

SARAH
SISTER



HOOD

Women bound by the
blood of Christ our Savior,
remembering the story of
our hope together,
sharing and praying about
our true stories of sin
redeemed,
and living this great good
news in a hurting world.

Meeting Format

1. Remembering the True Story: (20 minutes):

Together we read the True Story, a summary of the gospel. We also read one focal Scripture passage for the night.

Why? Because Scripture is the truest story about our lives, the one that gives us hope and transforms us.

2. Sharing true stories: (36 minutes; 4 per group):

As equal sinner-saint-sisters before God, we surrender our lives again to him. We briefly share a true current story from our life. We invite one another to respond to our story and to pray for our story.

3. Living as sisters (18 minutes):

a. We pray for one another corporately. (People who volunteer will pray aloud.) We lift the stories we have heard before our God who has saved us and continues to sanctify us. We pray that we will have the courage to live this story in the world.

b. Together, we encourage one another in the daily disciplines of prayer, Scripture study, and self-examination. We send one another to move back into the world to live the gospel, embracing others who need to know the hope of the True Story.

The True Story

God has existed since before the beginning of history and will exist into eternity. In the timeless mystery of the Trinity, He is perfectly harmonious and perfectly whole.

God is our Creator. He designed us according to His image and we are lovely. God made us to live in eternal harmony with Him and one another. He gave us a mission to love, steward, and multiply His creation.

Spurning God's fellowship, we all have sinned. In so doing, we have forfeited our harmonious relationship with God and brought spiritual death into our lives.

I myself have personally defied God's law and rejected His love. Alienation from Him has produced darkness and chaos in my life which has led me both to hide in shame and to blame others.

And yet, I don't have to live in eternal shame and condemnation! God has continued to love me, even in my active attempts to make life work apart from Him. In Christ, God has done everything necessary to restore me perfectly to Himself.

As I accept responsibility for my sin and find forgiveness in the finished work of Christ, I experience reconciliation with God and am progressively restored to harmonious relationship with myself and others.

The effects of sin still linger, but I am a forgiven, freed, delightful daughter of my Sovereign Lord. His Spirit works in my weakness, displaying His glory and advancing His kingdom. I am fully restored by God and made to enjoy Him as I enjoy His redeemed Creation.

The Covenant of the Sarah Sisterhood (based on the True Story)

A woman agrees to this covenant to become a member of the Sarah Sisterhood.

In our fallen nature, we tend to compete against one another:

As Sarah Sisters, we humble ourselves, recognizing our equal redeemed sinner status in Christ.

In our fallen nature, we tend to compare ourselves to one another:

As Sarah Sisters, we rejoice in our differences and love one another because of them.

In our fallen nature, we condemn others and ourselves;

As Sarah Sisters, we no longer strive for self-justification but rest in our justification in Christ.

In our fallen nature, we cower in fear,

As Sarah Sisters, we encourage one another by reminding of the hope of the gospel and by praying faithfully.

In our fallen nature, we isolate ourselves from others;

As Sarah Sisters, we walk with other sisters to listen, encourage, and pray for one another.

In our fallen nature, we cringe in shame,

As Sarah Sisters, we confess the reality of who we are and we recognize the freedom for which Christ set us free. We call one another to live the unique story of redemption God has written in us and to enjoy worshipping God with our distinct gifts and passions. We do so by sharing honestly, out of our own personal experience, the challenges and encouragements of daily Christian living in a fallen world.