

# BOOK CLUB GUIDE

## Gutsy Girls: Strong Christian Women Who Impacted the World

### Book Three: Fanny Crosby

#### Guiding Questions for Book Club Discussion

- Although *Gutsy Girls: Book Three* is an illustrated picture book, all of the text and illustrations are based on true events (including the illustration of Fanny on the sled!). What details from Fanny Crosby's life stand out to you? What do you still wonder about?
- In your own words, define the word disability. List as many types of disabilities as you can. Do you know anyone who has a disability? Share about that person and how life might be different for them. Talk about any challenges a person with a disability may encounter. Share about the many famous people with disabilities ([https://www.disabled-world.com/artman/publish/article\\_0060.shtml](https://www.disabled-world.com/artman/publish/article_0060.shtml)).
- Fanny left home at age fifteen, made her way around New York alone, and spoke in front of large groups frequently. She didn't do these things because she was strong. Fanny did them because she found strength through God. Discuss a time you faced a big or scary task and had to rely on God for your strength. What does "relying on God" look like to you?
- The book says, "Fanny volunteered and worked with people who were sick and people who were homeless and people others worked hard to forget." Why would people work hard to forget someone? What do you think those forgotten people were like?
- Fanny met all kinds of people while traveling, including Chief Albert Cusick, an Onondaga Indian. Why do you think Chief Cusick made Fanny a member of his tribe? What does that say about Fanny's relationship with the Onondaga people?
- Fanny wrote hymns under more than 200 pseudonyms. In *Gutsy Girls: Book Three* lists some of the names she used. Read the list. If you were to create a pseudonym, what name would you choose and why?
- Read the Historical Note at the back of the book. Do you find any of the additional details about Fanny's life surprising? Discuss.
- Turn to page the page in *Gutsy Girls: Book Three*, which has illustrations of former US presidents. Are you familiar with any of these men? What do you know about the time period in which they served?

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## Additional Gutsy Girls: Book Two Activities

- **Listen to hymns.** Download the Spotify app (it's free!), and listen to author Amy L. Sullivan's Fanny Crosby Playlist (<https://open.spotify.com/user/amylsullivan/playlist/1xo5KwqBzT3u0VPLyWxWs3>) created by Gutsy Girls author Amy L. Sullivan.
- **Study braille.** Although Fanny Crosby did not use braille to read, braille is one way people who are blind access many resources. Visit the National Braille Press (<http://nbp.org/>) to learn about the many books, games, and resources available in braille. Download a visual representation of the Braille Alphabet Card (the dots on the card will not be raised) or have an adult order a free embossed Braille Alphabet Card to be mailed to you (one per customer).
- **Serve others.** Although Fanny Crosby was best known for the hymns she wrote, Fanny wanted to be known for loving God and serving others. She chose to live in apartments next to people many in society wanted to ignore. She counseled prisoners. She made pills for the sick. She even knitted mittens for soldiers. After your book club group discusses Fanny's story, plan an activity to go out and serve others either in your community or from your kitchen table. Easy examples include the following: Create a banner or posters for someone who needs encouragement. Bake your favorite dessert and take it to the local police or fire department. Ask participants to bring used clothes or books and deliver them to a local shelter. Tour a nonprofit organization in your community. Ask someone who is already serving others to come to your group and share about their mission, Or pack food at a local food bank.
- **Talk with the author.** Create a list of questions for the author, Amy L. Sullivan, and set up a time to chat via Skype. For more information go to [AmyLSullivan.com](http://AmyLSullivan.com).
- **Play Fanny's music.** Are there members of your book club with musical abilities? Before book club meets, ask them to look up the music from one of Fanny's songs to practice and share with the group. One of her most well-known songs is "Blessed Assurance" (<http://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/s/7d/5e/46/7d5e46fb86e13961842910c3a1e0f5f1.jpg>).
- **Eat watermelon.** Fanny Crosby had a mischievous side to her. While attending school, she crept into the school's garden and stole a watermelon to share with the other students. Grab a watermelon and slice it up for your guests, or make another watermelon themed treat.
- **Become a copy cat.** Pick your favorite illustration from the book, and show off your drawing skills by copying it.

