

## On the Same Page Book Club

### Discussion Questions – *The Hiding Place* by Corrie ten Boom

1. What did you think of this book?
2. Corrie's father tells her that he pities the Nazi's: "They have touched the apple of God's eye." Consider the strength of character it takes to feel pity for a people and a system that means to do harm to fellow beings. Would you feel the same way?
3. What are the various hiding places, real and symbolic, to which the title of this book refers? How, for instance, do fleas help lead to a "hiding place" for Corrie and Betsie while they are imprisoned?
4. In addition to the extraordinary kindness and courage of the ten Boom family, what are some of the smaller acts of kindness shown by others in this memoir? Are people inspired to greater compassion, or less, in dire situations? What motivates acts of kindness?
5. Talk about the kind of woman Corrie ten Boom and her sister Betsie were. What sustained them during their ordeal in the concentration camps? To what do you attribute Corrie's courage and survival in the face of so much death and hardship?
6. Stories like Corrie's always beg comparison to ourselves and our own lives. We wonder how each of us would behave under similar horrific circumstances. How would you? What inner strengths and courage and compassion would you draw on? Would you have risked your life and the

lives of your family (especially, if you have children) to help the Jews or any others subjected to brutal persecution?

7. Comment on what Betsie said to Corrie: "I pray every day that we be allowed to do this! To show [the Nazis] that love is greater!" What do you find extraordinary in that statement?

8. Talk about the incident after the war in which Corrie comes across one of the former SS men at Ravensbruck. How did she respond to him at first...and how did she change? What does this say about the principle of forgiveness—its difficulty and its healing power?

9. What do you find most surprising or inspiring in this account of the Nazi era? Did this book change you in any way? Did you come away having learned something...about history...about faith...or about yourself?

10. Although not in a war, we sometimes see brutal persecution of others. How do we respond?

11. If the author were present, what would you say to her?