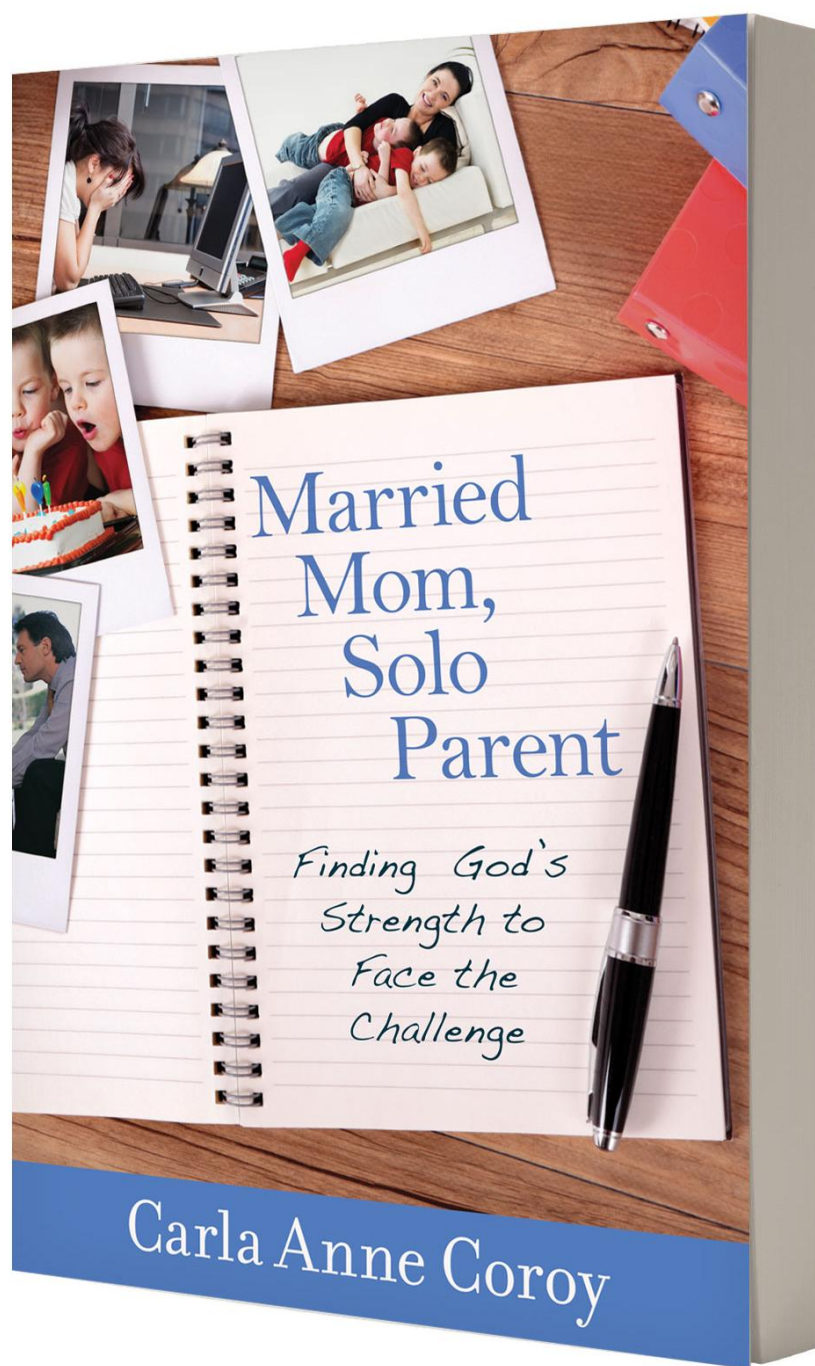


Small Group Study Guide



Carla Anne Coroy

Introduction

How to Use this Study Guide

Hi there! I'm so glad that you're taking time to go further with *Married Mom, Solo Parent*.

The purpose of this study guide is to challenge you to think about the issues presented in the book more thoroughly. The questions are intended to help women build deeper and more authentic relationships, grow in their understanding of the calling God has placed on their lives, and apply biblical teaching to daily living. Some of these questions may challenge what you have been taught, some may require you to “think outside the box”, and others may simply help you engage more deeply with the material.

There are a few ways to use this guide.

WITH A GROUP

This study guide is the perfect tool for small groups! As your group reads through the book, the questions provided will highlight a few key points from each chapter. If you are the leader of your group, this guide will help you prepare to lead discussion during your meeting times. Although reading the book will best equip your participants for the discussion, most questions can be answered and discussed even with group members who haven't yet read the book (although some questions may need some introduction). See the suggested schedules below to help you assign reading in preparation for each meeting.

WITH A MENTOR OR FRIEND

If you have a mentor already, you are very blessed! Mentors are the kind of people who love us, yet nudge us further forward into the full purpose God designed us for. A close friend may be able to do the same with you. If you do this with a mentor/friend, I suggest you both get a copy of the book and agree on a schedule to read through the chapters at home on your own. Then get together once a week or so to discuss the study guide questions and pray for each other.

BY YOURSELF

Read through the book and follow along with the questions, answering them to the fullest extent possible. I suggest using a journal to record your thoughts and answers. See the schedules below to help you keep on track.

I also recommend you consider using the Personal Reflection Journal for *Married Mom, Solo Parent*, which is available on my website free of charge.

SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK

I would love to hear from you. Please feel free to send me a note at my website, www.carlaanne.com.

Many blessings!

Carla Anne

Suggested 8-Week Schedule

WEEK	SUGGESTED READING	# OF PAGES	QUESTIONS
1	Introduction & Chapter 1 (pp. 11–21)	11 pages	Questions 1 & 2
2	Chapter 2 (pp. 23–58)	36 pages	Question 3
3	Chapters 3 & 4 (pp. 59–94)	36 pages	Questions 4–6
4	Chapters 5 & 6 (pp. 96–125)	31 pages	Questions 7 & 8
5	Chapters 7 & 8 (pp. 127–157)	31 pages	Questions 9 & 10
6	Chapters 9, 10 & 11 (pp. 159–194)	36 pages	Questions 11–13
7	Chapters 12 & 13 (pp. 195–227)	33 pages	Questions 14 & 15
8	Chapters 14 & 15 (pp. 229–251)	23 pages	Questions 16–18

Suggested 12-Week Schedule

WEEK	SUGGESTED READING	# OF PAGES	QUESTIONS
1	Introduction & Chapter 1 (pp. 11–21)	11 pages	Questions 1 & 2
2	Chapter 2 portion (pp. 23–41)	19 pages	Share testimonies/stories
3	Chapter 2 portion (pp. 42–58)	17 pages	Question 3
4	Chapter 3 (pp. 59–78)	20 pages	Questions 4 & 5
5	Chapter 4 (pp. 79–94)	16 pages	Question 6
6	Chapters 5 & 6 (pp. 95–125)	31 pages	Questions 7 & 8
7	Chapters 7 & 8 (pp. 127–157)	31 pages	Questions 9 & 10
8	Chapter 9 (pp. 159–170)	12 pages	Question 11
9	Chapters 10 & 11 (pp. 171–194)	24 pages	Questions 12 & 13
10	Chapter 12 (pp. 195–212)	18 pages	Question 14
11	Chapter 13 (pp. 213–227)	15 pages	Question 15
12	Chapters 14 & 15 (pp. 229–251)	23 pages	Questions 16–18

Questions for Discussion

1. What does it mean to you to be a Married Solo Parent? Do you have a different definition than what the book offers? How do you feel about the popular term “married single mom” instead of “married solo mom”?
2. Do you think “The Challenge” on page 20 is a reasonable challenge? Do you know of others who have taken this on and been successful? Do you think this challenge would apply to others besides married solo moms? If so, who? Which parts of the challenge do you think might be the most difficult? Why?
3. Which of the emotions Carla Anne discusses in chapter two do you think are most troublesome or prevalent? (Grief, Loneliness, Fear, Insecurity, Jealousy, Fatigue, Shame, Pride, Self-Pity, or Anger.) Why? Carla Anne shares very openly from her own struggles. How do you think most readers (including yourself) will relate, and to which parts might they relate the best?
4. Carla Anne talks in chapter three about praying and reading her Bible while being involved in an emotional affair. How and why do you think Christian women can be pursuing God on one hand and be completely deceived on the other?
5. Carla Anne understood God to say that he had never (in the Bible) promised her or anyone else a happy marriage. How does that make you feel? How does that affect your view of God?
6. Fitting in can be a problem for married solo moms. How have you found it stressful? Are there other groups of people in your church, workplace, and community who might find it difficult to fit in? What could be done to make them feel more welcome and wanted?
7. Finding a vision for your children, or figuring out their “bent”, can help you in training and disciplining them. How do you think this can make the greatest difference? Do you find relief or stress in understanding Proverbs 22:6 the way Carla Anne has interpreted it? (See page 105.)
8. Do you think men and women are wired differently when it comes to household chores and maintenance? Why or why not? What do you think is the biggest obstacle for women in asking for help with the house the yard or the vehicles? Do you think a woman who hires a housekeeper is viewed negatively? Why?
9. There is a fairly extensive age-categorized task list in chapter seven. How does this list compare to the age you were when your parents taught you those tasks? How does it compare to when you taught your children? In generations past, most children were responsible for more at younger ages. What do you think has influenced this shift in when we assign responsibility?
10. Family meal times are important to raising happy, healthy kids. Research suggests they are more valuable in child development than play time, story time, and school. Why do you think this is so? What memories do you have of family meals? How might your children answer that question? How might the family meal give children a solid advantage in homes where Dad is normally absent?

11. How have you or your children celebrated without your husband? How might your family or your church help soften the blow during special celebrations or holidays? What ideas do you have for including your husband or helping him succeed at celebrating with your children?
12. What sort of relief can bitty breaks provide in your day? How can you use bitty breaks to help you gain perspective? Carla Anne says that spending time alone with Jesus is the ultimate break. Why do you agree or disagree with her? If you have ever been refreshed in an ultimate break by spending time with God, share about your experience.
13. How can having an eternal view, or a view of what God might say to you and/or your husband on Judgment Day, affect the way you honor your husband? Have you ever considered what God might say to both of you on Judgment Day? Why do you think women have a hard time thinking along the lines of Philippians 4:8 when it comes to their husbands? How might Philippians 4:8 thinking change the way you have discussions, arguments, and playful conversations with your husband and others?
14. Carla Anne addresses some fairly “unspeakable” topics in chapter twelve including pornography for women, masturbation, fantasy, and responding to our husbands sexually. Why do you think these topics are so taboo? What might change in our churches and marriages if there was solid teaching about all aspects of sexual purity? How might you give advice to your young daughters or granddaughters given Carla Anne teaching about “heart ties”?
15. After reading the excerpts from the book *Byzantium* by Stephen Lawhead (pages 220-221) how might you answer the question of suffering in this world? How does reading that passage affect your view of God, particularly in light of your situation? How might that change how you teach your children about God?
16. Leaving kids at home with dad can be very stressful for many moms. What might make this process easier for both you and your husband? How can you show by your actions that you are willing to trust your husband with the kids even if he does things you don’t like or in a way you think is wrong or awkward? Why do you think time apart is sometimes necessary?
17. Just as God called Gideon a mighty warrior despite evidence to the contrary, Carla Anne’s husband suggests that God sees more in our husbands than we do (or they do). Why is it so important to tap into God’s bigger vision for your husband? How might your prayers and your responses to your husband change if you knew the bigger picture? Describe what you understand to be the Shoot, the Root, the Fruit, and the Pursuit as they relate to the Parable of the Sower.
18. Who do you think might benefit from reading this book? Would you make a commitment to either buy them a copy of their own, or to lend them yours? Share how your life, your thinking, and you yourself have been changed by reading this book.

Want to go deeper? Visit www.carlaanne.com and download the free Personal Reflection Journal, another companion resource to *Married Mom, Solo Parent*.