

The Source

a teaching novel · by Brandon Neary

Book Club Kit

A facilitator's guide for reading groups, practice teams, and study cohorts.

Who this kit is for

This kit helps you run a group read of *The Source* — whether your “group” is a dental practice doing a lunch-and-learn, a study cohort of hygienists and associates, or a few colleagues thinking the book through together. It assumes one person is loosely facilitating; you don't need to be an expert in the material. The best facilitators mostly ask good questions and keep the room honest.

Use it alongside the Reading Guide, which holds the discussion questions. This kit adds the how: formats, a session-by-session schedule, facilitator prompts, and a worksheet for turning talk into change.

Three ways to run it

- The practice team read (recommended for offices). Built around a working dental team. Sessions run short — 30 to 45 minutes over a few weeks — and each one ends by tying the chapter to a real patient the team has seen. Best paired with the practice-application worksheet below.
- The study cohort. For hygienists, associates, or students reading to sharpen clinical reasoning. Longer sessions, heavier on the Field Guide, more time on the “why” behind each case. Works well as a recurring monthly meet-up.
- The single-session discussion. For a group that has already read the whole book and just wants one good conversation. Pull six to eight questions from the Reading Guide across all three sections. Ninety minutes is plenty.

A sample four-session schedule

Built around the book's natural arc. The novel is twenty-nine chapters; this splits it into three reading blocks plus a closing session on the Field Guide. Adjust to your group's pace.

Week 1 — The world Dana believes in (Chapters 1–8). Marg and the shortbread tin; the numbers that don't add up; the CE course Dana didn't want to attend, where she meets Anand; the attic. Focus: What is Dana sure of walking in? Surface the assumptions — effort as the lever, compliance as the answer. Reading Guide questions 1–3 and 6.

Week 2 — Testing the claim (Chapters 9–16). Dana sets out to prove her mentor wrong; the boss says no; Marg's result; the setback with Russ Kohler; Tyler Cade and “family teeth”; planting the bed. Focus: Where does Dana's confidence start to cost her, and what finally moves her? Track what she blames when a case surprises her. Questions 4, 7, 8, and 12.

Week 3 — Making it real (Chapters 17–24). Gordon; the connection; the defense; the pilot; the conversation problem; Marg, retested; the handoff; the books. Focus: How does this go from one hygienist's instinct to something a whole practice runs — without breaking the practice's budget or trust? Questions 5, 9, 10, and 11.

Week 4 — From story to method (Chapters 25–29 + the Field Guide). The method; the quiet result (Jack's recall); the home team; teaching it forward; recall. Then open the Field Guide. Focus: Put names to the lessons. Pair each big theme with its Field Guide section, and close with the practice-application worksheet. Questions 13–15.

Shorter on time? Fold Weeks 1–2 together and Weeks 3–4 together for a two-session version. More time? Give the Field Guide its own two-session arc.

Facilitator prompts

Drop these in when the conversation stalls or drifts too abstract. They pull the book down to the room you're sitting in.

- The real-patient map. “Pick one patient from this week's reading — Marg, Jack, Russ, Tyler — and match them to an actual case we've seen. What did we do? What does the book suggest we might have done differently?”
- The blame audit. “When a case doesn't go the way we expected, what do we blame first — the patient, the timing, the tools, ourselves? Where does the book say the question should actually point?”
- The verb test. “Take something we routinely tell patients. Does the evidence actually support that verb — causes, will, needs — or are we saying more than we know? Rewrite one sentence to match what we can actually back up.”
- The do-less folder. “What changed Marcus's mind wasn't a dramatic save — it was a folder of the times the test told them to do less. When did we last hold off, on purpose, with a reason we could show? Could we keep that folder?”
- The quiet-case check. “Is there a patient on our books right now who's being watched and charted but never actually decided about — our own Jack Bowen? What would it take to make a real decision?”
- The one-degree change. “If this session changed one thing about how we work next week — just one — what's the smallest version of it we'd actually do?”

- The disagreement round. “Where is the book wrong, or too clean, for our reality? Where do its economics or its lessons not survive contact with our schedule? Channel Renata for a minute.”

Practice-application worksheet

Use this in your final session (or after any session). Fill it in as a group — the goal is to leave with one concrete change, not a list of good intentions. Keep the completed sheet somewhere the team will see it.

- 1 The lesson we're taking from this read. In one sentence, what's the single idea from *The Source* most worth acting on for us?
- 2 Where it shows up in our practice. Name a recurring situation — a patient type, a hand-off, a conversation — where this lesson actually applies to us.
- 3 The one change we'll make. What is the smallest specific thing we'll do differently? (A phrase, a step in the workflow, a checkpoint, a question we'll start asking.)
- 4 Who owns it, and when we'll check. Who's responsible for making sure it happens, and when will we look at whether it stuck?

The book's own argument applies here: the plan isn't what decides the outcome — follow-through is. Pick a check-in date and keep it.

Tips for a good session

- Start with a case, not a chapter. Open by asking who saw a patient that reminded them of something in the reading. The book lands harder tethered to a real person.
- Let people be wrong out loud. Dana is wrong in useful ways, and Renata's skepticism is a fair counterweight. A room that only agrees with the book learns less than one that argues with it.
- Keep the test in its place. The book treats diagnostic information as something that supports a clinical conversation — not a verdict, not a diagnosis on its own, and never a prescribing protocol. Keep group discussion in that same conditional spirit.
- End on the one-degree change. Every session is better for closing with a single, small, nameable thing the group will try. Write it down.

Reading as a team?

The Source works well as a shared text for a whole practice or cohort, and it can be ordered in bulk. For team pricing, bulk orders, or to bundle copies with OraPath test kits, visit orapath.com or use the practice inquiry form on the book's page.