

# SAINT LUKE'S YOUTH FAMILY BOOK CLUB

# DISCUSSION GUIDE



Talking with each other can be hard enough. Talking about a book can help get the conversation started. Each book in the book club has themes, characters, conflicts, and elements of compassion that we hope will be relatable, eye-opening, and/or world-expanding. We have chosen books filled with diversity, written by people with different experiences, perhaps, from our own. Remember, these are all works of fiction and may not reflect your particular reality. We do hope the books can bring thought-provoking discussions about being a teenager, a parent of a teenager, and all the struggles and joys wrapped up therein.

Use this guide as a way to approach talking about a book that each of you has read. You may choose set a chapter to get to then talk, or you may choose to have conversations along the way, or wait until the end of the book to have a chat. You may find that some books might need some more conversation along the way, and others might need time to marinate with your thoughts. Whatever you do, make sure everyone is on the same page. (ha, get it).

## **So how do we talk about a book?**

**Start with the characters.** Who are the characters in the book? Remember their names. Write them down. Once you have your list, have each person in the family describe the character in 2-3 sentences. How do your character descriptions differ from one another? Did you relate to each other in similar ways? What role does this character play in the book? (Hero, villain, comic relief, moral compass, etc.). Does their role change or evolve? How do you connect to this character? What do you wish you knew more about?

**Setting.** Where does this story take place? How is it like your setting? How is it different? What role does the setting play in the story? What role does your setting play in your life?

**Conflict.** Listen to each person describe the MAIN conflict in the story? Don't respond until each person has had an opportunity to share. Did you see it the same way? Who contributed to the solving of the problem? What struggles are left unresolved? In what ways do you relate to the conflicts, struggles, or solutions? What or Who is hard for you to relate to? Recognizing there isn't a one-to-one correlation, how might this conflict be helpful to relate to in your life?

**Did this book offer new insight into anything?** Or did it cause you to think about something in the world or your own life a little differently?

**Connect to faith, church, and loving communities.** Could the church, faith, Jesus, or God's love have helped in these situations? What might faithful responses have looked like? Are there ways the church could speak truth and love into the larger settings and conflicts within the book?

**General reactions about the book.** What did you like about the book? Why? What didn't you like about the book? Why? Would you want to read more from the same author?