

Instant Book Group Session

Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine

If you'd like to run a book group-style small group for a change one week, try reading Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine, by Gail Honeyman (published by Harper Collins, 2017).

Encourage each member of the group to read the book (it doesn't need to cost anything – encourage library use!)

The following notes will lead you through a group discussion using the book.

- 1) This book struck a massive chord with people, selling over 850,000 copies in 2018. Discuss why you think this was.
- 2) What does the book tell us about the author's views on UK society today?
- 3) What are Eleanor Oliphant's views of church? (Page XX) How did you respond to these ideas when you read them?
- 4) "Jesus Christ!" "Eleanor Oliphant!" (Page XX) The author may have intended this humorously, but imagine if it were the case literally: Jesus Christ coming to us in our moment of crisis. What if this book had come from within the Christian community? If it had been a C.S. Lewis story, we'd be saying Raymond (meaning 'wise protector'), represents Christ. Imagine the book as a Christian allegory: what do your group think about it if considering it from this angle?
- 5) What other books has God spoken to you through that would not be found in the 'Religion' section of a bookshop? What do your group think about how we view the sacred and the secular as separate spheres?

Pray around any issues that have arisen during your discussion this evening.

