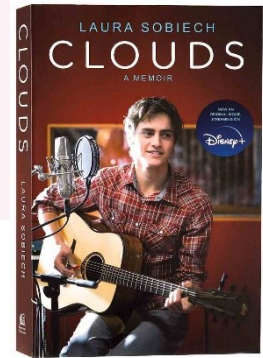




# PARTICIPANT GUIDE

## CLOUDS; A MEMOIR BY LAURA SOBIECH



*"This story is about a boy who found himself tested by pain and loss. It's about a boy who learned to live while dying and in doing so brought hope to countless people who desperately needed it. But most of all, it is a story about a boy who showed his family, his friends, and eventually the world that everyone can choose to fly a little higher."*

**LAURA SOBIECH**



### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

**Q.** When Laura first realises that Zach could die, she says, "God is asking us for something big" (p31). Throughout this incredible memoir, which part of Zach's story impacted you the most?

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2

**Q.** "He [Zach] was telling a story of his faith by being joyful in the midst of suffering, and he was doing it without uttering a word" (p93). Why is it more important to live out our faith through action and not just words?

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3

**Q.** Laura shares with us how her heart's desire and prayer as a mother was to see her children emulate Christ. On page 93, she says, "His life was unfolding as an answer to every prayer my heart as a mother had ever uttered for my child". The Lord was using the trial of cancer in Zach's life to answer Laura's prayers, albeit in a very unexpected way. When has the Lord unexpectedly used something tough to answer your prayers?

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4

**Q.** On page 94, Zach says, "Physical pain is a joke. It's just Satan's way of messing with you and trying to get you to feel sorry for yourself... Mental and spiritual pain are different. That's the real battle where faith and prayer come in". Do you agree? How has physical, mental and spiritual pain differed in your life?

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5

**Q.** Throughout the book, Laura shares openly about how her marriage struggled to survive the cancer journey. There are many challenges we may face which can impact our marriages negatively; if you feel comfortable, share a struggle your marriage has endured.

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6

**Q.** Rob tells Laura that he feels angry at God because, "so many people who don't live faithful lives have it much better than we do" (p117). Can you relate to how he was feeling?



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7

**Q.** Laura says on page 69, "Daisy [the dog] was good at making dark things lighter through humour, and this would become especially true in the days to come". God's creation provides us with peace and wonder – share a memory of a pet that has impacted your life.

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8

**Q.** On page 57, Laura shares some rules on "What Not to Say" to people who are enduring a crisis. Often we can say things to people with good intentions, which end up making them feel worse. How did this chapter of the book help you to understand how to better support others?

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9

**Q.** On page 35, Laura says, "While I had chosen to trust God, to hope rather than despair, fear still reared up inside me. The practical part of trusting God is hard and takes practice". What are some things we can do to allow ourselves to trust in the Lord during crises and reduce our fear?

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