

LEADER'S GUIDE

Worthy of Love

A JOURNEY OF HOPE AND HEALING AFTER ABORTION
with Biblical Reflections



Shadia Hrichi

Worthy of Love - Leader's Guide
Copyright © 2016 by Beautiful Voice Ministries and Shadia Hrichi

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in whole or in part without written permission from the author, except by a reviewer who may include brief quotations in printed reviews; nor may any part of this book be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or any other—without receiving prior permission in writing from the author, except as provided by USA copyright law.

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked (CEV) are taken from the Contemporary English Version Copyright © 1995 by American Bible Society. Used by permission.

Scripture quotations marked (ESV) are taken from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®). Copyright ©2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked (MSG) are taken from The Message. Copyright © 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 by Eugene H. Peterson. Used by permission of NavPress Publishing Group.

Produced and published by
Beautiful Voice Ministries, San Jose, California
Edited in part by Judith Robl
Cover design by Lisa Hainline
Cover images: Dreamstime 10483527 © Y0jik, 23351633 © Macsim
Photograph on page 75: ©iStockphoto.com/Yuri
Persons depicted on cover and interior are models and do not personally endorse any business, product, service, cause, association or other endeavor.

ISBN 978-0-9897141-4-3

Printed in the United States of America

Leader's Guide: Introduction

May the Lord richly bless you for your desire to lead a *Worthy of Love* study group. Because God is sovereign, nothing happens by chance. You are reading this right now by His own design. May the Lord bless you and guide as you prepare to come alongside women whom God has made ready to walk this tender journey.

Following this introduction are some practical guidelines to consider before you plan your first group. However, even before you ponder any instructions, the single most important preparation is to surrender your heart to the work the Holy Spirit has called you to. One of the best ways to do this is by endeavoring to understand, to the best of your ability, the specific heartbreak and trauma suffered by women who have lost children to abortion.

Even if you have not personally had an abortion, if you are going to be used as God's instrument of healing in such a tender ministry, it is imperative that you first prepare your mind, heart, and soul to come alongside the women whom you will serve by prayerfully going through this study on your own. While you may not be able to answer every question, each lesson centers on a key principle taken directly from God's Word. Chapters include:

1. *The Lie*: REPLACING THE LIES WITH GOD'S TRUTH
2. *The Secret*: EXPOSING OUR SECRETS TO GOD'S LIGHT
3. *The Crossroads*: STANDING AT THE CROSSROADS OF GOD'S LOVE
4. *The Mask*: EMBRACING OUR TRUE IDENTITY IN CHRIST
5. *The Stone*: SURRENDERING OUR BURDENS TO GOD

Worthy of Love

6. *The Battle*: CONFRONTING OUR GIANTS WITH GOD'S WORD

7. *The Wish*: ENTRUSTING OUR HEARTS TO THE HEALER

8. *The Gift*: CHOOSING TO RECEIVE GOD'S PROMISES

The timeless truths of God's Word are the sole source of everlasting hope, healing, love, and forgiveness each of our hearts is longing for - and these are available to us only through the victory won by our glorious Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Please know you are in my prayers. Truly, the Lord has great things in store for you as you serve Him by ministering to His precious daughters. To Him alone be all the glory!

*"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."
(2 Corinthians 1:3-4 ESV)*

Shadia

Leader's Guide Table of Contents

General Instructions	169
Before You Begin	171
What to Bring	173
8-Week Format	175
4.5-Week Format	199
Additional Forms & Helpful Documents	210

Leader's Guide: General Instructions

This Leader's Guide was created to offer a suggested framework and practical tips as you lead your group. To make it easy for you to guide participants through the study, except for the Leader's Guide and an updated "Acknowledgements" page, this book is identical to the participant's version of *Worthy of Love*.

While most groups are conducted using an 8-week format, some groups have used a modified 4.5-week format. Both versions are included in this Guide.

Depending on the size of your group, review of each chapter should take approximately one and one-half hours; nevertheless, it is recommended that you schedule two hours each week for flexibility. Group sizes vary and typically include three to eight participants.

It is not necessary that the group leader has experienced losing a child to abortion. However, if you desire to lead a group but have not personally lost a child to abortion, please be sure to invite a co-leader or helper who is post-abortive to serve alongside you. This will provide the women with a sense of comfort and connection. Each leader and co-leader (whether post-abortive or not) should personally work through the book prior to committing to serve a group.

If you are conducting the group in a host home, invite the host to serve as a helper. The greatest gift each of us brings to the women God entrusts to our care is our support, love, and encouragement - and for these, there is no prerequisite. Also, leaders and helpers who are not post-abortive should still work through the homework for each chapter. Not every question will be applicable, of course, but there are many Scripture assignments that are applicable to all of us. Encourage their participation in these areas. This will further help the group (including leaders and helpers) to bond.

For each session, key discussion questions are provided for each chapter's homework. If there is still time remaining, you may opt to

Worthy of Love

review the questions that were skipped. In some instances, I've also included suggested sharing time allotments for certain questions. These should be adjusted depending on the size and make-up of your group and of course, the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Please remain mindful that some women in the group may have had more than one abortion. As you present each question, be sure to leave room for women to process each loss separately.

You may encounter a time when you feel a participant could benefit from professional counseling. I recommend that before beginning a study, you identify one or two local Christian counselors to whom you can refer. Most are willing to engage in an informal phone conversation where you can inquire about their experience in counseling post-abortive women. Some may even be willing to offer a discounted rate. Feel free to ask the counselor about her views on abortion and on a woman's need for healing after abortion.

You may like the idea of beginning each session by playing a worship song. I've included some suggestions at the beginning of each session.

At the end of this guide, I have included a variety of forms, poems, and other documents to enrich your group experience and to help prepare you and the participants for the journey ahead. These are provided for your convenience and may be utilized at your sole discretion. Not every group uses all of the forms so feel free to pick and choose what works best for you.

Above all, may the Holy Spirit lead you as you serve Him. Truly, I am honored to partner with you in this ministry. I am excited for all God has in mind to do in you and through you!

To Him alone be all the glory. Amen!

Before You Begin

A few items to consider as you plan your group

PARTNERING WITH YOUR CHURCH

Take some time to meet and talk with your pastor or women's ministry leader to share your passion and vision for the ministry. Provide him or her with a copy of the book to review.

LOCATION

Prayfully choose a location. Although it is not necessary, many groups are hosted in private homes where the atmosphere can be relaxed. If the group will be taking place at a church, choose a location away from other activities. Whatever location you choose, keep the details confidential and only share it with the group members (and other key supporters, such as church leadership).

PROMOTION

To assist in spreading awareness of the study at your church, in your community, and on social media, the following free resources are available at www.shadiahrichi.com:

- Church bulletin inserts (PDF download)
- Flyers/Posters (PDF download)
- Promo video (video link)

SCHOLARSHIPS

Consider having a scholarship available to help cover the cost of books.

Worthy of Love

PRAYER SUPPORT

Enlist a network of prayer supporter to bathe you, your co-leaders/ helpers/hosts, and the women God will entrust to your care, in prayer.

What to Bring

Suggestions on what to bring for ALL sessions

- Your copy of *Worthy of Love* (plus extra copy in case someone needs one)
- Music
- Pens
- Bible (consider bringing an extra Bible in case someone needs one)
- Name Badges
- Tissues
- Snacks (suggestion: always have chocolate on hand :)
- Water
- Blank Prayer Cards

Additional items you will need (session numbers based on 8-week format)

Session 1

- Books for each participant
- Copies of the following forms:
 - Group Etiquette
 - Commitment form
 - Confidentiality Waiver
 - Sign up/Contact Information

Session 4

- Copies of "Before Me, You" poem

Session 7

- Attractive Blank Note Cards for each participant to take home for exercise on page 158

Worthy of Love

Session 8

- Copies of poem “A Pre-born Child’s Conversation With His Heavenly Father” by Delia Baker Hutto March
- Candles (one candle for each child lost, including children of leaders/co-leaders/helpers, plus extra candle to light all the others)
- Suggested: small gift for each participant

Note: All forms, documents, and poems referenced in this Leader's Guide are included at the end of this Guide and are available for free download at www.shadiahrichi.com

(Session One) Welcome

BEFORE THE SESSION

- Read “A Note from the Author.” Underline key phrases to discuss
- Read “Foreword by Brian Fisher” and the poem “A Mother’s Lament.” Note anything that you wish to share with the group
- Be prepared to introduce yourself and what you hope to gain from your time together
- Schedule time prior to the start of the session for leader, co-leader, and host to pray together
- Review “What to Bring” on pages 173-174

WELCOME

- Welcome the group. Commend them for participating and for making the time to care for themselves when so many other things compete for their time
- Opening prayer

INTRODUCTIONS (2-3 minutes each)

- Introduce yourself and share what led you to serve as leader/co-leader
- Ask each person (including co-leaders) to introduce herself, including her name and what she hopes to gain from the study
- Optional: Distribute and review “Objectives of the **Worthy of Love** study group”

REVIEW FORMS

- Distribute and review “Group Etiquette” form
- Review and ask participants to read and sign “Commitment form”
- Distribute and review “Confidentiality waiver”
- Ask participants provide their name and contact information on the sign up form

DISTRIBUTE BOOKS

- Distribute books
- Read aloud (or invite participants to read silently) “A Note from the Author” and to share their thoughts

Worthy of Love

- Optional: Read aloud (or invite participants to read silently) “Foreword by Brian Fisher” and to share their thoughts
- Optional: Invite participants to read “A Mother’s Lament.” Ask participants what stood out to them in the poem

REMINDERS & CLOSING

- Present blank Prayer Cards and encourage participants to share their prayer requests (prayer cards to be collected at end of each sessions for leader/co-leader to pray over)
- Advise participants of the importance of carving out time to do the homework each week in order to listen for God’s leading. Be mindful that the enemy does not want them to be healed; they are likely to encounter spiritual warfare and distractions along the way
- Closing prayer (pray for participants’ prayer requests and for them to sense God’s Peace and Presence and as they work through the study)
- Remind participants to complete the homework in Chapter One for the next session

NOTES