



# Christian Literature Ministry

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## Prologue

The 20th of September, 2013 was a regular, cloudless day. Unbeknownst to the university students strolling down the painted alleyway, a new era was to begin. Three curious minds sat in a cramped room, yearning for increased knowledge in their journey of faith. Their eyes landed on a book that created a NOVEL idea. Time to retreat, read, reflect. A book club. Therein lay explanations to questions they didn't know they had and ideas that had never crossed their minds. The creatures started meeting frequently to discuss what they had learned and experienced each week from perusing the book on their own. They realized they enjoyed the warmth and comfort of a community that encouraged reading and thinking. Having various brilliant brains proved beneficial as they spurred each other on. They gained much insight and new perspectives on the Christian faith.

Now the creatures wish to create a space for all where questions are asked and new ideas are formed. Moreover, they desire to hear the God of the Ages through the Pages. But the story should not end here. Following Jesus' command to multiply, the knowledge prepares them to be a light to others.

## Vision

The Bible is our main source of learning about God, but our learning does not have to be limited to it. Other literature can serve as a secondary source to explore God, Scripture and Christianity. These texts may include fictional or non-fictional works by Christians and even non-Christians. In Philippians 4:8 (NIV) it states: "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-think about such things." For *whatever* stories or ideas we may deem excellent or praiseworthy, we should open our minds to the knowledge the Lord wishes us to gain through them.

While we should trust that everything in the Bible is true, we are not meant to merely read the information at a surface level. Rather, we should be thinking critically and meditating



on the Biblical truths so that we can better understand what Christianity is really about, appreciate the gospel more and experience all it has to offer. Reading non-Biblical texts and having group discussions causes us to ask questions, challenge our own beliefs and search for answers in the Bible. It can also explain truths we've heard before in fresh ways. We hope that this will increase our love for God's Word and re-affirm our faith.

As we discover different perspectives and opinions, we also aim to become more confident in our knowledge of the gospel, so that we are prepared to share it with those around us. We hope to be able to explain our faith better through an increased understanding of the Bible, and using analogies from the books we've read.

Devoting some time in our busy lives for worshipping the Lord is difficult. As a group, we will encourage each other to keep up with our weekly readings, build a community of fellowship and thus spend more time with Him. Ultimately through this ministry we desire to stop and listen to the Lord and this in itself is an active form of worship.

### **Content**

The Ministry leaders will choose a theme and a list of reading options. Topics will aim to widen our perspectives on Christianity and other religious views. Discussion questions will be prepared ahead of time to facilitate conversation. We will implement regular challenges to apply what we have learnt. While our main resource will be the book, other aids may be used as well. (ex. videos)

### **Time-frame**

One evening a week

Three weeks a month are group discussions

Once a month is a community-building, outreach, non-reading week open to all (even if you haven't read the book)