

WHERE WOMEN EXPLORE

WonderFull WORLD

GOD'S LOVE AND WONDER

Director Guide



Your step-by-step guide to planning,
leading, and implementing this
refreshing and engaging retreat.

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Welcome to



WonderFull World is more than just a retreat for women. It's an imaginative journey around the world...and an exploration of the "I wonders" in a woman's heart. It's an in-depth Bible study...and an unforgettable worship experience. Best of all, it's an open invitation for girlfriends to draw closer together...to dream...to engage...to experience the vastness of God's love.

This guide will take you through all the steps of pulling together WonderFull World. It's fun and easy!

An Overview of WonderFull World

WonderFull World is a complete retreat for women of all ages. It includes worship, Bible study, travel-themed activities, and more. No speaker is needed—it's super easy for you and your leadership team to do this retreat yourselves!

This retreat is flexible. It can be done at your church, at a hotel, at a retreat center, or even in someone's home. WonderFull World is created as a 24-hour or overnight retreat, but you'll find tips later in this guide on ways to shorten or lengthen it to fit the needs of your group.

During WonderFull World, women "travel" to each of the seven continents (so you'll have a total of seven sessions). While there, you'll all explore wonders of a woman's heart, such as "I wonder if I matter to God" or "I wonder where God is when life is hard." Most sessions include worship and Bible study, and all sessions also allow time for laughter with new friends or personal time with God.

This Director Guide contains everything you need to plan a successful retreat, including finding volunteers, publicizing your event, and following up after WonderFull World comes to an end.

The Adventure Starts Here!

WELCOME

How WonderFull World Works

Session 1: Australia

G'day, mate! In this opening session, women begin an imaginative tour of God's wonderful world by "visiting" Australia. Women form Travel Groups and start building friendships through a fun Aussie-themed game. They also spend time in worship and dive into the Bible to explore one woman's miraculous encounter with Jesus' love. (Key Scripture verses include Mark 5:25-34.)

- ▶ The question: *I wonder if anyone cares about me.*

Session 2: Europe

In this session, guests at your retreat delight in the history of the European continent—and "become royalty" through a fun friendship-building experience. They also explore the Bible's royal promises. (Key Scripture verses include 1 Peter 2:9-10.)

- ▶ The question: *I wonder what it would be like to be royalty.*

Session 3: Asia

Here women creatively experience life conditions of people in the world's most populated continent. Then Travel Groups spend time digging more deeply into the biblical story from Session 1. Finally, guests receive a personal affirmation and keepsake pendant engraved with John 3:16 as a reminder of God's love. (Key Scripture verses include Luke 8:42-48, Romans 8:38-39, and John 3:16.)

- ▶ The question: *I wonder if I matter to God.*

Session 4: Antarctica

In this powerful session, guests participate in a creative devotional experience with an Antarctic theme. Using their Participant Guides, women move through five reflective stations where they explore God's faithfulness during life's cold, dry, lonely times. (Key Scripture verses include Colossians 3:13-15 and Ecclesiastes 4:11-12.)

- ▶ The question: *I wonder where God is when life is hard.*

Session 5: South America

In South America, Travel Groups discover the wonderful blessing of *amigas* (girlfriends!) as they create their own versions of the ideal "WonderFull Woman." They also explore the true power of God's eternal friendship in their lives and spend time journaling in response to worship and Scripture. (Key Scripture verses include Luke 8:42-50 and Philippians 4:13.)

- ▶ The question: *I wonder if I can really rely on God.*

Session 6: Africa

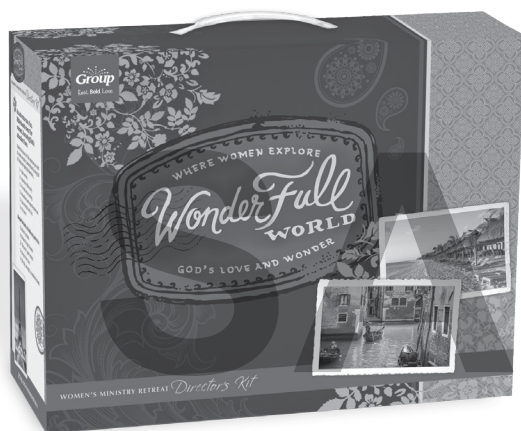
Women discover firsthand what it's like to serve in a small way with great love as they make warm, soft baby blankets for those in need. Women are changed after working together in a friendship-building service project that actually makes a tangible, practical difference in the world. (Key Scripture verses include Ephesians 2:10.)

► The question: *I wonder if I can make a difference.*

Session 7: North America

Back in the Americas to wrap up! In this final session, your guests spend time in worship and reflection—and begin dreaming of a future filled with God's love and wonder every day. Women also make plans to meet again with Travel Groups to continue their journey together. (Key Scripture verses include Psalm 139:16 and Proverbs 3:5-6.)

► The question: *I wonder what's ahead for me.*

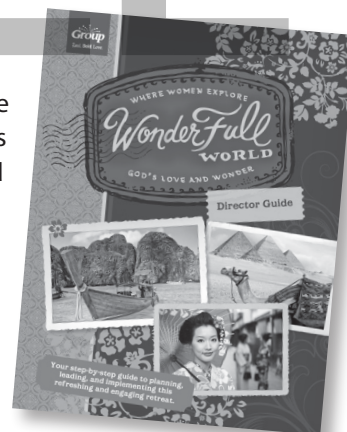


Inside Your WonderFull World Director's Kit

Before you begin, inspect your kit to make sure it contains all of the following items. If any items are missing or damaged, contact Group Publishing (group.com or 800.447.1070) or your local church resource supplier for prompt replacement. If you checked off everything on this list, you're ready to experience time with God and your girlfriends!

WonderFull World Director Guide

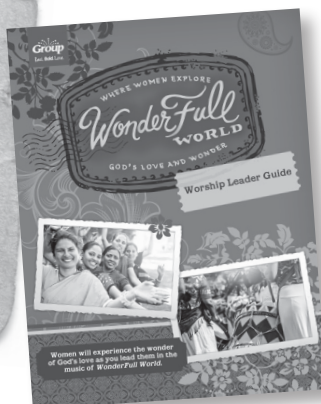
(You're reading it now!) This is your guide to directing WonderFull World. It includes everything you need to plan, staff, and promote this memorable retreat. In it you'll find schedules, supply lists, instructions for a training session, and more.



WonderFull World Worship Leader Guide

This guide provides directions for leading each worship session at the retreat.

Sheet music for all songs is available for sale on group.com/womensretreats.



From Our World to Yours

Yes, we've actually tried this whole retreat with women just like you and your friends. Women of all ages and stages of life joined us. They offered their feedback, and we listened. Throughout this guide, you'll find tip boxes that clue you in to what worked great—and what didn't!

WonderFull WORLD

Basics

Why WonderFull World Works

It seems that just about every church or women's group has an annual retreat where women gather for a few meals and listen to a speaker. It's a standard formula that's worked for a long time, so why change it?

We've got what women want.

We decided to ask ladies what they really want to do (and *not* do) at retreats, and over and over we heard the same comments. Women want to talk, laugh, and interact with one another. They're interested in relationships with others and with Jesus, not in sitting and listening for hours on end. So we took that information and created WonderFull World, where women get to share with each other, dig into the Bible, and experience God instead of just listening.

It doesn't require a speaker.

At WonderFull World, you don't need a speaker. We know (because you told us!) that speakers are hard to find, can be expensive, and aren't always as interesting as you'd hoped.

You or other women from your church can lead any of the sessions at WonderFull World. Each guide explains in an easy-to-follow format what supplies to gather, what women will learn, and what to say.

And because you don't have to spend money on a speaker, you'll be able to pamper and delight your women with small gifts.

It's a safe adventure.

Some women love the adventure of travel and exploring the unknown. Others want to get away from the stress of day-to-day life but don't really want to face the hassles of airports and hauling luggage.

We've combined the best parts of both of these worlds! Guests have the opportunity to try new experiences and learn about other cultures but don't have the burden of getting passports, buying airline tickets, or figuring out foreign currency. Everything happens in a safe environment where each person is welcomed and lavished with love—especially God's love!



BASICS





It includes service.

We talk to women a lot and know that women today long for opportunities to make a difference in the lives of others. So we've incorporated service as a part of WonderFull World, plus there is opportunity for service after the retreat.

In the Africa session, guests make beautiful, soft baby blankets that have the message of God's love printed right on the fabric. Your group will then donate them to your church's newborn ministry, a shelter, or another service agency of your choice so they can be given to new mothers.

We have also partnered with Lifetree Adventures, a Christian organization that takes people on service projects domestically and around the world. During the Africa session, guests will hear about a woman who went on one of these life-changing trips, and they will have the opportunity to learn more about future trips if they are interested.

Making service a part of WonderFull World lets women put God's love into action right away!

Everyone gets involved.

WonderFull World is so easy to lead that the leaders don't have to miss out on anything themselves. Everyone—even the people who share in the responsibility of leading the retreat—gets to participate in every step of the adventure and fun. No one has to miss out on a second of the journey.

It's fun for women of all ages.

We know you want to reach women of all ages through your ministry, so we included both young and old at our own WonderFull

World retreat. High school girls joined with grandmothers in laughing and sharing. Several women brought their daughters and shared later that this was a great experience for them. (The daughters said the same thing—not just the moms!)

WonderFull World is different from any other retreat because women *experience* every lesson, every point, every Scripture. They're in the midst of the action, and they're loving it!



WonderFull Women

What are Travel Groups?

At WonderFull World, guests form small groups of four. They sit with these groups during the sessions so they get to know each other better and become comfortable enough to share more openly.

Women get into these groups in a fun way—we'll explain it later—and have a chance to really belong and go deep with each other. They'll still get to interact with other women at meals, during free time, and at other activities.

Do I need to adapt WonderFull World to fit a large or small group?

This retreat works great with groups of all sizes. It could happen with a few girlfriends who rent a cabin for the weekend or a huge gathering of women from several churches. It's easy to hold this retreat in one room, ideally with women sitting around small tables. They can move to another room for meals or other activities if you like, but you won't need breakout rooms or additional space—just enough room for everyone to sit together comfortably.

Who should come to WonderFull World?

We've done WonderFull World with women of all ages and life stages. We included high school and college students, single women, moms, grandmothers...and about then, we stopped asking for ages! We've used this with women who don't consider themselves frilly and with those who do. We tried it with ladies who seem more comfortable in dresses or business suits and with those who prefer jeans. And you know what? Everyone loved it! Women formed friendships across age and interest areas. No one balked at participating.

You can invite all the women of your church to WonderFull World—from high school on up. Or this might be a fun mother-daughter event. Perhaps you're a parent or youth leader who wants to do this with a group of high school or college girls—it would work great with them! Maybe you have a group of friends you get together with for coffee; rent a cabin and do the activities all together!

And this retreat doesn't require any previous Bible knowledge, so you can invite women from your community who might not have heard about Jesus. In fact, you don't even have to have a Bible—all the Scripture passages are provided in the WonderFull World Participant Guide. The relaxed and welcoming atmosphere makes this a great place to invite friends and neighbors you've wanted to introduce to God.

Women love to connect with other women and long to slow down and have meaningful time with God. WonderFull World gives them the opportunity to do both!



From Our World to Yours

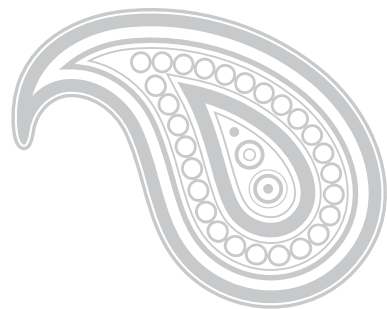
Keeping Travel Groups small allows everyone a chance to talk. You might be tempted to let them grow to six or more members, but we've learned from doing our retreats over and over that having groups with more than four members means not everyone will get to participate.





What are WonderFull World Participant Guides?

Each woman who attends your retreat will need her own WonderFull World Participant Guide. This is her personal guide to the experiences at the retreat. Inside this guide are all the Bible passages used during the retreat, discussion questions, instructions for the activities, song lyrics, and more. Plan to order one for each woman.



SAMPLE



WonderFull WORLD

Schedules

WonderFull World is created as a 24-hour retreat that begins with an evening meal and ends just before the evening meal on the next day. For example, it could begin on a Friday afternoon and end on Saturday afternoon. However, it can be adapted to be a shorter or longer event. Use these schedules as samples for your own getaway.

Note that each session generally takes about 45 minutes to complete. However, we like to “pad” the schedule a little to allow extra time for talking. If you’re doing the retreat in one day, you’ll have to keep things moving. But if you have a longer retreat, you’ll notice we’ve allowed more time in those schedules simply because there’s no reason to rush. Let women linger longer and spend refreshing time with each other and God!

Sample Schedule for One-Day (8-Hour) Retreat

Saturday

8:30-9:00	Women arrive and check in
9:00-10:30	Sessions: <i>Australia</i> , followed by <i>Europe</i>
10:30-11:00	Break
11:00-11:45	Session: <i>Asia</i>
12:00-12:45	Lunch
1:00-1:45	Session: <i>Antarctica</i>
2:00-3:30	Sessions: <i>South America</i> , followed by <i>Africa</i>
3:30-3:45	Break
3:45-4:15	Session: <i>North America</i>
4:15	Finish, clean up, and go home

Sample Schedule for an Overnight Retreat

Friday

2:00	Leadership team arrives to check in, decorate, and set up
4:00	Women begin to arrive. Begin registration and room check-in
5:00-6:30	Dinner is available
7:00-9:00	Sessions: <i>Australia</i> , followed by <i>Europe</i>
9:00-??	Free time for snacks, board games, jigsaw puzzles, talking, and laughing 😊

Saturday

7:30-9:00	Breakfast
9:00-11:00	Sessions: <i>Asia</i> , followed by <i>Antarctica</i>
11:00-12:00	Free time
12:00-1:00	Lunch
1:00-3:00	Sessions: <i>South America</i> , followed by <i>Africa</i>
3:00-3:30	Session: <i>North America</i>
3:30	Finish, clean up, and go home



Sample Schedule for Two-Night Retreat

Friday

2:00	Leadership team arrives to check in, decorate, and set up
4:00	Women begin to arrive. Begin registration and room check-in
5:00-6:30	Dinner is available
7:00-9:00	Sessions: <i>Australia</i> , followed by <i>Europe</i>
9:00-??	Free time for snacks, board games, jigsaw puzzles, talking, and laughing 😊

Saturday

8:00-9:00	Breakfast
9:00-11:00	Sessions: <i>Asia</i> , followed by <i>Antarctica</i>
11:00-12:00	Free time
12:00-1:00	Lunch
1:00-5:00	Free time
5:00-6:00	Dinner
6:00-8:00	Sessions: <i>South America</i> , followed by <i>Africa</i>
8:00-?	Free time for snacks, board games, jigsaw puzzles, talking, and laughing 😊

Sunday

8:30-9:30	Breakfast
9:30-10:00	Session: <i>North America</i>
10:00	Finish, clean up, and go home

Recruiting for

WonderFull WORLD

RECRUITING

Putting together a retreat is a lot of work, and you might be feeling a little worried about recruiting all the right volunteers to create a memorable getaway. Well, we're here to help you! Recruiting doesn't have to be a headache. It can actually be a fun, energizing opportunity to connect with other people who have a passion for women's ministry! We're here to help you find all the leaders you need for WonderFull World.

Finding Your WonderFull World Leaders

To get started, pray!

Ask God to direct you to the women he wants involved. Then make a list of women you think might want to be involved in leading with you. Finally, talk to them. There's no substitute for a personal touch. If you truly believe someone will be a wonderful Supplies Coordinator, tell her! Share the vision for WonderFull World, explain why you think she'd be great on the team, and give her time to pray and make a decision. Assure her that she won't be in this alone, as you and others on the team will work together to complete each task. And promise her she'll have adequate training. Treat women with respect if they decline, and pray about who God might want you to ask next.

Begin with your core leadership team.

Your core leadership team consists of a Travel Agent, a Registration Coordinator, a Publicity Coordinator, and a Supplies Coordinator. You can find job descriptions for these team members on your *Graphics & Other Goodies* CD. Once you have these women alongside you, they can help recruit others. We encourage you to look beyond your "regular" women's ministry team and invite new ladies to join in getting WonderFull World started. And if you have a large number of people attending WonderFull World, those on your leadership team may want to ask others to assist them in their roles.

I've got my team...now what?

Gather with these women right at the beginning of your planning process, and go over the steps described in the Planning section that begins on page 13. Talk about how team members can support one another. Determine how often you'll meet to check in and report back on what's been accomplished and what the next steps are.

Recruit additional leaders.

When you're ready to recruit leaders for the sessions and to lead worship, talk with your team about whom they suggest for the various roles, and then share the responsibility of inviting women to lead in these areas. Pray first, and then extend the invitation to lead. Use the job descriptions on the *Graphics & Other Goodies* CD as a guide for recruiting. When these people are on board, your team will be complete and you can schedule a training session.

Decorating for

WonderFull WORLD

Adding creative touches can establish a warm and welcoming atmosphere for your retreat. Choose as many ideas as you'd like from this section to make WonderFull World as inviting and comfortable as possible. Also check out the decorating segment on the *WonderFull World Training & Promo* DVD. This shows you some of the fun ideas we incorporated when we did our own retreat.



Globe Trotter

If you decide to go all out with your decorating, you might want to recruit one creative person to coordinate all your efforts.

The Basics

Use colors to enliven rooms.

The theme colors for WonderFull World are vibrant jewel tones like teal and magenta, with splashes of red, orange, and blue to brighten things up. Use these colors as often as possible! One way to stir color into a room is by using bolts of fabric. Lengths of solid colors topped with printed fabric runners add vibrancy to any surface. You may be tempted to use a lot of brown to create an “old world” travel feeling, but we found that to be dreary. If you want to use a few of those items, mix them in with the colorful ones to keep it cheerful.



DECORATING

Scent your rooms with candles.

Aromas are a powerful part of decorating. You can find candles with scents from many exotic locations! We used vanilla-scented candles at our WonderFull World, but citrus scents or those of flowers from tropical locations would also work well. Choose one scent and stick with that so you don't have “competition” between the aromas. Or use one scent for the morning and a different one in the afternoon.

We put small blue candles in ceramic bowls that were filled with white sand. Then we created centerpieces by putting bright-colored placemats with patterns from around the world on tables and placing the bowls of candles on top. Very easy and very inexpensive!

Safe Travels

Choose candles that are safe, such as nondrip ones inside clear glass jars or sturdy ones that won't easily tip over. Also, be sure your retreat facility allows lit candles to be used. Some locations may not allow them, based on fire-safety concerns. If that's the case, use battery-operated flicker lights. (You can still put them into cute candleholders.)

Master Supply List for

WonderFull WORLD

Photocopy this list for your Supplies Coordinator. She can work with the various leaders to determine who will gather supplies for each area. She might also put out notices in your church bulletin to see if some items can be borrowed. (But do be sure items are labeled so they can be returned.) The supply lists in each leader guide have detailed information regarding specific sizes, amounts, and where to find items.

One copy or sample of each item that has an asterisk (*) beside it is included in the WonderFull World Kit. *Be sure to check with each session leader before you purchase supplies.*

MASTER SUPPLY LIST

SAMPLE



Master Supply List

General Supplies

- WonderFull World Participant Guides*, 1 per woman
Each woman will need her own guide. Note: The guides contain copyrighted material and cannot legally be photocopied, so be sure to order enough.
- postcards, 1 per woman
*Remember, you don't have to buy these—simply print them from the Graphics & Other Goodies CD**
- tape
- name tags
There is a template on the Graphics & Other Goodies CD for printing these, but you'll need additional supplies to turn those pieces of paper into name tags.
- Music of WonderFull World CD*
- CD player or sound system
- noisemaker
This helps leaders get the attention of guests without raising their voices. A bell, a tiny gong, a whistle with a funny sound, a maraca, or another percussion-type item will work!
- WonderFull World Decorating Posters
These are available on the Graphics & Other Goodies CD.



Europe (Session 2)

- "royal jewels", 2 per 8 women
Print these from the Graphics & Other Goodies CD, then cut out and glue or tape them together before your retreat.
- toy crown and scepter
These can be borrowed from a little girl's toy box or made from paper.

Asia (Session 3)

- So Loved Scripture Pendants, 1 per woman
- bowl or basket to place pendants in before giving them out



Antarctica (Session 4)

- bowl of ice cubes
- towels or paper towels
- trash can
- clock with second hand
- 2 or more fans
- 1 or 2 containers of lotion or nice hand cream
- several blankets or small quilts
- additional decorations as suggested in the Antarctica leader guide (optional)

Australia (Session 1)

- watch with a second hand

*available from Group (group.com or 1-800-447-1070) or your church resource supplier

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Master Supply List

South America (Session 5)

- small containers with an assortment of simple art supplies, such as chenille wires, bits of construction paper or tissue paper, and scissors



Africa (Session 6)

- God Loves Me Baby Blanket Kits,
1 per woman
These fabulously soft blankets are custom-designed with a message of God's love. The edges are already cut and are ready to tie into a comforting gift.

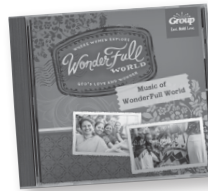


North America (Session 7)

- Photocopies of the WonderFull World evaluation form from the *Graphics & Other Goodies* CD

You may also wish to order these items to make your retreat more delightful for the women who attend:

- WonderFull Travel Bags*
- *Music of WonderFull World* CDs*
- Jot Your Journey Pens*



*available from Group (group.com or 1-800-447-1070) or your church resource supplier

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