



# DISCUSSION GUIDE: GIRLS LIKE US

Please refer to the Discussion Groups instructions before beginning

## GIRLS LIKE US • RACHEL LLOYD

Number of sessions: 7

Time per session: 2 hours

### Suggested preparation

- ▶ Invite 8 to 16 of your friends and family (depending on the size of meeting location)
- ▶ Send out email or Facebook messages with the details three weeks in advance and again the week before you plan to begin so that your audience knows what to read in advance of the first meeting
- ▶ The more people coming, the longer the sessions may last
- ▶ Suggest to your group to buy the book (new or used) from Amazon
- ▶ Highlight information and parts of the text that are meaningful
- ▶ Review the vocab: johns, track, dime piece, bottom, etc.
- ▶ Provide snacks!

### First Meeting: Prologue, Chapters 1 & 2

- ▶ Gather in a circle for introductions
- ▶ What is your name and why did you want to become a part of this book discussion?
- ▶ What are your preconceived notions of prostitutes?

- ▶ Do you have any questions on what any of the terms mean?
- ▶ Were you shocked by anything? Why?
- ▶ Do you think prostitutes are choosing the life style? Why/why not?
- ▶ Were there any words you did not understand?
- ▶ Page 2. Would you have ignored the phone call?
- ▶ How would you connect with a girl in the life?
- ▶ What were thoughts when you found out that Danielle was 11?
- ▶ What did you think of how the older women in jail talk about the younger women? "I didn't mean to kill him, I just wanted him to stop." What are your thoughts?
- ▶ Why do you think she was discharged back to her mother on page 30?
- ▶ How do you think sharing a bathroom would be like? Do you think this led to her being in the life?
- ▶ Why do you think she is a "statistic waiting to happen?"
- ▶ Nationally, over [13] million children live below the poverty line." What do you think the percentage is today?
- ▶ Why do you think that having a baby "feels like the most obtainable goal" ?
- ▶ What shocked you most?

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## Second Meeting: Chapters 3 & 4

Introductions and snacks

### Chapter 3

- ▶ How important do you think the environment is to the development of a child?
- ▶ How often do you think a family of children are sold into the life?

### Chapter 4

- ▶ Did you realize the harmful impacts of constant relocation of children in the foster care system?
- ▶ Why do you think Tiffany did not want to go back to the group home?
- ▶ What shocked you the most on page 71?
- ▶ Do you agree or disagree with “Teenage girls, especially those who’ve already been abused, who are living in poverty, who come from fractured families, are relatively easy to lure and manipulate?” Why/why not?
- ▶ What are your thoughts on rap music in regards to the sex industry?
- ▶ In regards to page 81, write down a list of things you like about yourselves and share out. Was it easy or difficult? Why/why not?

## Third Meeting: Chapters 5 & 6

Introductions and snacks

### Chapter 5

- ▶ When you think of a pimp what image comes to mind? Why?
- ▶ Do you think stereotypes or important, true and needed? Why/why not?
- ▶ Do you think they matter to the girls in the life?
- ▶ Have you been in a situation that you are not quite sure how you got there? Can you relate to the narrator?
- ▶ Do you agree or disagree with the quote, “You know what? I think it just got a little easier out here for a pimp.”
- ▶ What are your thoughts with media influencing the life?

### Chapter 6

- ▶ When you think of a john what image comes to mind? Why?

- ▶ Why do you think they call the men that buy sex, “johns”?
- ▶ How does that support sex trafficking?
- ▶ How has your viewpoint changed thus far?
- ▶ Do you agree or disagree with the “rhetoric focus their outrage on the pimps, rarely mentioning the johns, the buyers who fuel the industry.”? Why/why not?

## Fourth Meeting: Chapters 7 & 8

Introductions and snacks

### Chapter 7

- ▶ What were your thoughts when the narrator said, “I wasn’t scared I was just annoyed” ?
- ▶ What shocked you most in this chapter and why?
- ▶ What does the narrator mean by a “great victim”?
- ▶ “The rape of a prostituted girl or woman is considered by many to be a contradiction in terms and the police normally believe that what girls claim to be rape a really just a question of not getting paid for their services.” What were your thoughts about prostitutes being raped before this book? Now? Have they changed?
- ▶ “rape has little to do with sex, and everything to do with power.” Agree or disagree?

### Chapter 8

- ▶ How do you view children in the sex industry?
- ▶ Children in jail?
- ▶ Do you blame Keisha for remaining silent?
- ▶ Do agree or disagree with the quote, “They just don’t want help”? Why do you think the girls from the track are reluctant to talk to police officers?
- ▶ What are your thoughts on how women from Thailand and Ukraine are handled vs. women in America?
- ▶ Do you believe women of color are treated differently, more poorly than white women?
- ▶ Why do you think that is?

## Fifth Meeting: Chapters 9, 10 & 11

Introductions and snacks

### Chapter 9

- ▶ Did you know of Stockholm Syndrome before this book?
- ▶ What are your thoughts about Stockholm Syndrome?
- ▶ Why do you think that girls in the life are not seen as victims? On page 158.

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- ▶ Why do you think JP did not kill her ?

### Chapters 10 and 11

- ▶ What do you think girls need in order to move out of the life?
- ▶ How could you help women and girls trying to get out?
- ▶ How can we change our rhetoric to support the views of women/girls in the life?

### Sixth Meeting: Chapters 12,13 & 14

Introductions and snacks

#### Chapter 12

- ▶ Have you had to unlearn a bad habit? How hard was it for you? How hard do you think it must be for the women and girls in the life?
- ▶ What did you think when “one in four women will experience physical violence” in their life?
- ▶ What were your thoughts on the Chris Brown abusing Rhianna referenced on page 198?

#### Chapter 13

- ▶ Do you think women and girls in the life will always be compared to their past?
- ▶ Do you think it is fair?
- ▶ What preconceived notions did you have about “prostitutes” and the sex industry?
- ▶ How have they changed?
- ▶ How can we change the stigma around women and girls in the life?

#### Chapter 14

- ▶ What stood out to you the most and why?

Homework: review Indiana legislation about trafficking at [Ascent121.org/Learn](http://Ascent121.org/Learn)

### Seventh Meeting: Chapters 15 & 16

Introductions and snacks

#### Chapter 15

- ▶ In your opinion, how can we help survivors?
- ▶ Are there any laws protecting sexually exploited youth in your city and/or state? What do they say? What does the language look like? Do you agree or disagree with the language?

#### Chapter 16

- ▶ What topics stood out to you? Why?
- ▶ How will you use this information for the future?
- ▶ What can you do?

#### Next steps:

Congratulations on completing your study! Discuss as a group what you would like to do next. There are many options on the Ascent 121 website for service projects, volunteering, continued learning and upcoming events.

*Thank you to the Ascent 121 volunteers that assembled this content. We appreciate their dedication to educating our community.*

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