

USING *THE ADAPTIVE TEACHER* IN DISCUSSION GROUPS

Host a professional development discussion group using *The Adaptive Teacher: Faith-Based Strategies to Reach and Teach Learners with Disabilities* by John E. Barone and Charleen Katra.

PRELIMINARIES

The book includes 13 chapters.

- ◆ Decide if you want to discuss one or two chapters each meeting.
- ◆ Share the reading schedule with your participants.
- ◆ Provide each participant with a copy of the book.
- ◆ Settle housekeeping matters. Where and when will the group meet? How long will the meetings be? Who provides refreshments (if any)?
- ◆ Agree on leadership. Will one person facilitate all meetings, or will the responsibility for facilitation rotate among group members?
- ◆ Invite participants to read the chapters before the gathering, reviewing the discussion questions in the book to be prepared to jump in to the conversation.

DISCUSSION DAY CONSIDERATIONS

Start and end meetings on time to be respectful of everyone's schedules.

Open your discussion with an appropriate prayer, calling for the Holy Spirit to inspire the conversation. Example:

Holy Spirit, thank you for bringing us together to discuss ways we can better reach and teach all of God's children. Guide our sharing today so that we may foster a welcoming environment for all. Amen.

At the beginning of each gathering, allow time for participants to share examples of how they applied previous learning to their learning environments.

The **Two-Minute Check-In** at the start of each chapter will set the stage for digging in to the ideas presented by Barone and Katra.

Continue your discussion with the questions in **Looking Ahead** at the close of each chapter. Participants can record their notes directly in the book in the space provided.

Remember to respect the confidentiality of learners as your discussions proceed.

End your discussion with a brief prayer acknowledging your time together. Example:

Dear Lord, we thank you for our time in conversation today. Let us be open to continued discussion so that we may understand our learners and communicate with them in ways that share your love. Amen.