



DANGEROUS BOOK

May 14, 2023
Fabric Group Guide
Dangerous Book - Week 5
Dangerous People

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](#).

Take your time to center together: Everyone! Take a look at [this PHOTO](#). Fill each other in on what this was. Then look around where you are! Find something you hadn't noticed before. Together, collect 20 newly seen things. *May you keep expecting to see new things together - new ways the 3rd Strand is breaking through.*

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 where you saw life breaking through this week (be as literal or metaphorical as you wish)

Discussion & Practice Ideas

30-60 mins

This week looked at Matthew's account of the unusual way Jesus kicked off his campaign for public life via these words commonly referred to as The Beatitudes, or blessings.

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.

1. **Read the Bible?** Collect some of your own reasons under each heading
WHY? **WHY NOT?**

Listen to [this clip \(42:03 - 48:28\)](#) from the message to help unpack and explore more.

2. What surprised you about the stories this week?
3. Has anyone practiced R.O.A.M.-ing through any parts of the Bible on their own? How's it going? Try it together with one of the readings this week. **Give people 5 or so minutes to write out some thoughts. Then share what you discovered...** New questions, perspectives or things about the process itself.

Idea to Close - centering prayer reprise

5-10 mins

May you keep expecting to see new things together - new ways the 3rd Strand is breaking through, despite the hard and covered over places, to remind you...what do you need to be reminded of? Name some things together.





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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.

