

# BOOK CLUB GUIDE

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

Book One: Gladys Aylward

### Guiding Questions for Book Club Discussion

- As with all of the *Gutsy Girls* books, details from Gladys' story are real. On the page with the Trans-Siberian Railroad, we find Gladys sleeping on the railroad tracks surrounded by howling wolves. What do you think Gladys was thinking about throughout the night? Discuss a time you have felt scared or alone.
- In your own words, retell Gladys Aylward's story. Discuss the different ways God answered Gladys' prayers and how you know He was always with Gladys on her journey. Give specific examples from the book.
- Turn to the page in *Gutsy Girls: Book One* where Gladys is standing among other women. How is Gladys different from the other women on the page? The author says, "Gladys Aylward was not extraordinary. In fact, Gladys Aylward was just plain ordinary." What is the difference between ordinary and extraordinary? How are you ordinary? Are there ways in which you are extraordinary?
- For her journey, Gladys packed two suitcases: one for clothes and one for food. Discuss the clothes and food you would take if you were traveling to China.
- In *Gutsy Girls: Book One*, Gladys traveled to China and instructed people to stop binding the feet of children. She even became an official "foot inspector." What does it mean to bind feet? Why would people bind their daughters' feet? Is this practice used today?
- Gladys walked 100 children over 100 miles through the mountains to bring them to safety. If you walked 100 miles from your home, where would you end up (have an adult help you figure out places which are approximately 100 miles from you)? How long does it take to drive a car 100 miles?
- How did attitudes towards Gladys change from the beginning of *Gutsy Girls: Book One* to the end? What words did people use to describe Gladys at the beginning of the story? How did they describe her at the end of the story?
- Have you ever felt God asking you to do something bold or something you didn't feel capable of (like telling a friend about Jesus or making conversation with the new kid)? How did you handle the situation?
- Who from the Bible did God ask to travel from their home to a faraway place? Describe what was happening during this time.
- Read the *Note from the Author* at the back of the book. Who are some of the ordinary people the author lists that God used in extraordinary ways?
- Throughout Gladys' journey, God always heard and answered her prayers. Share about a time when God answered your prayers.
- Is there anything you still wonder about Gladys and her story?

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## Additional Gutsy Girl: Book One Activities

- **Travel to China** – online! Gladys traveled to Yangchen, China. It is a real city. Grab an adult and look up Yangchen, China, online to see what the city looks like today.
- **Write about your trip.** Pretend you are Gladys, and write a letter to your family telling them about your trip to China.
- **Try Chinese food.** With the help of an adult, investigate typical Chinese food. Consider making a dish or ordering a meal you've never tried.
- **Learn new words.** Build your vocabulary by drawing pictures representing each of the words in the glossary at the end of the book.
- **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).

