

# BOOK CLUB GUIDE

## **Gutsy Girls: Strong Christian Women Who Impacted the World** Book Five: Sojourner Truth

### Guiding Questions for Book Club Discussion

- As with all of the *Gutsy Girls* books, details from Sojourner's story are real. What part of Sojourner's life do you find difficult to believe?
- In your own words, retell Sojourner Truth's story. Discuss the different ways God answered Sojourner's prayers and how you know He was always with Sojourner on her journey. Give specific examples from the book.
- In *Gutsy Girls: Book Five*, the author writes, "Buying and selling people was the way of slavery, and slavery was one of the most horrifying acts of humankind. Evil prevailed." Discuss what you know about slavery in the United States. Does slavery still take place today? Do you know the names and stories of anyone who was once a slave?
- Belle had physical characteristics that made her stand out from others. What were they? Do you have physical characteristics that make you stand out? What are they? How do you feel about your unique physical characteristics?
- As a child, Belle's mother taught her the Lord's Prayer. What is the Lord's Prayer? Where is it found in the Bible?
- When Belle decided to take her daughter Sophia and walk to freedom, she walked five miles to the Van Wagener home. How long do you think it would take you to walk five miles? Discuss with other members of the group how far five miles would be from where you are sitting right now.
- In *Gutsy Girls: Book Five*, the author references Lot's wife. What happened to Lot's wife? What is a pillar of salt? Where is the account of Lot's wife found in the Bible? How does this story relate to Sojourner?
- Belle decided her name no longer fit her, and therefore, she gave herself the name Sojourner Truth. If you were to give yourself a name, which represented who you were going to be and what you were going to do in life, what would your new name be? Get creative!
- *Gutsy Girls: Book Five* mentions Abraham Lincoln. List any facts you know about Abraham Lincoln.
- One of the last sentences in *Gutsy Girls: Book Five* says: "She reminded us that God can and will use anyone to glorify Him, even those whom society dismisses and especially those who feel unqualified." What do you think this sentence means? Who are people that society dismisses?

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## Additional Gutsy Girls: Book Five Activities

- **Find the statue.** During the late 1850s, Sojourner Truth moved to Battle Creek, Michigan. Then over a hundred years later in 1999, the city of Battle Creek dedicated a 12-foot bronze statue of Sojourner Truth. Find the illustration of the statue in *Gutsy Girls: Book Five* then grab an adult and look up images of the statue online. Try to find the plaque, which displays Sojourner's signature.
- **Write your autobiography.** Despite never being taught to read or write, Sojourner Truth dictated her life story to a friend and had her words made into a book. Think about the important events in your own life (births, deaths, moves, friendships, awards, your baptism). Then write your own mini-autobiography. Include photos, newspaper clippings, letters, and small souvenirs.
- **Compare two women.** Many people confuse Sojourner Truth with Harriet Tubman. Using a Venn diagram, compare and contrast the two women.
- **Design a rover.** In the *Historical Note* at the end of *Gutsy Girls: Book Five*, we learn that NASA named a Mars rover "Sojourner." What is a rover? With the help of an adult, look up videos and images of the Sojourner Rover, and then develop plans for your own rover. Where would you send your rover? To space? The bottom of the ocean? Underground? What would your rover be made of? What would you name it? Using poster board, draw out plans for your own rover and label each component.
- **Create a Who's Who List.** The Bible is full of unqualified people God used for His glory. Create an illustrated list of five people from the Bible whom society viewed as ordinary, but who accomplished great things for God. Write a short summary of each person and include the verses of the Bible where the account is located.

