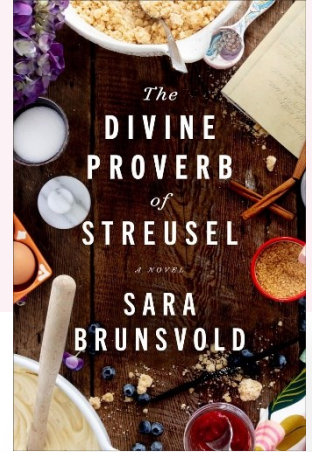




# PARTICIPANT GUIDE

## THE DIVINE PROVERB OF STREUSEL BY SARA BRUNSVOLD



*“A talented baker employs the pantry ingredients; a wise woman adds a divine one. With every crumb she shakes from her palm, she pours a prayer from her lips... She sows seeds of love onto hate, mercy onto hurt, hope onto gloom, giving freely of the faith she possesses.”*

**LENA BAUMANN**



### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS & TALKING POINTS



1

Q. What did you most enjoy while reading *The Divine Proverb of Streusel*?

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2

Q. "Nikki scattered the toppings upon the dough. Each crumble fell into place accompanied by prayer, as the divine proverb of streusel had enjoined" (p194). Nikki discovers that wise women add the divine element of prayer to all that they do. Discuss her journey and the encouraging role faithful women played in her growth.

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3

Q. "Three things withstood the pressures of time and assimilation: faith in One True God, hope for better things, and love of butter" (p34). Lena, Ann and Nikki occupied very different times and encountered different challenges, but for each of them, the kitchen was a place of refuge. What might it feel like to envision our homes as a place to invite peace and a sacred space of worship and hospitality?

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Q. How does Nikki's understanding of the link between love and trust grow throughout the story?

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Q. Nikki asks Tracy, "Do you think we should look at people in light of their actions or in light of what they have suffered? (p152). What do you think?

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6

Q. Father-hurt is an important theme in the story. Nikki needed someone fighting for her and God provided Uncle Wes, but deep down, Nikki truly wanted her dad. Discuss the ways Wes helped Nikki and Chris reconnect.

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7

Q. "What is the hardest thing you ever had to forgive?" (p173).

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8

Q. Nikki is a lover of stories and believes that the "books someone chooses to keep tell you a lot about their character" (p40). Discuss the role various books play throughout the story. What might the books you keep reveal about you?

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9

Q. Which divine proverb is most relevant to you right now and why?

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10

Q. The phrase, "Do the next thing" becomes a crucial encouragement to Nikki as she does hard things and works through her grief. Read the poem by Minnie Paull, and discuss.

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