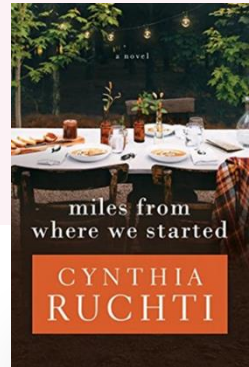




PARTICIPANT GUIDE

MILES FROM WHERE WE STARTED BY CYNTHIA RUCHTI



"Did God intend to answer her prayer and give her husband back to her, or answer her prayer and make her strong enough to find joy in singleness? Did she have the faith to believe life could be good - eventually - either way, that dawns would come and go whether she received the answer she wanted or not?"

MALLORY DUNCAN



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



1

Q. *Miles From Where We Started* is a novel about journeys, both physical and spiritual. What is the most challenging - yet rewarding - spiritual journey you have been on yourself?

2

Q. Many wonderful people cross paths with Mallory and Connor during their adventure. These characters profoundly impact their lives, beliefs, and values. Can you think of a time when God placed someone in your life, very intentionally, with a similar impact?

3

Q. The phrase 'opposites attract' is a familiar one, and it rings true in our lives. Mallory and Connor seem to fit this mould, yet depending on their perspectives, their differences can result in strife or balance one another out. Why do you think God often draws opposites together?

4

Q. On page 77, Mallory describes the peace she experiences when she begins to accept that it is God's will for her to go on the road trip. Have you ever submitted to a request from God even though you did not want to do it?

5

Q. Mallory and Connor's approaches to Judah are very different. Mallory is gifted and educated on loving and supporting at-risk kids, while Connor is impatient and quick to judge. Over time, Connor learns how to interact with Judah and shows a willingness to get to know him, even breaking his leg to 'rescue' him at a waterfall. The trajectory of the relationship changes as Connor begins to expect the best of Judah instead of assuming the worst. Why is it that we often live up to the expectations of others?

6

Q. Have you ever found yourself facing a health crisis? Could you relate to Connor's anxiety of becoming a burden to others?

7

Q. Waterfalls are a theme in the story, and throughout the trip, the trio stops at many of them. A waterfall is a mighty display of God's glory and significantly shows His power. However, water can also symbolise new beginnings. Why do you think the author incorporated this theme into the journey?

8

Q. Which character or quote in the story had the most profound impact on you? Maybe you could relate to the character or their circumstances?

9

Q. What is your favourite verse or line from Connor's song 'This Is Not How Our Story Ends'? (p341)
