Study Guide

Created by Teri Rosendahl
The Saint Monica Club – Book Study

Preface:
Jesus wants our beloved ones more than we do!

**Session 1: The First Step:**
Name the Reality of the Hurt.

1) What did Monica do?

2) How can we “Cry out to God”?

3) Do we pray with an impatient heart?

4) How will sitting at the feet of Jesus help us?

5) How can we love our prodigals? Are we kind or nice?

Begin every day with a daily surrender. (Visualize this in your mind): Do little things with great love; Hold your child in your heart and place your child on the altar as you would gifts; Give him/her back to God at every Mass.

*St. Monica pleaded with her son, Saint Ambrose, and God for many years.*

PERSIST IN PRAYER ~ WITNESS YOUR LOVE.

*Re-read and underline/highlight what stands out to you.*

Journal your thoughts as we go.
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**Session 2:**
*Helping Our Son or Daughter*

1) How can we give guidance to our children?

2) Do we have supportive friends? How can the Saints walk with us?

   How can we implore the help of our child’s Guardian Angel?

3) What is one way we can keep inviting our children in?

4) How can we trust the Holy Spirit to give us the right words to say?

5) How can we develop deeper spiritual roots?

6) What is one way we can witness to our faith in our children presence?

7) How do we meet our children where they are?

*Continue to use new methods of prayer. Focus on your learning.*

OPEN THE BIBLE AND READ IT TODAY!

**EWTN** leads the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 2 PM Central Time every day.

Learn something new!

**REPEAT:** I am not in charge. I am here to love and cooperate with God’s will.
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Session 3: Your Job as Parents

1) How can we inform and witness without trying to persuade?

2) How are you being tested?

3) How can we hold onto the Nails and not the Hurt?

4) How will we guard our hearts to remain holy?

5) How can we respond when we are tested?

6) How can we surrender our anger or sorrow at the altar?

7) How is having a prodigal child like a very long Lent?

8) What is our job?

During Adoration we can bring our pain and place it in the wounds of Christ; only HE can heal. LEARN HOW TO GAZE AT JESUS AND YOU WILL LEARN HOW TO GAZE AT YOUR PRODIGAL.

Pray about this: How to Pray, Fast, and Show by example.
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Session 4: 
Lord, I Believe

1) How do we know our children are spiritually asleep?

2) Is our job to love these children ever completed?

3) How can we nourish their faith?

4) How can we articulate our needs to God?

5) What tools should we use? What is the best tool to use for our specific needs?

6) When meditating on the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, how can we place our children on the altar with Mary when she presents Jesus at the temple?

7) Where can we find consolation?

8) Is Christ with us during this suffering?

Note: If your prodigal raises objections, have them write it out. 
THIS CLARIFIES HIS/HER OBJECTIONS AS WELL AS YOUR WRITTEN RESPONSE.

Keep Mary close to you and your prodigal.
Pray for the gift of tempered speech.

Session 4
P. 61 – Lord I Believe; Help My Unbelief (and Please, Please, Please Hurry Up!)
P. 65 – Be Brave, Even in Little Things
P. 67 – Jesus Gives Lavishly, More Than We Can Even Ask
P. 71 – The Rosary Is Your Best Tool
P. 73 – Find Consolation in Christ, and Hold Fast to the Gospel
P. 77 – Watch Yourself
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**Session 5:**
Walking with Our Prodigals

1) How can God break their hearts of stone?

2) What does Mary’s title, *Undoer of Knots*, mean to you?

3) What is the domestic church?

4) How can we ask others to pray for our prodigal children? How might we discern who to ask?

5) How do we recognize our weak points?

6) Is telling your prodigal about your own struggles a good idea? Please explain.

*Ask Mary to infuse **PATIENCE** in our heart. We are embracing the cross during this time.*

**WE ARE PREPARING THE SOIL, BUT GOD IS DOING THE WORK!**

*Write what you are doing and why, and place this note under a crucifix. This will keep you accountable.*
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Session 6: 
Love is the Way!

1) How do we show empathy?

2) How can we bring God into difficult or unbearable moments?

3) How do we break up the rocks in our story and provide opportunities for God to do the real work?

4) How can we keep our children from being stolen from us by influences that are not from God?

5) What does the phrase “It’s your cross” mean?

6) How do we play, feast, and work together on things that matter as a family?

7) How do we seek opportunities to build upon our faith?

*Spend time in Adoration.

ASK THE HOLY SPIRIT TO BE PRESENT, “COME, HOLY SPIRIT, COME!”

Best Witness = Prayer is your strongest tool.

Best counsel = Be Patient.
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**Session 7: Wrapping Up Our Study**

1) “When you win an argument but you lose the War.” What does this statement mean to you?

2) Which Beatitudes could we put into practice?

3) How do we suffer well?

4) What specific things can we do to change our hearts and minds?

5) Where do you see beauty today? Where can you find good in your situation?

6) How do you relate to St. Monica? How has your view of her changed or been strengthened?

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**We live in perpetual Advent, a blessed time waiting for one day yet to come.**

**WE ARE FOREVER SEEKING HEAVEN WHETHER WE KNOW IT OR NOT!**

**Best Witness = Prayer is our strongest tool (Rosary).**

**Best counsel = Be patient.**
Help for those whose loved ones have left the Church

In the fourth century, a young man named Augustine turned his back on the Church, plunging into a frenzied life of lust and dissipation. His renunciation left Monica, his pious Catholic mother, weeping and praying for his salvation… for more than a decade!

Like so many Catholics today — even perhaps like you — Monica wrestled daily with the pain of having a loved one fall away from the Faith. Like us, she often feared that her prayers and tears were of little worth, empty, futile.

Not so! After nearly two decades, Augustine returned to the Faith, and in a big way. Revered today as Saint Augustine, he joined in holiness his mother, Monica — now Saint Monica — whose sacrifices, prayers, and pain finally won for both of them the crown of sanctity.

In these pages, author Maggie Green provides wise, compassionate guidance for members of what she calls “The Saint Monica Club”: good Catholics suffering like Monica the rejection of the Faith by persons they love dearly.

Herself a longtime and long-suffering member of the club, Green shows how persevering as Monica did in devoted love for straying souls — loving them as God does — will not only quiet the lingering ache of our hearts, but will also draw our lost loved ones back to the Faith and into the arms of Jesus again. Yes, the nonconfrontational Way of Saint Monica is hard. But it is the only way. These pages demonstrate that, with the souls of our loved ones at stake, it is worth the effort… and worth the wait.

Maggie Green is the pen name of a Catholic wife and mother who is hungering for some of her own children to return to the Faith. She and her husband live with their children in the Mid-Atlantic area of the United States.