



DANGEROUS BOOK

April 30, 2023
Fabric Group Guide
Dangerous Book - Week 3
Dangerous Winds

Welcome Everyone! Fabric Groups are a regular, long haul space to **share, care, trust and grow** with others inspired by the conversations and experiences we have in common as Fabric. Enjoy this time! - Melissa

Opening ideas

10-15 mins

Welcome! *Something I value about this chance to talk about this Dangerous Book, the Bible...*

TO HAVE HANDY: Some paper, pens, a couple of bibles and this week's [outline](#).

Light a candle. Taking your time, ground in this prayer: *Breathe, settle in. There are places that feel stuck and hopeless. Being willing to look at those places with honesty and openness is a first step to realizing hope together and see a next step and a next... until we are surprised at the healing we never imagined was possible. MAY IT BE SO.*

Check out the **Group Agreements** on the back/page 2. You might pass them around and take turns reading them. Or highlight one as the facilitator or in pairs.

Intro/Check-In: Share names and a way you experienced some wonder and/or danger this week.

Discussion & Practice Ideas

30-60 mins

This week is brought to you by two big stories about the dangerous and wonderous winds of the Spirit. One dreamlike vision from the prophet Ezekiel and the other three glimpses we get in Jesus' time of one man, Nicodemus.

1. Melissa shared that one role of the prophets in the Bible was to *trouble the comfortable and comfort the troubled*. Bible talks about the sheep and the goats, the grain and the chaff, the good and bad soil... It's easy to hear things like this and wonder, "*which one am I?*" **Where does that take people? How can that get dangerous?**

How does it change to wonder, instead *how are those both in me? Are there "dry bones" places in me where I need to be troubled and comforted?*

2. What is it like to weave LIFE with these wonderous, dangerous winds blowing in, through and around us? Melissa remembered the hesitant swimmers she got to help and witness learn to swim. Some say it is like learning to dance with a skilled, generous partner. **How do you relate to those examples? What is it like for you?**
3. There were several suggestions for Bible readings to explore. Choose one of them to R.O.A.M through together (there are links in the [Sunday Paper outline](#)); **give people 5 or so minutes to write out some thoughts. Then share what you discovered.**

Take a R.O.A.M. through a reading.

Read: Take your time. Bring your curiosity and full self.

Observe: Read again, make notes. What details do you notice? What connections? What do you notice about its larger context?

Apply: To your life and our world. Use compassion and curiosity not judgement and guilt.

Meditate: Sit with the reading and your thoughts. There may be words you want to say, pray, or just be.

Ideas to Close

5-10 mins

Invite everyone to write on a slip of paper (or put in chat): Note a THANKS, HELP or a WOW on your mind or heart as you end. Collect them all and re-distribute/exchange so everyone's is (unhurriedly) read back by someone else. May it all be so!





DANGEROUS BOOK

April 30, 2023
Fabric Group Guide
Dangerous Book - Week 3
Dangerous Winds

Group Agreements

1. **Push pause.** The world is noisy. Before speaking, take a breath.... let Silence be a voice in your Group.
2. **Be present.** Your being here matters! Step up to share when you are ready. Step back to listen.
3. **Share what you want** when you want. You don't have to do anything you don't want to do.
4. **Confidentiality.** Always ask before sharing anything outside the group, even if it is with the most supportive of intentions.
5. **Wonder over judgment.** Starting to feel judgmental of yourself or others? Get curious with open and honest questions. Ask "how" not "why" to be on a tour, not a trial of yourself and others.
6. **Listening is a superpower.** Listening to others share their own experiences, struggle and strength is empowering. So is being listened to!
7. **Speak from your own experience,** to the whole group. Avoid crosstalk, fixing, interpretation, or unsolicited advice or help.*

*Anne Lamott called help "*the sunny side of control.*" But we do need feedback, care, support and help sometimes! If someone asks, clarify first "*What does support look like right now? Or How can we/I use this next 20 minutes in a way that would be helpful?*" If someone doesn't know or is in crisis, pull out your [Care IQ](#) tools.

These agreements are practiced, not perfected! Circle back with the group or an individual when (not if) you mess up or to share how something felt to you. [How to apologize.](#) Practice when it's easy! Early and often.

