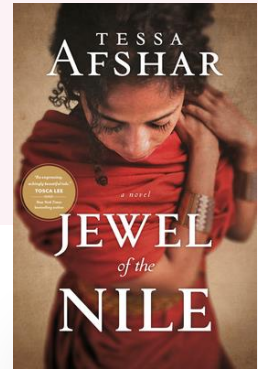




PARTICIPANT GUIDE

JEWEL OF THE NILE
BY TESSA AFSHAR



"You may have no brother or sister. I don't know if you will ever find your father. But I do know this. As one who calls God Abba, Father, you are never alone. Your earthly father may have abandoned you. Knowingly left you, even. But your heavenly Father will not. He will remain with you always. And in his presence, there is fullness of joy. Soul-deep calm. Favor and grace."

THEO



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

Q. As we journey through the lands of Cush and the Roman Empire, we are introduced to an array of richly developed, unforgettable and engrossing characters. Which character did you relate to the most, why?

2

Q. Hermione's grace, faith, and gentle heart capture the true beauty of a woman who fears the Lord. In this modern age, when outer beauty means more to the world than a quiet and gentle spirit, how can we regularly re-focus our gaze towards true beauty, which is pleasing to God?

3

Q. Throughout "Jewel of the Nile", we hear many names used to describe God. Do you have a favourite name for God?

4

Q. "Take Heart" (p171). How do these words encourage you?

5

Q. "I'm not worth saving, girl. Not worth loving either" (p187). How does understanding that we are saved by faith through grace free us to accept God's free gift of salvation?

6

Q. "All my life my grandparents lied to me... If I have learned one thing from their example, it is this: hiding truth gains nothing but an invitation for powers of darkness to multiply" (p201). Do you agree with Chariline? Why, why not?

7

Q. Chariline is plagued by guilt over her mother's death and unnecessarily carries this burden (p193). What burdens have you carried that the Lord has graciously lifted from you?

8

Q. "Sometimes, in the frustration of what we don't have, we forget to rejoice in what we do." (p109). Why do you think it's hard for us to focus on what we're lacking, instead of our blessings?

9

Q. Prayer is a powerful theme in "Jewel of the Nile". Has reading this book encouraged you in your prayer life?

10

Q. As Chariline learns to let the Lord fill her deep need of love and acceptance, we are reminded of our tendency to try and "do it ourselves" or rely on other things apart from God to fill those needs. How will you commit to letting God into your heart to fulfil every need?

