



**2020–
2021**

**Book Club
Facilitator
Planning
Pack**

***Where God Hides
by Liam Lawton***



Five Great Reasons to Start a GIA Book Club with Your Group

1 Read more books!

2 Continue meeting with members of your choir or music-based group even while singing is restricted.

3 Open hearts and minds with discussions about music and faith.

4 Learn more about the music you sing.

5 For those who are interested, opportunities to go beyond the original book club discussion with “Meet the Author” and other GIA webinar events.



Meeting Virtually

- Zoom is an excellent platform for meeting with small groups (5 to 15 people) and is free and easy to use. Other platforms such as Google Hangouts are also available.
- We recommend keeping the group to 12 or fewer people so that all attendees may participate in the allotted time. If your group is larger, you may want to consider creating multiple groups.
- You can find the link to slides created for both PowerPoint and Google Slides that may be shared during a Zoom event to help focus the conversation.



Planning Checklist

One month before the book club begins:

- _____ Recruit participants
- _____ Announce the book
- _____ Explain how to order/obtain the book (see purchase options)
- _____ Make sure books are ordered/distributed on time so that participants have time to read the book.

One week before the book club date:

- _____ Send a reminder of the meeting to participants (see sample email)
- _____ Decide which questions you will use during the session. Choose five general questions and five specific questions. You will mostly likely not get to all ten of the questions.
- _____ Create an agenda. You can use our sample or create your own!
- _____ If using slides for the session, download or copy the slides and remove the slides you will not be using.

One day before the book club date:

- _____ Send an email with the Zoom link to participants

The day of the book club meeting:

- _____ Make sure you have the slides/information you need readily available on your computer

Book club time:

- _____ Follow the agenda, keeping track of time for each speaker
- _____ Enjoy the discussion!



Options for Purchasing Books

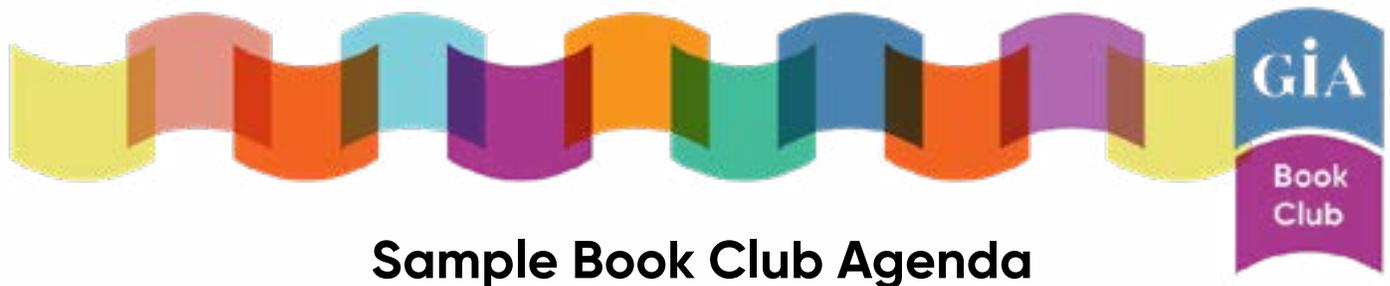
- Participants may purchase their books directly from giamusic.com and have them shipped to their homes. Allow 7–10 days for delivery plus time to read the book.
- The facilitator/group may purchase books for the entire group (paid for by the group or by individual members) and then distribute them. (Contactless pick-up via “drive-thru” or by putting books in labeled bags in an accessible area of the church/school, etc.)

Order and Contact Information

Click [here](http://giamusic.com) to order at giamusic.com

or call GIA Customer Service at 1-800-442-1358

Questions? Email interlude@giamusic.com



Sample Book Club Agenda

We recommend discussing this book over several sessions if possible. There is a great deal of potential for sharing personal reflections and for in-depth discussion.

Welcome (10 minutes)

- If this is group that knows each other already, this can just be a short welcome with sharing of online norms.
- If this is a new group, ask each person to introduce themselves with perhaps one identifier (I'm Sharon, I'm an alto.)
- Share the Book Club Expectations

Sharing of news (5 minutes)

- Allow anyone who has big news to share, do so (weddings/illnesses/new jobs, etc.)

Book Talk 1 (20 minutes)

- Begin with general questions in this section, following norms of each person contributing for a set number of minutes (2 minutes works well), allowing everyone to speak.

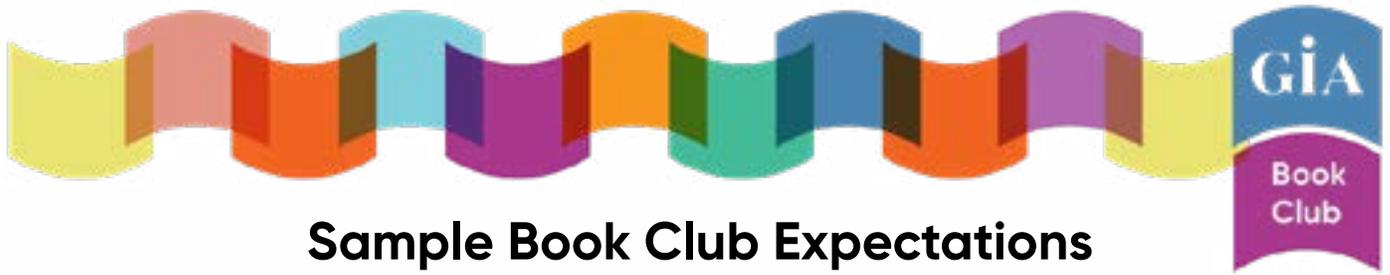
Short Break (5 minute stretch and restroom break)

Book Talk 2 (20 minutes)

- Delve into the book-specific questions to jumpstart this discussion.

Wrap-up (5 minutes)

- A short wrap-up with perhaps a reminder of the next group meeting.



Sample Book Club Expectations

- Read the book!
- Be ready to go on time. If you are late, slip in quietly and join the discussion when appropriate.
- While another person is talking, LISTEN. If you wish to talk, raise your hand (virtually or physically) and wait to be called on. (On Zoom, please mute yourself when you are not talking to eliminate background noise.)
- When you speak, please say your name again for the benefit of any new participants.
- Respect time constraints and finish your thoughts when the facilitator asks you to so that there is time for everyone to contribute to the discussion.
- It is okay to disagree with another member of the group, as long as it is done respectfully.
- Inappropriate behavior and/or language will not be tolerated.



General Discussion Questions

- What was your favorite part of the book?
- What was your least favorite part of the book?
- Did any ideas, themes, or stories stick with you?
- Did you reread any passages? If so, which ones?
- Did your opinion about the book change or your opinion about an idea change as you read?
- Do you think this is a book you will remember in a few months or years? Why or why not?
- Would you consider re-reading this book? Why or why not?
- What surprised you about the book?
- What question(s) do you have for the author?



Ecclesiastes 3: 1–8

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

a time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to break down, and a time to build up;

a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

a time to seek, and a time to lose;

a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

a time to rend, and a time to sew;

a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

a time to love, and a time to hate;

a time for war, and a time for peace.



Discussion Questions for *Where God Hides*

A Time to Be Born

Chapter Focus: Our need for belonging

Story: Liam finds his home had been broken into.

References: T.S. Eliot's [*The Journey of the Magi*](#)

Reflection:

Reflect on the idea of belonging to a group or community and how this has affected your life.

A Time to Plant, a Time to Uproot

Chapter Focus: Those who have left their homeland for various reasons.

Stories: Wake for Emigrants; Sr. Rebecca's story (Pakistan)

References: ["As You Go" \(song\)](#)

Reflection:

Is there a song or poem that has gotten you through a challenging time?

A Time to Heal

Chapter Focus: "Jesus wept." We can become paralyzed by all the suffering around us. How do we move past that?

Story: Nuvi and her children

Reflection:

True, we cannot share our stories and our innermost struggles with everyone, but I believe that if we turn to God sincerely, he will place before us the people we need in such times. (page 49). Reflect on the idea of healing and think of a time when someone was placed in your life at just the right time.



A Time to Let Go

Chapter Focus: “Why is it so difficult for us to become ordinary and live more simple lives?”

(p 67)

Story: Amish community

Reflection:

Reflect on the Thomas Merton quote on page 71. How would this question change how you identify yourself?

A Time to Weep, a Time to Laugh

Chapter Focus: Angels

Story: Mother’s loss of a son.

References:

[John August Swanson “The Dream of Jacob” \(artwork\)](#)

[“The Voice of an Angel” \(song\)](#)

Reflection:

Reflect on the idea of angels amongst us. Do you have a story to share?

A Time to Dance

Chapter Focus: Music as inspiration.

Stories: Cellist in Sarajevo; Tragic passing of Liam’s uncle and the tragedy of 9/11; Letter from death row in Zambia

Reference: [“The Clouds’ Veil” \(song\)](#)

Reflection:

Reflect on what music has inspired you through difficult times.



A Time to Search

Chapter Focus: "Ultimately I believe that we are innately searching for God, though we may not know it." (p 122)

Stories: The Monk and the Burglar; Liam's trip to Bosnia: Celebrating a secret Mass with Baba Eva, George the violinist.

Reflection:

If we truly want to find God, He will find us. If, like the Magi, we go in search of something wonderful, we may not find what we thought we would. (p. 125) Reflect on the idea of searching for God.

A Time to Keep, a Time to Throw Away

Chapter Focus: The power of art. "The people I meet after a performance usually say that a line from a song or its story has enabled them to journey into a particular place of memory."

Stories: Stations of the Cross artwork; Mom of special needs children

References: [Jesus Is Crucified by Nicola Hopwood \(artwork\)](#)

[Blessings by Mary Craig \(book\)](#)

Reflection:

Any song or lyrics that have been with you lately? Reflect on the art mentioned in this chapter. What are your thoughts or feelings about it? Is there a piece of art that speaks to you?

A Time to Share

Chapter Focus: Sharing the blessing of the Eucharist with all

Story: Iconography; When Mass was banned in Ireland; Discovering actual human tissue from the host

Reflection:

Reflect on the miracle of the Eucharist.



A Time to Be Silent

Chapter Focus: Solitude, meditation, and pilgrimages

Story: Description of Santiago de Compostela; Glendalough (St. Kevin)

References: [Sacred Land \(excerpts from Liam's *Siamsa na nGael* compositions\)](#)

[The Glendalough Mass](#)

Reflection:

Have you ever taken part in a pilgrimage? If so, share your story.

A Time to Speak

Chapter Focus: Finding ways to use your voice to help others.

Stories: Emergency call to psychiatric hospital; Liam begins to write music

Reflection:

How do you/ can you use your "voice" to help others?

A Time to Love, a Time to Hate

Chapter Focus: Forgiveness

Stories: Tutsi survivor of the Rwandan genocide; Visit to Robben Island (South Africa)

Reference: [Left to Tell \(book\)](#)

Reflection:

I can forgive because if I don't it becomes my cancer, my problem, my hurt and you, Sir, I have had enough hurt in my life. So I made a decision that I would not resort to hate, to bitterness, to revenge and now, now I am free. I am happy. I can see the world in a different way. (p 45)

Reflect on the idea of forgiveness. Share a personal experience if you wish.



A Time for Peace

Chapter Focus: Finding peace in the midst of suffering

Story: Tsunami in Thailand; Lya Vollerling – International Observer in Guatemala

References: [How Can I Heal Your Broken Heart? \(song\)](#)

[The Darkest Hour \(song\)](#) [\(full recording\)](#)

Reflection:

Reflect on the idea of bringing peace to those suffering (including ourselves).

A Time to Embrace

Chapter Focus: The beauty and simplicity of Advent and Christmas

Story: Tradition of an a cappella motet at Advent; Description of Christmas services in Liam's parish.

References: [Bethlehem Sky \(recording\)](#)

["O Holy Night" \(Liam's arrangement\)](#)

Reflection:

What is it about the Christmas season that draws people back to the Church? Reflect on the idea that the Savior was sent to us as a baby. How can we keep this season focused on Jesus in the midst of commercialism?



Questions for Wrapping Up

Would you recommend this book to others? Why or why not?

What are some ideas or questions arising from this book that might affect our group when we return to our regular group meetings?

Did you enjoy this book? Why or why not?

Are you interested in continuing to meet as a book club?



Utilizing Slides for Your Meeting

- Free slides are available to help guide you through your book club meeting.
- You can use your slides with PowerPoint or Google Slides. Slides are also available as a PDF.
- Slides are editable and should be altered for your group by deleting unwanted slides, adding slides, editing information such as the agenda, or adding information such as announcements at the end of the session.
- On Zoom, the facilitator will present the slides on his/her computer and then “share screen” on Zoom.
- Questions related to slides or packets can be directed to interlude@giamusic.com



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