

Preparation for Biography Presentations

Your project for our month 10 meeting is to read a **biography** of a great leader. (This is your book for the month.)

The purpose is to gain insights from their story and prayerfully discover great takeaways that impacted you and that you will apply to your life and leadership. Also, you will share the insights you found with your group.

(It should be about 15-20 minutes, including the interaction your group leader helps create.)

How to prepare:

1. Select your biography from the list provided. Ask your group leader about any special instructions he may have for how you select, if you can add a book not on the list, or if he has more specific ideas about the selection process.
2. Read and study the biography and make lots of notes in the book's margins! Interact with the story! What jumps out at you? Why? What did you learn?
3. Make this a personal rather than an "academic" project. **It's not a book report.** For example, what are the 3 – 5 most significant takeaways from the book that impacted you and you plan to apply and practice in your own life? Tell why they had such an impact. What did you learn about yourself? How did this biography inspire you? Etc.
4. Write clear and thoughtful notes to organize your thoughts for the group. These notes are just for you, but you will sharpen and clarify your thinking by writing them down.

Selected Titles of Biographies

Several of these biographies are lengthy but don't shy away because they're long. You may not need to finish it in a month and still have read more than enough to accomplish the purpose.

Again, ask your group leader if he has any special instructions for the book you select.

1. *Hudson Taylor's Spiritual Secret*, by Dr. and Mrs. Howard Taylor
2. *The Autobiography of George Muller*, (Whitaker House; Updated edition, February 1, 1996)
3. *Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy*, by Eric Metaxas
4. *Amazing Grace: William Wilberforce and the Heroic Campaign to End Slavery*, by Eric Metaxas
5. *A Passion for Souls: The Life of D.L. Moody*, by Lyle Dorsett
6. *Forgotten Founding Father: The Heroic Legacy of George Whitfield*, by Stephen Mansfield
7. *Harriet Tubman: The Road to Freedom*, by Catherine Clinton
8. *Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption*, by Laura Hillenbrand (Louie Zamperini--a juvenile delinquent-turned-Olympic runner-turned-Army hero.)
(The original adult version – There is also a young adult adaptation.)
9. *Quiet Strength: The Principles, Practices, and Priorities of a Winning Life*, by Tony Dungy
10. *Mother Teresa: An Authorized Biography*, (Revised Edition) by Katheryn Spink
11. *The Autobiography of Martin Luther King, Jr.*, by Clayborne Carson (Editor)
12. *Martin Luther: The Man Who Rediscovered God and Changed the World*, by Eric Metaxas
13. *The Splendid and the Vile: A Saga of Churchill, Family, and Defiance During the Blitz*, by Erik Larson

14. *Never Give In: The Extraordinary Character of Winston Churchill*, by Stephen Mansfield
15. *Lincoln's Battle with God: A President's Struggle with Faith and What It Meant for America*, by Stephen Mansfield
16. *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*, by Doris Kearns Goodwin
17. *No Ordinary Time, Franklin & Eleanor Roosevelt -The Home Front in World War II*, by Doris Kearns Goodwin (Pulitzer Prize Winner)
18. *John Adams*, by David McCullough (Pulitzer Prize Winner)
19. *Margaret Thatcher: The Authorized Biography: Vol 1: From Grantham to the Falklands*, by Charles Moore
20. *Lincoln on Leadership: Executive Strategies for Tough Times*, by Donald T. Phillips
21. *Martin Luther King, Jr., on Leadership: Inspiration and Wisdom for Challenging Times*, by Donald T. Phillips