

# STEADFAST & SURRENDERED

DWGC  
*Ladies*  
RETREAT  
•2021•

## TIPS FOR HOSTING A SMALL GROUP

### What Do You Need?

A willing heart to host is the most important component, and you have already done that! A great hostess will encourage their guest to relax and enjoy the retreat. Your home does not need to be spotless or to have all the perfect spaces listed below (those are simply ideas!). God has given you all you need with a willing heart. These suggestions are meant to get you started, not to overwhelm you.

### Retreat Structure

The retreat will have 3 blocks of 1.5 hours. Each block will include a teaching and music followed by breakout sessions for personal reflection, activities, and group discussion activities. Try to be sensitive to allowing women to separate from the group for personal processing time.

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### Preparing Your Space

The week before the retreat, look around your home for quiet spaces. Consider your outdoor spaces as well as special nooks in your home. See if there is a great spot with full of light to offer someone who wants to do art. You can pick a space in your home to be the designated quiet space, and encourage your guests to respect that space. Try to save discussions for a separate area of the house. Additionally, you could make a simple map with a walking route for your guests so they can enjoy quiet time alone outside. Create comfortable areas where a guest could curl up with a journal and a cup of tea.

**Technology Tips:** Encourage your guests to put their technology on "do not disturb" mode so that they can fully engage with and enjoy the retreat. You could even provide a basket at the door for women who are willing to shed their phone for a few hours.

**Snacks:** Please consider having snacks and drink that are single serve/prepackaged. Also, you can request that your guests bring prepackaged snacks to share with the group. (Don't forget to consider any food allergies.)

**Lunch:** There are a flexible 2 hours for discussion and lunch allowing ladies to leave for lunch or eat together. Please encourage everyone to do whatever feels most comfortable. Try to keep best infection practices such hand washing and remaining mindful of social distancing. We suggest eating outdoors, weather permitting, with bagged lunches or a catered meal if you choose to eat together.

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### Discussion Groups

We will have three opportunities for discussion groups during the course of the day, with an hour long lunch. The lunch break can be used to extend discussion or to provide some extra processing time for those who need it. If you are hosting a group, try to be sensitive to your guests' needs for group discussion and time alone.

We will provide questions for the discussions following each session, but don't be afraid allow the conversation to flow naturally around the subject and allow your group to ask their own questions. Allow space for ladies who may be naturally quiet or shy to speak. It can be helpful to ask individuals, "Do you have anything you want to add?" before moving on to the next topic.

### Suggested Materials

If you signed up early we will be sending out boxes for small group leaders with printed materials. These will also be available online at [dwgc.org/2021-retreat-resources](http://dwgc.org/2021-retreat-resources) for anyone who would like to print extras. As you communicate with your group leading up to the retreat, encourage them to think about other items they might like to have during their times of quiet. You can use the list below to provide suggestions or provide some of the items yourself. Use the lines to make your own list!

*Highly recommended:*

- A Bible
- Some paper
- A Writing Utensil

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*Additionally, consider:*

- Prayer books
- Notebooks
- Colored pencils or markers
- Candles
- Soft blankets
- Quiet hobbies like knitting, painting, coloring, or calligraphy
- Prayer beads or shawls
- Pictures to guide prayers

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