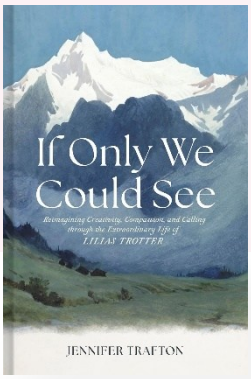
PARTICIPANT GUIDE

IF ONLY WE COULD SEE
BY JENNIFER TRAFTON



"After forty years in North Africa, she leaves behind no church, founds no schools or hospitals, leads no great movements. And yet at the time of her death in 1928, she is considered to be not only one of the beloved and respected missionaries of her day but 'a world-wide spiritual force'."

JENNIFER TRAFTON

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

Q. Lilias had extraordinary artistic talent and the opportunity to pursue recognition. What does this book teach us about the difference between success and faithfulness?

2

Q. How did the influence of John Ruskin and George MacDonald shape Lilias Trotter's understanding of her gifts, her faith, imagination, and the life she wanted to pursue?

3

Q. Lilias had a remarkable ability to notice beauty. How might learning to "see" differently change our everyday lives?

4

Q. Lilias's friendships played an important role in sustaining and shaping her life and ministry. What do we learn from the friendships she cultivated?

5

Q. Lilias was sharing the Gospel in a predominantly Muslim and African context. What does her story teach us about presenting the Gospel across cultural and religious boundaries?

6

Q. Lilias deliberately moved toward people and places that were easy for others to overlook. What can we learn from her compassion?

7

Q. How did Lilias's understanding of God influence the way she viewed nature and creation?

8

Q. Lilias experienced illness, weakness, disappointment, and hardship. What does her story teach us about living faithfully when our circumstances are not what we hoped?

9

Q. Trafton invites readers to consider their own "beautiful possible life." What do you think that phrase means for you?

10

Q. After reading Lilias's story, what is one thing you want to see differently? What might we see if we learned to look at our lifves, gifts, other people, and God's creation through the eyes of faith?

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