

The Courage to Write

Judith Couchman

Session One: Identifying Your Purpose

Before you begin—or even if you’ve already started—it’s crucial to understand why you’re writing. In other words, what has God asked you to write, and why? You can answer these questions by identifying your calling, purpose, and goals. These statements can guide your writing projects and stir the motivation to complete them.

Session Two: Facing Your Fears and Foes

What keeps you from writing, even if you sincerely want to? In this session describe your fears about writing, along with the foes or barriers that keep you from fulfilling your publishing dreams. Examine the sources of these fears and foes, brainstorming how to courageously push past procrastination.

Session Three: Claiming Your Identity

How can you cultivate a strong, memorable writer identity with readers? By developing your voice, style, brand, and tagline. Learn why publishers look for these elements and how to create them. In addition to fostering an identity through your writing, consider promotional materials to support your distinctiveness and appeal to readers.

Session Four: Developing Your Plan

When will you write? What will you write? What formats will you use? How will you measure your progress? What learning and support do you need? Where will you write? Answer these questions and more by creating

a writing plan. Leave this session with a rough draft that designates the what, when, where, and how of your writing life.

Session Five: Understanding Your Responsibilities

Writers play an active role in the publishing process, even after the manuscript lands in the editor’s hands. Learn about your responsibilities during editing, proofing, designing, and promoting your work. Discover the step-by-step procedure, ask questions, and prepare to professionally approach the production and promotion of your work.

Your Teacher

Judith Couchman has published 44 books, compilations, Bible studies, and contributions to Bible projects. Her writing brand focuses on “Living with Purpose and Passion,” promoting finding your purpose, spiritual transformation, and making a difference in the world. She also teaches online for the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs and the Colorado Community Colleges Online.

Judith has worked as a full-time freelance writer, speaker, and writing coach for twenty years. During this time she created the *Write the Vision* retreats, intensive weekend gatherings for female writers, and the *Designing a Woman’s Life* seminar, a workshop helping women find their purpose and passion in life. She’s also spoken to professional and women’s groups around the country, and has served as a magazine teacher and consultant to nonprofit organizations overseas. In recent years she’s spoken to groups in Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Lithuania, Romania, and Switzerland.

Before working as an author, Judith founded and served as editor-in-chief of *Clarity*, a national magazine for women. She’s held jobs as an editor, journalism teacher, communications director, and public relations practitioner. She’s also received national awards for her work in each of these positions, and for her books.

Judith holds a B. S. in education (English and journalism), an M. A. in journalism, and an M. A. in art history. She lives in Colorado.