TGM
Starter Packet
You know the teen girls in your church need a place where they can go, unwind, and discuss what is going on in their lives and learn where God fits in. You also know you don’t necessarily have the time or resources to develop a program for your teen girls.

That’s where Teen Girl Ministries comes in. The primary focus of TGM is to support, assist, and resource teen girls, their parents, and those who lead them. This means developing products to give you practical guides to walk your teen girls through this important stage in their lives. Right now, Friends and Girls Only Clubs are the primary curriculum offered by TGM.

Maybe you’re considering starting a Friends or Girls Only Club in your church, maybe you’ve started a club and you’re wondering what to do next, or maybe you’re simply concerned about the teen girls in your church and want to know what’s available to help.

This Starter Packet was created for your benefit. If you have the curriculum, the Sponsor Guide Introduction Pages and Reproducible Pages offer a lot of information about how the clubs work as well as ideas for making the clubs work in your church. The TGM website also offers some free, downloadable resources for you (www.tgm.ag.org).

TGM is part of the national Girls Ministries Department of the Assemblies of God. If your church isn’t part of the Assemblies of God, the curriculum and all of our resources are still available to you through Gospel Publishing House and the TGM website.

Each regional district in the Assemblies of God has a District Girls Ministries Director and local Sectional Representatives who are also available to help you by offering training, answering questions, and hosting district events for you and your girls to take part in. If you charter (or register) your clubs with your district, you’ll be kept up to date on the latest events your district offers, often receive discounts on registration fees, and be able to take part in district awards ceremonies for Friends and Girls Only Clubs.

TGM exists to facilitate spiritual growth in teenage girls while helping them become the women God created them to be, support parents and leaders as they help girls navigate adolescence, and provide resources, training, and information for teenage girls, their parents, and those who lead them. So, if you want to share God with the teenage girls in your church, you’ve come to the right place!

**Table of Contents**

- What is TGM?.................................page 1
- Contents...........................................page 1
- What are Friends and Girls Only?........page 2
- To achieve or not to achieve?..............page 2
- What units should we choose?.............page 3
- What format works best for us?..........page 4
- What materials are available?.............page 5
- What awards can the girls get?..........page 6
- Is our group large or small?..............page 7
- What other resources are available?.....page 8
- How can I connect with other leaders?....page 9
Friends is a club for sixth–through eighth-grade girls that provides discussion-oriented lessons according to the Titus 2 principle of women mentoring young girls.

Topics of study include the sanctity of life, accountability, commitment to Christ, life-controlling problems, purity, and choices. Units are made up of six lessons. Projects and Adventures add to each unit.

Girls Only is a club for ninth–through twelfth-grade girls that provides discussion-oriented lessons according to the Titus 2 principle of women mentoring young girls.

Topics of study include women in ministry, college and career, truth, dating, pro-life vs. pro-choice, and attitude. Units are made up of six lessons. Projects and Adventures add to each unit.

Friends and Girls Only Clubs are designed to give teen girls a place of belonging where they can be mentored by godly Christian women and other girls. The curriculum is discussion-based, and by the end of their time in Friends and Girls Only Clubs, girls will have read the entire Bible twice and the New Testament three times. If your girls have the time and motivation, pursuing achievement through these clubs will help them to enrich their faith and understanding of God in their lives.

Ordering
When you order a Friends or Girls Only Sponsor Guide you will receive a CD-ROM that contains lessons for 24 units. The girls’ journals can be purchased complete with 12 units or just one. Unit journal pages can be purchased individually.

When you start your Friends or Girls Only Club, you have two basic choices: to allow the girls to pursue achievement, or to treat the curriculum as a non-achievement, discussion-based curriculum.

Both are good choices, as long as it fits the needs of your church and your girls. To help you make the decision between achievement and nonachievement, we’ve listed benefits of each choice.

Achievement
Achievement consists of treating the curriculum according to the standards and requirements established by the national Girls Ministries Department.

In order to graduate from Friends club, a girl must complete 18 units, memorize the Assemblies of God’s Statement of Faith, read the entire Bible, and earn at least a 70 percent score on the Friends Review.

In order to graduate from Friends club, a girl must complete 20 units, memorize the Assemblies of God’s Statement of Faith, read the entire Bible, and earn at least a 70 percent score on the Girls Only Review.

Benefits
- Helps the girls gain a sense of accomplishment and confidence.
- Participating in local and district recognition events helps them feel a part of a larger group.
- Provides symbols to accompany the knowledge they have gained through awards.
- Helps them feel like they are part of a larger community of clubs.
- Girls are more likely to do the work of reading and learning the Scriptures if guided by a trackable, charted out program.
- All they are required to learn will enrich their faith and serve as tools as they grow older.

Achievement Quick List
In order to graduate from Friends, the girls must
complete 18 units over three years. In order to graduate from Girls Only, the girls must complete 20 units over four years. The girls must also pass a written review including the units covered during Friends or Girls Only.

**Reviews and Testing**

At the end of a girl’s time in Friends Club or Girls Only Club she will take a Review. The Review is basically a test over the material covered in the club to assess how well the girl has retained or studied the material.

Reviews test over the Central Truths and Scripture Verses for each unit covered in a fill-in-the-blank format. The Reviews are located in the back of the Sponsor Guides in the Reproducible Pages section.

**On the review, the girls will need to:**

- Receive at least a score of 70% on each unit Scripture (memory) verse and Central Truth.
- Receive at least a score of 70% on the “Statement of Faith” review, Girls Code review, and each club’s pledge, motto, and Scripture verse.

The Reviews are conducted with a Review Board present. More details about the Review Board and Review procedures are outlined in the Sponsor Guides.

National Girls Ministries also offers medals of achievement to recognize a girl’s participation in girls clubs over several years.

- In order to receive the Bronze Medal of Honor, a girl must achieve the honor level in three clubs (not including Rainbows).
- In order to receive the Silver Medal of Honor, a girl must achieve the honor level in four clubs (not including Rainbows).
- In order to receive the Gold Medal of Honor, a girl must achieve the honor level in Daisies, Prims, Stars, Friends, and Girls Only.

**Non-Achievement**

Non-achievement means that the girls in your club do not follow the standardized requirements as outlined by the national Girls Ministries Department.

If your girls are uninterested in working the requirements into their schedule this might be the best choice for your club. The curriculum still offers the same discussion and biblical base for a woman-to-girl mentoring program.

**Benefits**

- Tailor your own requirements to the curriculum.
- Girls are not required to memorize the Scriptures and Central Truth.
- Fewer time pressures to complete a required amount of units.
- Allow the girls to work at their own pace rather than staying within the three-year (Friends) and four-year (Girls Only) timeframe.
- Girls are not required to memorize distinctive and pass a review.
- Girls are not required to complete unit projects.

Whatever your choice, achievement or non-achievement, you have many options for how to personalize your club and make it enjoyable to the girls in your club.

**What units should we choose?**

When you decide whether or not to pursue achievement, the next step is to choose how many units you will use and which ones you want to go over with the girls.

When choosing, keep in mind that if you are pursuing achievement, you will need to choose a total of 18 units to complete over the course of three years for Friends Club, and then 20 units over the course of four years for Girls Only Club.

The Sponsor Guides on CD-ROM come complete with all of the available units. The girls units can be purchased individually.
After choosing the units you will go over with your girls, the next step is to decide which format you would like to meet in together as a club. There are a variety of options when it comes to format.

You can also consider more than one format. For example, if you decide to meet as a small group on non-youth group nights, you can work in one unit or more as a weekend retreat in order to delve into that topic more.

Consider the following formats below in addition to the traditional Wednesday night option. These are just a few options:

- **Small Group**: Allows for advertising of special interest topics. It also allows an opportunity to delve into one topic, related topics, or treat the group like a traditional club going through each unit’s subtopics.
- **Sunday School**: This setting allows for study and optional charted achievement. This setting can work well when seeking to meet on a non-youth night.
- **Youth Ministry Breakout Groups**: Use the curriculum as a guide to open discussion and scriptural insight. Treat the journal work as optional.
- **After-School Program**: Practical and applicable to un-churched girls, or girls whose schedules work best after school.
- **Home School Co-Op**: This setting provides an opportunity to teach character-building and explore Christian education. This also allows home-schooled girls to enjoy time with other girls that girls in private or public school receive.
- **One-on-One Mentoring**: An established and defined discussion guide to open doors for mentoring and training.
- **Weekend Retreats**: Allows leaders to delve into specific topics and invite guest speakers, add fun features, and engage in discussion breakout groups.

### One Church: Two Clubs

Some churches choose to break their Friends clubs into two groups: a sixth-grade group and a combined seventh- and eighth-grade group. The sixth-grade group meets during the same time as the youth group. This allows the seventh- and eighth-grade girls to attend a middle school or high school youth group if they desire, and the sixth-grade girls not to feel forced into youth group before they’re ready. The seventh- and eighth-grade club can meet on another non-youth group night.
Where does my youth group fit in? When you’re choosing a format for your club, you might find yourself working around your church’s youth group meeting time or that you need to schedule your club during the same timeslot as your church’s youth group meeting.

Depending on the ministries your church offers, the difficulty in scheduling may apply more to the Girls Only Club rather than the Friends Club as many churches do not have a middle school ministry.

It is in the best interest of the girls in your church to try to coordinate with the youth group meeting time in order for your girls to get the best of both worlds rather than forcing them to choose. With the variety of formats available, this should be an attainable goal.

Communicate with your youth pastor to find a time that will work for everyone. Find out if your youth group offers small groups on another night of the week and volunteer to use the Friends or Girls Only curriculum as a youth small group leader. Remember that you and your youth pastor are on the same team – helping your girls grow in their relationship with God should be your top priority.

What materials are available?

After making your first three basic choices, you can learn more about the materials you will need to purchase to host your club, and the materials you may want to purchase as support materials for your girls.

All of the materials for Girls Ministries and Teen Girl Ministries are distributed through Gospel Publishing House, and can be ordered from their website at www.gospelpublishing.com or by calling 1.800.641.4310. To see all of the Girls Ministries products, request a catalog from GPH.

Basic Materials

The basic materials to consider when starting out are the girls journals, and the leader handbooks. These basic materials will meet your curriculum needs.

**Girls Journals**

- Order the girls units individually or
- Order the 12 units packaged in the Friends or Girls Only Club binders with introductory pages, calendar, address book, prayer journal, and Bible-reading journal.

**Sponsor Guides**

- Order the Sponsor Guide CD-ROM complete with activity ideas, sample journal pages, and comprehensive how-to club information.

Basic Materials

Traditional awards can be given when pursuing achievement. Awards serve to recognize each girl’s work, and also to symbolize what she has learned.

- Charms for Friends units and pins for Girls Only units.
- A ring for Friends graduates and a necklace for Girls Only graduates.
- Bronze, Silver, and Gold Medals of Honor for girls who complete three, four, or five clubs as Honor Graduates of each club.
- Certificates to award girls for the units they have completed.
- Graduation cords with club colors for graduation ceremonies.
- Certificate and Bible-reading pin for completing Bible requirements.

Support Materials

Other materials you may consider purchasing are club enhancing materials, which can serve as conversation starters and also help her to feel a sense of identity with the club.

**Uniforms** (Friends and Girls Only Club uniforms are club T-shirts)
Pens
Posters
Postcards, invitations, and bookmarks
Balloons

Support materials are accessory to the curriculum and to the awards. Use these items to reward the girls or as gifts.

**Non-Achievement**

If a group chooses not to pursue achievement, the materials can be purchased in this order:

- Purchase the individual journal units to be discussed with the girls or
- Purchase the girls journal binder with 12 units, and any additional unit to be discussed.
- Purchase the Sponsor Guide CD-ROM

**Awards**

Awards may still be purchased for the girls if a group chooses not to pursue achievement; however, each group is asked to honor the achievement program national standards by not awarding girls awards that were not earned as standardized by the national Girls Ministries Department Teen Girl Ministries guidelines for Friends and Girls Only Clubs.

Other areas to offer rewards personalized to the group are: attendance, Bible-reading, bringing friends, etc. A few examples of rewards are: pizza parties, accessories from accessory stores, CDs, etc.

**Completing the Journal Pages**

Some girls enjoy completing the journal pages during the club time discussion. Others find it to be just another task. Some leaders find it difficult to fit in discussion time and time for completing Journal pages. Many leaders allow the girls in their clubs to complete journal information at home, and bring the journals with them to each club meeting. Otherwise, allow the girls to fill out pages as discussion goes along.

**Teaching the Units**

Each unit serves as a discussion guide with accompanying Scripture. Some find teaching the units during each club meeting to be a challenge, and others find it to be easy to follow along. Girls fill out journal pages as each item is discussed.

**Completing Projects**

Complete a project for each unit that illustrates the lesson learned in the unit. Projects are at the discretion of the leader. Complete a project as small or as large as you feel would benefit the girls in your club. There are free, downloadable project ideas for each unit available online.

It might be tempting to skip completing projects, but this can be a fun opportunity to break from the norm of the club meetings.

**Awards**

**Displaying Awards**

The middle school and high school clubs display awards differently than the elementary school clubs who use sashes. Friends Club uses a necklace with accompanying charms, and the Girls Only Club uses pins. The Friends charm necklaces are simple to display. The Girls Only pins can be displayed on a backpack, a hat, a ribbon on a wall, or a shadowbox. During Celebrations, some churches choose to display awards more formally.

**Awards on a Budget**

For churches with tight budgets or where girls don’t attend consistently, the awards can be purchased after church-established require-
ments have been met. For the purposes of displaying the earned unit awards, a variety of inexpensive and creative options are available. For example, individual unit awards can be displayed on a clubroom wall with paper or fabric. Create an area for each particular girl and what units she has earned, or make an area for each unit and write each girl’s name under the units she completes. At the end of a girl’s time in the club the awards may be purchased for her.

Is our group large or small?

The size of clubs varies from church to church, depending on the size of the church, whether or not the club time is the same as another youth ministry within the church, and the size of the community and number of churches available. Depending on how small, medium, or large your club is, the dynamics of your club will vary.

Small Groups

There are several great benefits to having a smaller group of girls. The club can seem more intimate and the girls can receive more one-on-one attention, fewer helpers are needed, it’s easier to take smaller groups out on different field trips and outings, discussions are more manageable, and if the girls are pursuing achievement, record-keeping is simpler.

If your club numbers are low, don’t be discouraged. The size of the club doesn’t determine the quality. Particularly with the Girls Only Clubs, you may find smaller numbers if the scheduled meeting times conflict with youth. Work with what you have. If you’d like to reach more girls, consider outreach efforts. However, if you do try to increase your club size through outreach efforts, make sure you have the leadership and resources to provide for the need that could arise.

The most effective way to grow your group is to create an inviting environment for the girls you currently have. If the girls currently in church are reached and recognize the benefits they gain from being part of the club, then they may bring their friends who aren’t in church.

Also, when girls are getting ready to graduate from Stars Club (the club for third- through fifth-graders) have a welcoming party to initiate them into Friends Club. Invite their Stars leaders, parents, future Friends leaders and peers to make the girls feel comfortable about their transition. Do the same as your Friends girls graduate, and move into Girls Only Club.

Large Groups

There are several great benefits to having a larger group of girls. Many girls in your church are being reached while several women have the opportunity to be effective in gender-specific ministry through the club as helpers, you can get large-group discounts on tickets and transportation when you take group outings, and your girls will have more opportunity to benefit from girls who come from different backgrounds.

Larger groups have several benefits, but can also mean more work and more creativity for the primary leaders. It’s necessary to bring in extra helpers and delegate responsibilities. This is particularly important if the girls in your club are to benefit in the area of relationships with godly Christian women. It’s also important to keep order in the clubroom. In larger groups, girls are more likely to splinter off and have their own discussions that aren’t necessarily related to the large group discussion.

It might be helpful for large groups to break into smaller discussion groups with a helper. This will allow the girls to feel like they are in a more intimate group even if there are many girls in the club. Another option is to have a combined lesson time and break into smaller discussion groups.

If the club is simply too large for the amount of
workers you have available or if discipline becomes a major problem, you may want to consider breaking the club into groups according to grade level.

Keep in mind that each church has unique needs and characteristics. It is not the size of club that matters, but the quality.

What other resources are available?

What’s Available on the Website?
The TGM website offers several great resources for you including:

Parents’ Guide
A parents’ guide is available highlighting what parents need to know when a girl joins Friends or Girls Only Club. The website also offers a Parents’ Catalog featuring resources available for Friends and Girls Only Club.

Promotional Material
The website also offers free downloadable brochures and other promotional materials for you to advertise your club.

Progress Sheets
Progress Sheets are available for the girls to track their achievement as they complete units and unit projects.

Unit Idea Sheets
A supplemental resource page is available for each Friends and Girls Only unit with project ideas, resource suggestions, and additional discussion questions tailored to that specific unit.

Practice Quizzes
A practice quiz and answer key are available for the girls to study for their Friends and Girls Only Review.

The Loft
A special section of the website is designed just for teen girls. It features quizzes, mortifying moments, book suggestions and articles just for teen girls. There is also a monthly calendar, Teen Girl Daybook, with daily activities and a corresponding Scripture passage, all focused on the weekly theme.

The TGM Leaders Blog
The TGM Leaders Blog is a great way to find out about ideas, resources, and topics that affect ministry to teen girls.

The Teen Girls Blog
The Teen Girls Blog is a great way for your girls to connect with other Christian girls and talk about topics that affect their lives.

Hot Topics
Hot Topics are biblically-based discussion guides on issues that are important to girls today. Each Hot Topic has a student guide and corresponding leader guide. Due to the discussion-based format, these guides are adaptable for the maturity level of your group. Current topics include Alternative Lifestyles; Family Relationships; Following Well; Growing up without a Dad; Guy Girl Relationships; Handling Stress; Knowing God’s Will; Mean Girls; Movies, Music and TV; Sex Before Marriage; Teen Pregnancy; and Twilight with more Hot Topics being added regularly.

Teen Girl Retreat
The TGM Retreat is a free, downloadable retreat guide designed to help your girls develop a deeper relationship with God while they develop deeper relationships with one another. The TGM retreat is designed to be flexible. You can pack everything into a day, or stretch the retreat out into a full three-day weekend. It’s
meant to be molded to fit your personality and the personality of your group. Most of the ses-
sions are discussion-oriented, so girls can talk freely about where they’re at and you can share from your own life experiences.

Social Concerns
The website also offers several great articles and quick-reference sheets focusing on a variety of social concerns including eating disorders, selfinjury, teen pregnancy, and much more.

Blog
The TGM Leaders Blog is a great way to find out about ideas, resources, and topics that affect ministry to teen girls. You can find the TGM Leaders Blog at www.teengirlministries.agblogger.org.

Forum
The NGM Forum is a place for you to connect with other leaders and talk about club ideas, resources, and suggestion. You can find the NGM Forum at www.formus.ag.org/ngm.

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