

HE KNOWS
Your
NAME

HOW ONE
ABANDONED BABY
INSPIRED ME TO SAY
YES TO GOD

LINDA ZNACHKO
with MARGOT STARBUCK

BOOK DISCUSSION GUIDE

Welcome! I am thrilled you are meeting as a group to discuss my book! It is my hope that when you discuss the chapters you become inspired to say “yes!” to God when He invites you to take a step of faith beyond your comfort zone. I want to encourage you to be vulnerable with your group by talking openly about hard things. Be honest. Laugh a little and cry a little.

It may be helpful to break down your small group into even smaller groups by gathering in twos and threes to promote a gentle space of intimacy after your discussions. Closing your time with reflection through journaling and prayer, either together or alone, will allow for each woman to hear from God about a possible action step.

One of the most common responses to the He Knows Your Name stories is the awareness of the need for emotional healing from past pain. Let your group be a place of peace where the resources of time, talents, and treasures are shared to bless a person into finding joy again. Please don't fear brokenness but let it be a catalyst to trust God for redemptive healing that only He can give. Jesus wants to make us whole by finding He is enough. I believe when you find Him to be your “everything” you will rest in your identity as His precious child.

Do you know the meaning of your name? Do you know why you were given your name? Begin week one with everyone sharing her name and enjoy the discovery of how the meaning of your names are woven through out your life journey. Weekly share how learning more about your stories is revealing the purpose of your names! You are a loved child of the King!



INTRODUCTION

- What are the benefits, challenges, and responsibilities that go along with privilege?
- How can helping others who are in difficult situations actually end up benefiting us as well?
- Where do you go for strength, peace, and comfort?



CHAPTER 1

Baby Found in Dumpster

- Discuss a situation that has stirred your heart to action. What did you do? Why? Was it easy or hard?
- How do you think being wanted feels? How do you think being unwanted feels?
- Share a time when someone took time out from their own chaotic life to reach out to you during a season of pain.
- What is an “open door” God has prompted you to keep walking through?



CHAPTER 2

Though My Father and Mother Forsake Me

- Have you ever experienced God “going before you” to prepare both your way and your heart? If so, please describe how you felt.
- How can you overcome the barriers that keep you from saying yes to God?
- How can we be open to partnering with God in His best plan?
- Describe a time when “the church without walls” surrounded you.



CHAPTER 3

Tim's Gift to Eli

- How can community help us process grief?
- Is it easier to write a check than share someone's emotional pain? Discuss.
- Have you ever experienced God preparing you for His work and healing you as well?
- Have you ever had a time when you were given "permission" to grieve?
- How would you answer this question: "But who is Jesus to you?"



CHAPTER 4

The Wait Was Over

- What challenges you to love others who are different from you?
- “When children could be named they could also be grieved.” Discuss the truth of this statement.
- Jerry Sittser said, “In death we also find life.” What does this statement mean to you?
- “Every person has something to give.” How have others surprised you with their giving?
- What are positive ways you can lower your guard when your defenses are raised?



CHAPTER 5

Unforgettable Dixie January

- What unique gifts do you have that you can share with others? How is God calling you to use them?
- How would a headstone give a mother of a diseased baby an opportunity to grieve her loss?
- Do you take the time to ask God for a “go” or a “no” as you face decisions in your life? Share an example.
- How do the yeses of others affect your yes? How do you affect others’ yeses?



CHAPTER 6

Doodlebug's Lasting Legacy

- When was a time you saw that “doing good elicits good” and brings out the best in others?
- Why do you think the moment when the children at the graveside were yelling out their own names was such a powerful occasion for them?
- “Just listen and love.” Share a time when you did just that and it softened a hurting heart.
- Do you long to be “entrusted with a sacred assignment?” What do you think your first step toward that assignment could be?
- “Everyone will have a legacy.” What will be your legacy?



CHAPTER 7

A Life That Slipped Away Too Soon

- Discuss how suffering can be redemptive even though we do not choose it.
- Do you agree that suffering must be embraced for spiritual transformation to happen? Give an example.
- Sometimes friendships, like those of the women affected by loss, grow out of life's pain. Describe a relationship you have that grew out of hardship.



CHAPTER 8

What Are We Going to Do?

- Discuss how a law (such as the Safe Haven law) can be a form of bearing one another's burdens (Gal. 6:2).
- What can you do to encourage those who have very difficult and emotionally challenging jobs, such as coroners, emergency responders, trauma personnel, parents of handicapped children, or single parents?
- It is important not to verbally blame someone before you know all the facts. Why is it also important not to blame them silently in your heart? What does it do to you?
- Throughout the book we see God opening doors: His principle of multiplication. What does this principle mean to you?
- Describe the "void" between Friday's death and Sunday's resurrection in your life.



CHAPTER 9

A Baby Who Was Never Forgotten

- How does naming and remembering a lost baby change the way a community values life?
- What are some pitfalls of “rushing ahead of God” and doing something in your own strength and timing?
- “Weep with those who weep” (Rom. 12:45). What do these words mean to you?
- “Paid in full”: what an analogy of Christ dying for us! How does Jerry’s response parallel your difficulties to grasp God’s love for you? How has God made evident his love for you?
- Share about an “unlikely relationship” God has given you to enjoy.



CHAPTER 10

A Most Fortuitous Mylar Balloon

- Share a time when you gave a blessing and received a greater blessing yourself (see Matt. 15:34-38 and Mal. 3:10 to see how God multiplies resources).
- Please share how you've been called by God to take “one baby step” and say yes no matter how tentatively.
- Do you struggle with how a loving God allows such heartache, tragedy, and difficulty in the lives of those He loves? Please discuss openly.
- What stories come to mind when you think of a community coming together and embracing the hurting?
- “Grace begets grace” in everyday life. How can you extend grace to those you encounter?



CHAPTER 11

Twenty-Four Mug Shots

- Assess the talents and abilities you have that can be used for others. Don't forget the commodity which we all receive equally: time.
- Why do you think Jesus's kingdom is described as “upside down”? (Consider Matt. 10:39.)
- In what ways can we accept our privileges to construct bridges instead of walls?
- The jury deliberated, and their unanimous verdict was one word: *guilty*. What one word has changed your life?



CHAPTER 12

The Small Flying Defender

- What can you do, either individually or in your community, to protect “the least of these” (Matt. 25:21-45)?
- How can you slow down so you don’t “move past a loss without moving through it”?
- Why do you think we tend to find Jesus in those “tight spaces, those places of pain, loss and discomfort”?
- To Jessica, the name *Grace* meant that Amelia “wasn’t alone, God was with her.” What does grace mean to you?



CHAPTER 13

Waking from a Childhood Nightmare

- God longs to set his children free from the weight of guilt, sin, and death. From what has God set you free? How can you help others find freedom?
- How does keeping grief and pain in the dark prevent healing? Discuss.
- Brokenness can be passed down from generation to generation. How can you break this cycle?
- There is “no agony that God does not behold and grieve.” What emotions do you feel knowing that God holds all your sorrows close to Himself?
- Sometimes we quietly carry pain with us for years. How can we practice releasing our pain to God?



CHAPTER 14

The Joys and Trials of Saint Tamia

- What shifted in Tamia that inspired her to serve with a new heart?
- “The immeasurable value and impact of any given human life . . . is that he or she reflects the image of God.” How are you doing believing that you are a child of God?
- Share a time when you’ve been tangled up in the deception of “what ifs.”
- “The immeasurable value and impact of any given human life does not ever depend on what an individual is expected to accomplish.” How can we alter our speech about others and their value to build into this truth?
- Tamia’s love for others came at the great sacrifice of a comfortable life. How can you practice getting uncomfortable in order to love others better?



CHAPTER 15

The Terrible Person They Say I Am

- Scripture says that God’s timing is always perfect. How do you see God’s timing in your life? Or are you struggling to have faith in this area?
- Why do you think Zackery’s mother, Felicia, said she “felt complete” when she finally saw Zackery’s headstone and gravesite?
- How do you practice listening for God’s direction?
- Share about a “vertical yes” that collided with a “horizontal yes” in your life.
- Although you may feel inadequate, if God has called you to say yes, he will equip you (Eph 2:10; Phil 4:3). How can you next say yes in faith to love and serve others?