



Altus Book Groups

- **What is an Altus Book Group?** An Altus Book Group is like a book club, reading faith-filled, authentic Catholic books. Group members read a book (or a portion of it) at home and then gather together to discuss the book, guided by the Group's Hostess.
- **How often do Altus Book Groups meet?** They meet once a month, year round, on whatever day and time is convenient for each Group. Each Book Group meeting will be approximately two hours long.
- **Where do Altus Book Groups meet?** Altus Book Groups meet at various locations: churches, homes, book shops, coffee shops... wherever women prefer to gather!
- **When will the Book Groups begin?** Altus Book Groups will begin in October 2019. After that, Book Groups will begin whenever a new Group is ready to form.
- **What books do Book Groups read?** Each year (beginning in September), Altus for Women will provide a list of "Altus Recommended" books for the year. In addition to those recommended books, Book Groups can choose from an additional list of books that are "Altus Approved". This gives each Group autonomy and the ability to develop a custom program to *grow in faith*. For example, a Group of young mothers may choose a book suitable to their stage of life whereas a Group of single women may choose books suitable for them.
- **How many books do we read in a year?** Book Groups can read at their own pace, but the average Group can expect to read anywhere from 8-12 books/year.
- **Will Altus Book Group participants have an opportunity to view the books before they make their selections?** Yes. The *Altus Book Fair* in September will "kick off" the new Book Group "year". All "Altus Recommended" books will be on display.
- **Do I purchase my own books?** Yes, each participant is responsible for purchasing her own book. Books will be available at Heaven and Earth Gift Shop, 400 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton.
- **Do all the Groups read the same books in the same order at the same time?** No. Although Altus will provide a recommended order, individual Groups can decide for themselves which books they want to read and when. However, we do recommend that all the Groups begin their new year each October with the same pre-determined book.

- **Is there a cost to participate?** No, the Book Groups are free to attend. The only cost is the cost of the book.
- **What are the responsibilities for Hosting a Book Group?** The responsibilities for Book Group Hostesses involve
 - finding a place to meet
 - choosing a time to meet
 - inviting/keeping a roster of the Group members
 - welcoming the participants
 - occasionally communicating information to Group members

Unlike our previous "studies", there is no weekly preparation work needed for Book Group Hostesses, as there will be no homework to discuss. Each time that the Group meets, the Hostess either leads the discussion, or chooses someone else in the Group to do so.

- **How do women register for a Book Group?** Each Altus Book Group's meeting day, time, location & Hostess contact information will be listed on our website. Women interested in joining a specific Group will contact the Hostess directly to "register".
- **How do I recruit members for my Group?** Our website will "advertise" each Group. Hostesses can also ask their pastors to advertise in parish bulletins. We have found that the most effective recruitment method is a personal invitation! Group size should be no more than 12 members.
- **Do Group Hostesses provide refreshments?** Whether to have (or not have) refreshments is up to the Hostess and the Group.
- **Will Hostesses use the Altus decorative centerpieces?** No. Because no writing is required for Book Group discussion, the ladies may not be sitting at a table. Although we will not use our traditional Altus table decorations, Hostess are encouraged to continue to provide a comfortable spot where women will be greeted with warm hospitality and love!
- **What are the benefits of Book Groups?** Altus Book Groups are a great way to gather with other women and *grow in faith*. Because women meet once a month, year round, they have an opportunity to form deep and lasting friendships with other women of faith. By belonging to an Altus Book Group, you have a trusted track of spiritual growth to follow. It's like having your own spiritual coach!