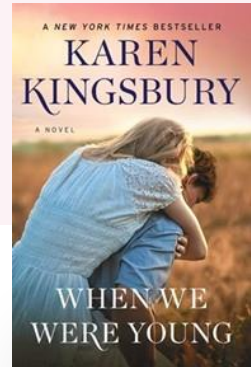




PARTICIPANT GUIDE

WHEN WE WERE YOUNG
BY KAREN KINGSBURY



"A love like ours is worth fighting for... I'd be crazy to walk away from you and me without at least trying."

EMILY CARTER



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



1

Q. Which character did you relate to the most? Why?

2

Q. Two powerful and interlinked themes in the book are *miracles* and *prayer*. Have you ever experienced a miracle as a result of God answering the intercessory prayers of your church family? Share your experience.

3

Q. The impact of social media on families, relationships and individuals is becoming increasingly detrimental. Has this book changed your perspectives on social media usage?

4

Q. "...you never left her side [Clara]... which was even more beautiful... it was something I looked forward to every day, watching the two of you" (p126). The sacrificial love Emily shows Clara becomes mesmerising to Noah. Have the good deeds of another captured your gaze?

5

Q. On page 313, Emily realises how much she needs her sister Clara for help while she is pregnant. Human life is often devalued, and those who are disabled are viewed heinously as 'less than'. How does this situation, where roles are reversed, remind you of the significance of every human life?

6

Q. "Just because we lead the group doesn't mean we don't have our moments. Marriage takes work." (p348). Kari and Ryan's marriage shines the light of Jesus. This does not mean they are immune to suffering and hardship in their marriage, in fact, many marriages which radiate heaven in this way do so because while suffering and enduring trials, they have intentionally remained together. How does knowing this encourage you?

7

Q. On page 338, we see the contrasting adult lives of Olivia and Aiden. Why do you think their lives turned out so differently?

8

Q. On page 88, we see Noah's thoughts escalating as he imagines how his divorce might impact his children. As the Body of Christ, how can we come alongside our single-parent families to help meet their unique needs?

9

Q. "God really had set before him life and death, blessings and curses. And after today, Noah would never choose death again." (p361). After Noah is miraculously given a second chance at his marriage and fatherhood, he chooses life and deletes his social media accounts. Can you think of a time when you've needed to choose life? What did you need to let go of?
