

Enjoy a One-Day Retreat with the *LWT* Summer Bible Study!

by Audrey Novak Riley

Many groups love to gather monthly to do each of *LWT's* three summer Bible study sessions, but for others, vacations and travel plans make it hard to get together. What to do?

Gather the group for a one-day retreat with the *LWT* summer Bible study!

Here's how.

When everyone's received their June and July/August issues, they've got everything they need for a summer retreat. Might it be possible to hold your retreat in a scenic spot, perhaps the home of a member who's a first-class gardener? Maybe someone's condo has a nice clubhouse with a patio. Be creative; think of a place that'll let you all enjoy not only the riches of Scripture and the friendship of the group, but also the beauty of summer. After all, this is a retreat, not a meeting! Open the invitations to all the women in your congregation, and women from other congregations in town, too. You might make a special invitation to any college students who are home for the summer.

Share the work among several women: Ask someone different to lead each session, ask someone else to lead a closing devotion (*Worship Boldly* offers several possibilities), and ask a few other people to arrange for healthful and delicious refreshments. And don't forget to advertise the retreat in your church bulletin.

As the time comes closer, remind people either to bring both the June and July/August issues of *LWT* to the retreat, or to download and print out the sessions from the *LWT* Web site (see www.lutheranwomantoday.org). The leader's guide is included, so people don't need to bring anything else but their Bibles! (You might print a few extra copies just in case.)

Start the morning with prayer or a hymn and a light breakfast: coffee, bagels or croissants, and fruit. About 9:30, gather the group for the first session, "With the Message of Jesus," in the June issue. That'll take about an hour or so, and then it's time for a break!

Stretch your legs and have another strawberry or two. Then call the

group back together and tackle the second session, "Like the First Evangelists" in the July/August issue. When you've finished that, it's time for lunch!

After a healthful lunch, call the group back together to enjoy the third session, "In the Power of the Holy Spirit." When the group has completed that, it's time for a closing devotion.

Welcome people to linger for a little more conversation before picking up and heading for home. And as you wave goodbye until the next time, bask in the joy of sharing friendship, hospitality, and God's word together in the beauty of a summer day.

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Lutheran Woman Today's Summer Bible Study

Act Boldly for Mission

Author Kelly Fryer energizes Bible study participants with her vibrant writing and deep faith.

In the June issue of *LWT*

Session 1: With the Message of Jesus

In the July/August issue of *LWT*

Session 2: Like the First Evangelists

and

Session 3: In the Power of the Holy Spirit