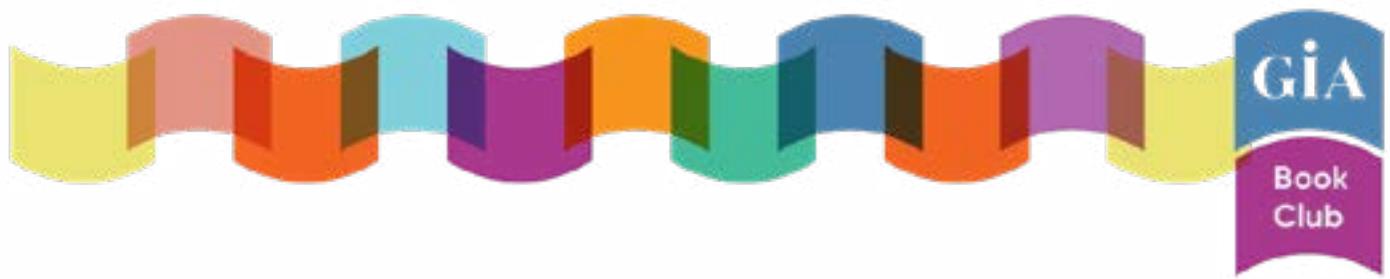




**2020–2021
Book Club
Participant
Guide**

Where God Hides
by Liam Lawton



Thank you for participating in a GiA book club. We hope you enjoy the book and the experience of discussing it with others. This downloadable guide provides questions for guided reading and space to make notes as you read. Keep it handy during your book club meeting to easily recall reactions, ideas, and questions you thought of while reading.

Happy reading!



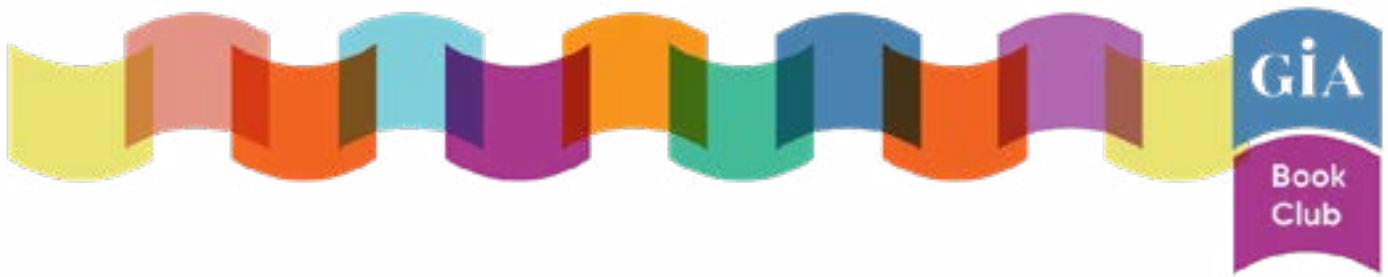
Record General Thoughts about the Book

- What was your favorite part of the book?

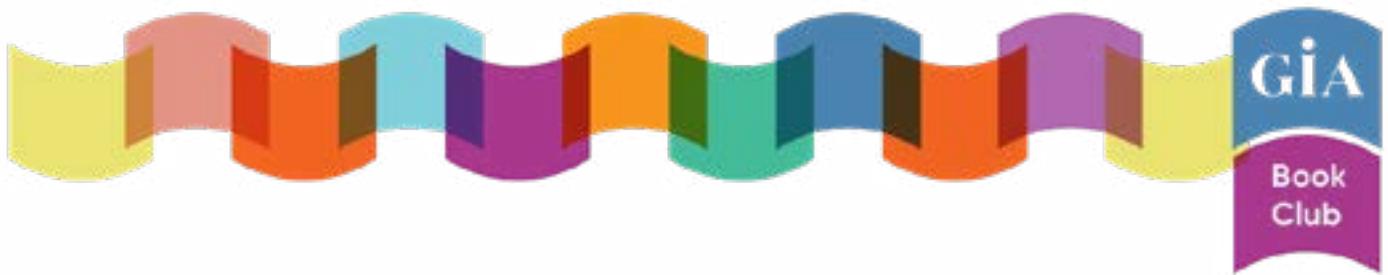
- What was your least favorite part of the book?

- 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.



Digging Deeper into the Text

A Time to Be Born

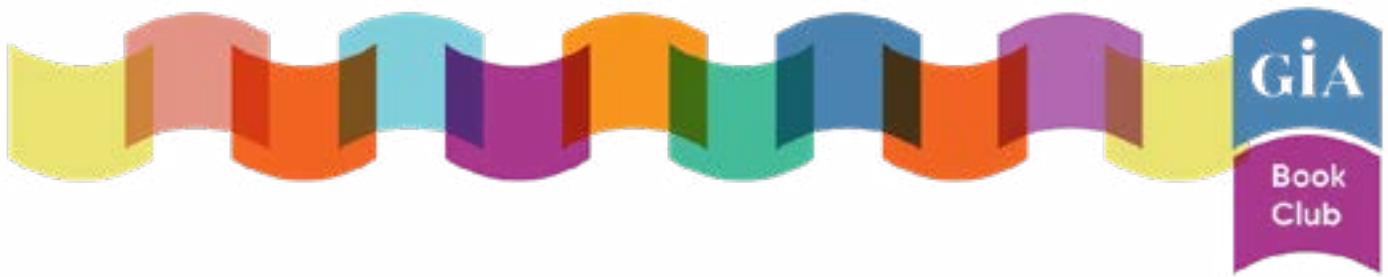
Chapter Focus: Our need for belonging

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

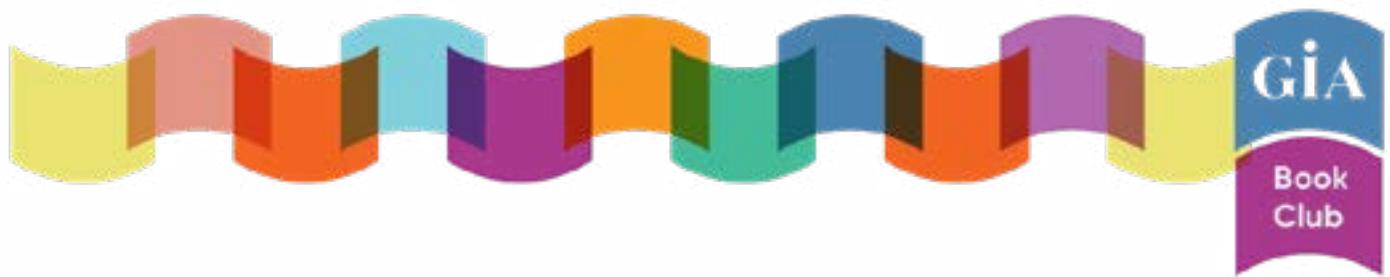
Chapter Focus: Those who have left their homeland for various reasons.

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?

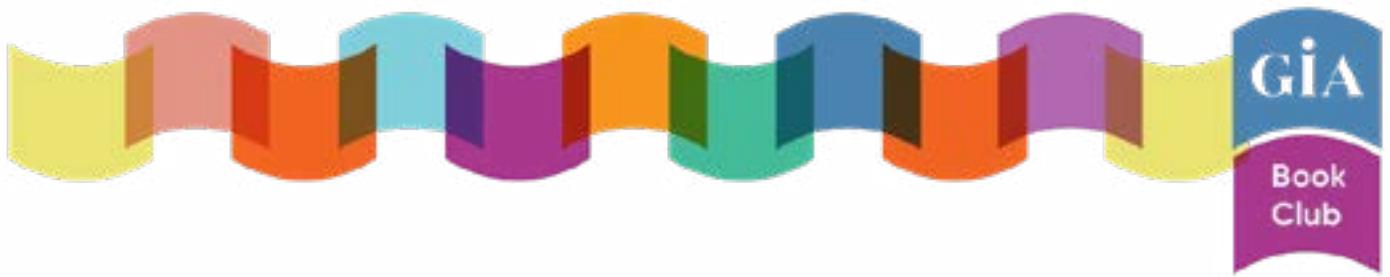


A Time to Heal

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:

Are there any songs 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

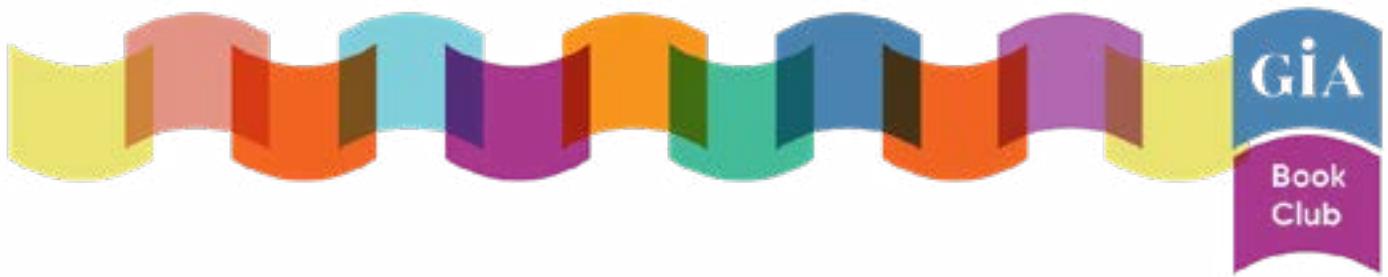
Stories: Tutsi survivor of the Rwandan genocide; Visit to Robben Island (South Africa)

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?

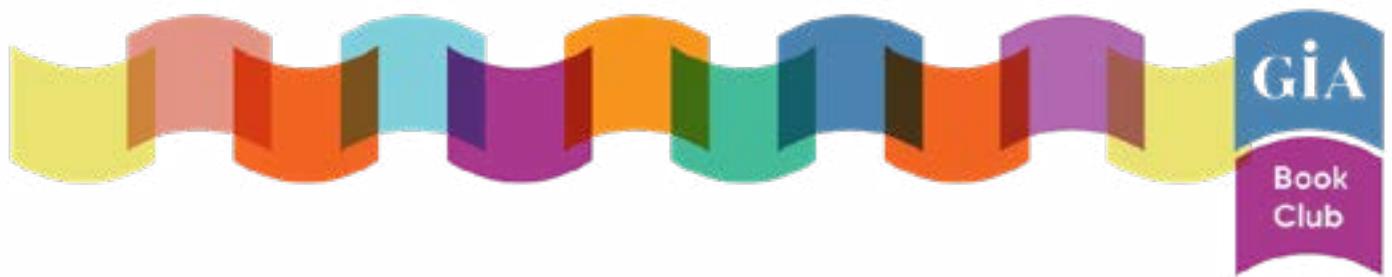


In Summary

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

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

Did you enjoy this book? Why or why not?



Page for notes during the book club meeting



Page for notes during the book club meeting