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Handouts for Co-authoring Class with Jesse Florea and Karen Whiting
Colorado Christian Writer's Conference 2022
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Tips on co-authoring

- Have a shared focus. Be sure you have the same reader in mind. It's about *them* and not *your* egos. Start off on the same page and with the same goal in mind.

- Be thankful for your co-author's skills, especially any that are not in your skillset. Lean into those skills! It's easier to build on strengths and improve weaknesses.

- Know how you will divide the work and editing, plus whose name goes first on the book, if it matters. This includes deciding how many chapters/units as well as the overall focus and design. The decision making should be shared.

- Make sure you have a plan or an outline you both agree on for the book. This includes agreement on chapter themes or devotional themes for various units.

- Know where you will keep the document online.

- Edit for clarity, accuracy, and flow, but not to change your co-author's voice.

- Brainstorm together, over Zoom or via email.

- Decide if you need a signed, written agreement or if your publisher's contract is enough.

- Listen to your co-author. Humbly accept edits or revisions.

- Pick your battles, if needed.

- Play fair. Don't use the project to make you look better. Sure, it may build your platform, but the goal must be to give the best work possible to the reader.

- Have fun and enjoy the other person's writing.

- Understand life happens and if a co-author has a major tragedy you may need to do extra work or change the deadline.

- It can be great to have some Zoom calls, pray together, etc. That may not always happen.

- Decide on marketing. Will one of you carry the load, split it, or carry different marketing plans?

- Have Christian love and grace for your partner. Let God lead.

- If you are upset about anything, be willing to talk. Healthy conflict is healthy.

- Honor your agreement.