



Study Group Ideas

for

Building Cathedrals Not Walls

One of my favorite strategies for book club or book study groups is to ask everyone attending to arrive with a question written out on a 3 x 5 card.

Participants could also share a favorite passage instead of asking a question.

Opinion questions help encourage discussion in the group. For example, “What do you think about this idea?”

Basic Ground Rules (from ilovelibraries.org)

1. **Members who haven't read the book.** Come anyway. Not everyone can finish every book, but non-readers may still have valuable insights.
2. **Disagreements about the book.** Be gracious! There is no one way to experience or interpret a book. In fact, differing opinions are good.
3. **Members who prefer to socialize.** Be gentle but firm. Insist that discussion time be limited to the book. Some clubs hold book discussions first and invite "social members" to join afterward.
4. **Dominating personalities.** Never easy. “Let's hear from some others” is one approach. Some clubs pass an object around the room; you talk only when you hold the object. If the person continues to dominate, a friendly phone call (no e-mail) might work. If all fails, well...sometimes they've just got to go—for the good of the group.

Having a book study group for professional development or parent engagement using *Building Cathedrals Not Walls* can be low-stress, fun and productive.

Questions?

Please feel free to contact me at maren@marenschmidt.com or at 503-550-3143 Hawaii.

When you place an order of ten books or more directly with me, I am able to offer volume pricing. Let me know how I can help!

Happy reading!

Maren Schmidt

Please visit <https://marenschmidt.com>.