

BELONG.

LIVING FAITH



LASTING FRIENDS

KAREN KINGSBURY

women's retreat

APRIL 5-7, 2022 • JUST US GIRLS

The Harpeth Hotel – Historic Downtown Franklin, TN

**Belong is not only an event you attend.
Belong is a once-in-a-lifetime interactive retreat experience.**

Just 120 spots. Book your Belong Retreat Experience today.

SCHEDULE

Session I – Longing to Belong

The Belong Retreat Experience begins! You'll feel the excitement in the air as you locate your table in the beautiful Harpeth Hotel ballroom, and as you introduce yourself to the women you'll be sharing the next three days with - women like you!

3:30 pm to 5 pm - Arrival and Check-in

You may arrive any time during this hour! Get your booklet at the check-in table in the lobby outside the ballroom, then find your seat. Introduce yourself to the women you will be sitting with. You will find get-to-know you questions at the center of your table. Use these to start conversations with your group. Your interactive retreat experience begins here! Also, you will find your special gift bag from Karen, the first of many surprises throughout our time together.

5 pm to 5:20 pm – Welcome and Overview

Karen will officially begin the Belong Retreat Experience. We will continue to get to know each other, and Karen will go over what to expect and how to best interact with your table and with her. Karen's prayer is that you'll remember these three days forever.

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5:20 pm to 5:45 pm – Interactive Devotion – “You Belong”

We learn best in groups. Karen will walk around the room as she goes through this heartfelt devotion with you, looking deeply into how much you are loved by the Savior.

5:45 pm to 6:45 pm – Welcome Celebration Dinner –

Buffet catered by one of Downtown Franklin’s most famous restaurants – “1799”.

People come from all over the nation and world to visit Historic Downtown Franklin – 20 minutes outside Nashville. The Harpeth is the only hotel in the downtown Franklin area, and “1799” is a renowned restaurant. You’ll love this dinner with Karen and your new friends.

6:45 pm to 7:45 pm – Karen’s Talk and Q&A

“One Chance to Write the Story of Your Life”

In this talk, Karen will include some of her much-loved stories, stories that will make you laugh and cry and look at life with a fresh heart. This time will prepare you to examine your own life story the following day. Karen will walk around your tables and take questions after her talk.

7:45 pm to 8:15 pm – Get to know your table

Going deeper, Karen will walk between the tables as you use the questions at your table to further get to know the people you’re seated with. Some of these people may end up being lifelong friends. Watch and see what God will do with this time!

8:15 pm to 8:40 pm – Break

During this break we will have coffee and tea and snacks available at the back of the ballroom. You can also step out into the beautiful Harpeth courtyard to have quiet time or talk with friends, new and old.

8:40 pm to 9:20 pm – Karen’s Talk – “Lessons from My Life Story”

Many people have said that Karen’s life story would make a great book. People have probably said that about your life story, too. In this session, Karen will share her story and the lessons God has taught her along the way. You will see yourself in all of this.

9:20 pm to 10 pm – Karen Q&A

Karen wants to get to know you in this interactive experience. This is your chance to share your thoughts and ask Karen anything about her books, her writing, her family, or her life story. Karen will walk around the room with a microphone to share this time with you. Plan to laugh and learn together!

10 pm to 11 pm – 6 tables Meet and Greet with Karen

Bring your books and camera. This is your chance to have a personal moment with Karen, take a picture, and get your books signed. If you didn't bring one, don't forget, you can grab a book at Landmark Booksellers next door to The Harpeth Hotel. Landmark is the store that inspired Karen's book and Hallmark Movie, "The Bridge". Note: Tomorrow, you'll definitely want to stop in and say hello to Joel and Carol Tomlin, who run the store. They were the inspiration for Charlie and Donna, Karen's characters in The Bridge.

Session II – Looking Back

This session is what sets the Karen Kingsbury Belong Retreat Experience apart from anything you've ever done before. Karen has created a two-part interactive workshop that leads you to outline the story of your life, past and present, and look ahead to the pages yet unwritten. This is a quiet time, soft music and slightly dimmed lighting. You will have a custom booklet to help you through this special activity.

8 am to 8:30 am – Quiet Time

To get the most out of your experience at Belong, take advantage of this quiet time. Spend it in your room or in the beautiful courtyard. Come to your table and enjoy the still of the morning while reading your Bible or journaling.

McGavock's Coffee: The Harpeth Hotel is attached to McGavock's Coffee Shop – a favorite in Downtown Franklin. McGavock's has great coffee and desserts, as well as breakfast and lunch items. McGavock's Coffee is open 7 am to 3 pm daily.

The Coffee House: Around the corner and steps away is The Coffee House at 2nd and Bridge streets, with a wide array of coffee drinks. Also a great place for breakfast or lunch. Open 7 am to 5 pm daily.

8:30 am to 9 am – Coffee and Table Time

We will enjoy McGavock's Coffee Shop's best coffee along with a host of teas and herbal teas. By now you're getting to know your table and making heart connections that will last forever. Read through the questions provided and take your new friendships to the next level.

9 am to 9:20 am – Devotion – “Fingerprints of God – Outlining Your Story”

This morning session will be life-changing. In this devotion time, we will prepare to hear from God in the coming hours.

9:20 am to 10:40 am – Story of Your Life – Part I

Going Deep – “Seeing God’s Fingerprints in Your Past Story” (Bring Tissues)

This is the first part of outlining the story of your life. Led by Karen and with soft inspirational music in the background, you will go back to the early seasons of your life and recall what mattered most. Where you felt God at work and where you felt alone. You will remember the family and friends who shaped your story, and you will write all of this into your workbook. Then you will place this information into your actual Life Story outline. This interactive workshop is sacred time, because the story you are focused on is yours alone. This notebook is something you will keep forever. Whether you ever turn this outline into a written story of your life or not, you will have this for yourself or for future generations. Every life should be detailed and spelled out because it is important. Your story matters.

10:40 am to 11:10 am – Break – Quiet before the Lord – Stay in your story

Grab a snack and coffee. During this break you will find a quiet place to talk alone with the Lord. Look over your Life Story outline and all you wrote during Part 1, and ask Jesus for healing where you need healing. Celebrate the victories. Thank Him for His faithfulness along the way. Treasure every minute. Rarely do we take time to stop and look at the story God has written with the days of our life.

11:10 am to 12:30 pm – Story of Your Life – Part II

Going Deep – “Seeing God at Work in Your Current and Future Story” (Bring Tissues)

Part II of capturing the story of your life involves taking a deep and long look at your life today. What is working and what is not working? What habits and patterns are serving you and your faith and family? Which are not? You will also take an intimate look at your relationships, the very real characters God has placed in the story of your life. The goal is to see your life for what it is – a masterpiece! As we transition to talk about your future story, the plan is to be intentional. What is God calling you to do next in your life story? It is only as we look at where we’ve been and where we are that we can come before God and ask Him to lead us into the future.

12:30 pm to 12:50 pm – Worship

An intimate and personal time of worship will follow the completion of this session. Bring your tissues! This interactive workshop – both parts I and II – create a once-in-a-lifetime experience that can literally change the course of your life for the better. We will ask for God’s Holy Spirit to fall upon us as we worship, so you can hear from Him clearly, and so that this time will be unforgettable. A time to remember forever.

12:50 pm to 1 pm– Karen Talk – Wrap-up on The Story of Your Life

Karen will share ways you can use your precious book and the gift of your Life Story Outline to further develop your story. Also, Karen will answer questions that weren’t answered during the two parts of this session.

1 pm to 6:30 pm – Shop, Eat, Explore

This time is all yours!! Hang with your group or go it alone – whatever you most desire. Shop Downtown Franklin, visit the local Carnton Plantation, get Kilwin’s fudge or ice cream and make plans for a quick dinner or a sit down meal out on Main Street. Karen will give you a list of her favorite shops, eateries, and restaurants.

Session III – Laughing and Loving

We’ve taken time to learn and look back. Tonight’s session will be a time to laugh and love, building your relationship with God and the people in your life. It’s been said that with every laugh, a memory becomes more lasting. And so it will be tonight with your new friends. You won’t want the evening to end.

6:30 pm to 6:40 pm – Devotion by Karen

It’s important to laugh together! We will see the biblical reasons for laughter and joy as we move into a night of fun and friendship, laughter and merriment.

6:40 pm to 7 pm - Interactive Table Talk

Before we get into the fun of this night, share with Karen and your table things you learned while outlining the story of your life. Use the table prompts for this session and find yourselves better knowing and understanding the people at your table.

7 pm to 8 pm – Your Masterpiece – Paint with Friends

Fun, fun, fun!! We will work with a teacher to create a nature scene painting on an actual 11x14 canvas. This is more than a fun activity!! With instrumental Christian music playing, we will remember the beauty and design of God's hand on our lives as we bring our painting to life.

8 pm to 8:20 pm – Break - Nashville's Best Cookies

The Nashville area is known for its bakeries. Enjoy fresh-baked cookies and coffee/tea as we head into a night of laughter and team-building. Karen will make her way around to mingle with you during this break!

8:20 pm to 8:50 pm - Karen's Talk – “Funny Life Lessons from the Baxters”

Over the course of writing more than 20 books about the Baxters, Karen shared many funny fictional moments. When the laughter died down in those situations, there were life lessons to hold onto. Here, Karen will share some of the funniest – and most unforgettable – of those.

8:50 pm to 9:40 pm – Game Time - “Don't Forget to Laugh About It” – Prizes!!

At Karen's house, family and friends means game time! In this laugh-a-minute time we will play one of Karen's favorite games. Also we will have a Table Trivia contest, where your table will work together to compete against other tables in the room for fun and exciting prizes! Karen will walk around the room acting as emcee and getting to know you better.

9:40 pm to 10:25 pm – CONCERT – Leanna Crawford and Tyler Russell

Many Christian artists are also Karen's neighbors and friends. In this special time of music, you will sing along with Christian recording artists Leanna Crawford and Tyler Russell and hear the stories behind the songs. In Nashville, we call this a “Singer-Songwriter Roundtable” night. You'll be glad you're here for this rare and beautiful musical experience.

10:25 pm to 11:20 pm – Next 6 tables meet and greet with Karen

Bring your books and camera. This is your chance to have a personal moment with Karen, take a picture, and get your books signed. Don't forget, you can grab a book at Landmark Booksellers next door to The Harpeth Hotel. Landmark is the store that inspired Karen's book and Hallmark Movie, “The Bridge”.

Session IV – Leaving a Legacy

In our last session, we will take a look at the days of your story yet unwritten. Only God knows the number of pages in our story, but it is up to us to have vision and intention as we fill them. This time will be filled with hope and dreams and anticipation for tomorrow. Karen wants you to leave more excited about the future than ever before.

8:30 am to 9 am – Coffee and Table Talk

McGavock's best coffee, along with a host of tea and herbal teas. By now you've made lifelong friends from around your table, and this will be time to share at a deeper level. Read through the questions provided at your table and take your new friendships to the next level. Karen will join you, walking around the room and taking part in this with you.

9 am to 9:20 am – Dedication Prayer and Worship - Your Children and Their Children

We will pray a prayer of blessing over our families, and commit them and the future to God. This sweet time will set the stage for all that will follow today.

9:20 am to 10 am – Karen's Talk – "Leave a Legacy"

Someone once told Karen that her books were a gift to the world, because they would always be here. "Your books will outlive you," the person said. While a profound thought, Karen believes her life story and yours will be the far more important one. Stories that will truly be told forever. Because of technology, there are many ways to leave a forever legacy for your family and friends and even for the world. In this practical interactive time, Karen will help you see the very great importance of living in such a way that future generations will want to follow in your footsteps. This time will include a Q&A.

10 am to 10:10 – Quick Break

Stretch, fill up on coffee, and take a restroom break as we prepare for the next session.

10:10 to 10:50 – A Legacy of Love – Karen and Daughter, Kelsey

We are all called to love one another! Karen and her daughter, Kelsey, will share lessons and stories – funny and deep – about life and love. This time will end with a Q&A as Karen and Kelsey walk around the room interacting with you.

10:50 am to 12 Noon – Long Break

You'll have a little more time on this break, so feel free to grab a breakfast sandwich on Main Street or bring something more substantial to share with Karen and your table. We want you to feel relaxed, able to relish all you've experienced these past three days. You and your table can also take your coffee into The Harpeth courtyard for a little sunshine and quieter time together. At the back of the ballroom, we'll have muffins and coffee and tea, like always.

12 Noon to 12:20 pm – A Legacy of Purpose

Jesus told us to love God, love people, and make disciples. What does that look like as you prepare to leave the Belong Retreat Experience and head back to your daily life? What is your purpose? We will join hearts and pray for the people in our stories: family, friends and strangers, whose lives can be changed for the good because of what we've learned here.

12:20 pm to 12:40 pm – An Eternal Legacy

We have this one thing in common with every person who has ever walked the earth – you have a finite number of pages in the story of your life lived here, on this planet. CS Lewis said that for those heaven-bound, passing from this life to the next is like finally reaching the first page in a breathtaking story that will go on forever. How beautiful is that! In this interactive time, Karen will share what it means to be certain about heaven, and what you can do to leave an eternal legacy for your family and friends.

12:40 pm to 1 pm – A Legacy of Worship and Joy

As we near the end of our time together, we will celebrate all God has done in these unforgettable three days. The sound of our collective voices raised to the Lord will stay with you long after your Belong Retreat Experience has ended.

1 pm to 1:30 pm – Closing Q&A

Karen will finish out Belong with a Q&A time. Karen will walk around with a microphone, laughing and chatting and interacting with you. By now, you'll see Karen as your friend, and she will see you as hers.

1:30 pm to 3 pm – Visiting, Journaling, Photos, and Goodbyes

Attendance for this is optional. We have the beautiful Harpeth Hotel ballroom for this additional time. You may work on your Life Story outline, visit with your table, or chat with Karen. Get coffee and have quiet time in the beautiful courtyard. Karen will walk among the tables to sign additional books or share a few words. If you'd rather leave at 1:30, please do so!! You may want to shop or grab a late lunch with your group.