time by praying something like this:

*God, thank you for bringing each individual woman here tonight. We thank you that you are the Author of joy and that we can find true joy in you. In Jesus' name, amen.*

## Experience

(Note: The hostess will prepare and lead this experience this week.) Remember Gene Kelly and Debbie Reynolds from *Singin' in the Rain*? Ahhh... (If not, get thee to a Blockbuster or Netflix!) To start off your study, you'll watch Gene Kelly perform the title act of *Singin' in the Rain*. Check out the movie from the library or your favorite movie source (you can perhaps even find it online on YouTube), and cue it to Gene's singin' in the rain scene. This scene begins with Kelly saying goodbye to Reynolds at her front door and is approximately 1 hour and 8 minutes into the movie.



Show the clip to everyone, and then have women get into groups of four or five for discussion. Have groups use these questions and discuss them at their own pace:

**Q:** Whom do you think you're most often like in this clip—the man hustling by with an umbrella, trying to get out of the rain, or Gene, whose mood can't be dampened by rainy circumstances?

**Q:** Gene's happiness in this clip comes from his relationship with his cute companion, but where do you think real joy comes from?

# the Word

A decorative flourish consisting of two symmetrical, curved lines that meet at a central point below the text, resembling a stylized bird or a winged figure.

*Read Romans 5:8-11 together:*

***Romans 5:8-11*** (*italics added*)

But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation. For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. So now *we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.*