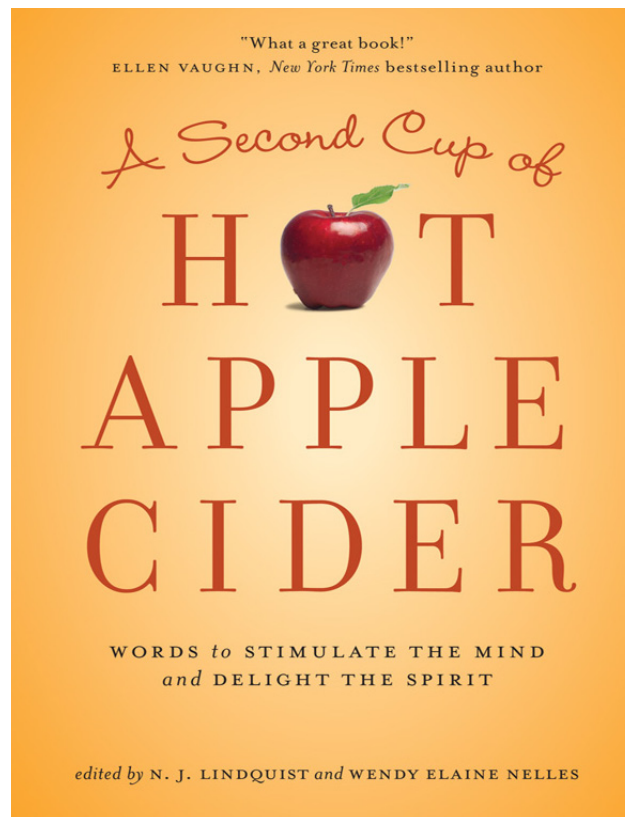


A Second Cup of Hot Apple Cider

Study Guide

for individuals, discussion groups & book clubs



Reviews, author interviews and more at

hotapplecider.ca



Introduction

Welcome to this free Study Guide that you can use to dig deeper into the anthology, *A Second Cup of Hot Apple Cider: Words to Stimulate the Mind and Delight the Spirit*. The writers have supplied questions about their pieces to help you get more out of the book, think about the issues raised, enjoy stimulating discussions, and share ideas and meaningful experiences.

This Study Guide is ideal for many types of small groups, discussion groups, book clubs, classes, church groups, and support groups for people going through illness or bereavement. But you don't need to be part of a group to use the Guide; solo readers can use the questions as part of a personal study and meditate on or journal their answers.

Are you a group leader, speaker, or pastor? The questions in this Study Guide will help you conduct an interesting discussion, prepare a talk, or give a devotional or sermon.

Scripture references are included with the questions for most items. (All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved.)

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If you're looking for material or illustrations about specific topics, check the downloadable **Topics Chart** at <http://hotapplecider.ca/a-second-cup/study-helps/>.

If you're looking for material or illustrations related to specific Bible verses, or for extra Scripture references to use the book in Bible studies, check the downloadable **Scripture Reference Chart** you will also find at <http://hotapplecider.ca/a-second-cup/study-helps/>.

Feel free to choose which pieces to study or discuss, and which questions to use. We've provided you with plenty of material that you can adapt for your needs.

A free Study Guide is also available for the first book in the series, the bestselling *Hot Apple Cider: Words to Stir the Heart and Warm the Soul* (ISBN 978-0-9784963-0-2). The book is available through booksellers or online retailers, and the Study Guide may be downloaded at hotapplecider.ca/hot-apple-cider/study-helps/.

Keep checking at hotapplecider.ca for news, interviews with the authors, upcoming events, reviews, even some recipes using apple cider.

N. J. Lindquist and Wendy Elaine Nelles, editors, *Hot Apple Cider* and *A Second Cup of Hot Apple Cider*





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“The Bulletin Board” by Adele Simmons, p. 1

1. Have you ever felt you needed to do something to help another person, despite the fact it meant neglecting something else that was important to you? Did you make sure everyone understood what you'd done, and why you made that decision? Or did you stay quiet to protect confidentiality? How did you handle it if, like the narrator, others assumed that you shirked your responsibility?
2. Read the Bible passage in Matthew 25:35-40 (NIV). It states in verse 40: "... whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Think of a time when you have been on the receiving end of someone else's help. How did that experience affect you?
3. Read 1 Peter 4:8: "Love covers over a multitude of sins." Although the author uses words such as "beaten down," "bruised," and "scarred," the story is ultimately about love—not the empty words of love that betrayed her sister, but the love the narrator received from her friends and from God, which she then passed on. Think of a time when you showed someone that kind of love. How did you feel?
4. We all have issues from our past that we're reluctant to talk about. What consequences do you think people bear in their healing and growth because they're unable to bring issues out into the open?
5. The author refers to a cycle of abuse in her family and the possibility that God's love will end it. In your experience, what helps to stop a cycle of abuse?

“The Scavengers” by Judi Peers, p. 4

1. Just as the army of Israel and the enemy, Goliath, looked at the young shepherd David and were unimpressed (1 Samuel 17:41-44), when we look at other people, we're frequently influenced by what they look like or what they've done in the past. We may miss their potential or fail to recognize their hearts. Can you think of a time you made a quick judgment of someone, only to later change your mind? Share the story. What changed your mind?
2. Many of us are motivated to show people that they have misjudged us. Maybe you were rejected for a job or told you couldn't do something you wanted to do, and that made you try all the harder. Can you think of a time you felt you'd been wrongly judged? What happened?
3. In the Old Testament passage where the prophet Samuel is sent to find and anoint a new king, the Bible states, "But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart'" (1 Samuel 16:7). If you could see yourself as God does, what positive and negative attributes do you think you'd see?
4. Have you ever asked God to help you see another person through His eyes? If so, what happened? Is there someone now you could consider asking that for?



“Lost: One Green Scarf” by Vilma Blenman, p. 7

1. The lost green scarf triggers memories and intense feelings related to two significant life losses—loss of babies and loss of a friend. Can you share a time when an event, an object, the smell, taste or sound of something, triggered grief for you? How did/do you process that grief?
2. As she experiences the feelings and flashbacks, the writer desperately tries to hide her tears—both in a public place and in private at home. Why do we sometimes resist tears? Can tears ever be healthy and helpful?
3. When her husband picks her up, the writer doesn't disclose much about the storm raging inside her. She simply says, "I lost my scarf." Do you think she should have shared more with him? Should he have probed more to help her process the grief?



4. Sometimes well-meaning people use platitudes to help those who are grieving. What clichés, stock phrases and pitfalls do you think we should try to avoid?
5. Is there a verse in the Bible that has helped you when you've had to deal with grief or loss?
6. Is there a loss that you are grieving or that you still need to grieve? What is one step you could take that would move you a little closer to healing?

“Dazed” by Kevin J. Dautremont, p. 11

1. Can you relate to the male character Dylan? Have you ever found yourself puzzled and frustrated because of a communication gap with someone you care about?
2. In what ways does Dylan show his love for Sarah? What are some practical ways we can show love to our spouse /significant other/someone we care about?
3. In this story, how does God speak to Dylan? Have you ever sensed God speaking to you? If so, how?
4. Have you ever had a dream or desire that didn't work out as you'd hoped, or that changed into something different? How did it affect you?
5. Job says, “My days have passed, my plans are shattered, and so are the desires of my heart” (Job 17:11 paraphrase). But we know that God later gave Job more than he'd had before his losses. The Bible actually has a lot to say about dreams and plans. Here are just a few verses:
 - “May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed.” (Psalm 20:4)
 - “But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations.” (Psalm 33:11)
 - “Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.” (Proverbs 15:22)
 - “Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.” (Proverbs 16:3)
 - “In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps.” (Proverbs 16:9)
 - “Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.” (Proverbs 19:21)
 - “Do not grant the wicked their desires, LORD; do not let their plans succeed.” (Psalm 140:8)

What do these verses say to you about having dreams and plans? Can you think of other verses that would apply?

“Fallout” by Heather McGillivray, p. 20

1. This poem takes a light-hearted look at the very serious nature of relationship repair. What part does humour play in helping us admit when we're wrong?
2. Do you think it's ever possible to get out of the doghouse by simply barging right back in the door after an altercation, without a little humble owning-up-to and a willingness to work things out? What kind of things do we usually need to say or do?
3. The first stanza implies a difference between random acts of annoyance and major fallouts. Are there different ways of handling these situations? What happens with annoyances that aren't dealt with at all?
4. Heading out to the doghouse isn't always a bad thing. Can you recall an occasion when you needed a little alone time to cool down or reflect before you were able to work things out with someone?
5. Arguments and head-on collisions rarely happen without leaving some kind of mess to clean up. Have you ever had help cleaning up a mess you've been responsible for? Have you ever been asked to clean up someone else's mess? How did those experiences affect you?



6. What's the difference between helping fix something that's broken and enabling someone to continue messing up time after time?
7. Some messes require more than a little clean-up. Sometimes messes need professional help. How can people tell if they need to ask for outside assistance for their relationships?

“A Shout in the Dark” by Heidi McLaughlin, p. 21

1. Heidi was in the middle of a major presentation when the lights went out. How would you have reacted in a similar situation? Do you tend to be flexible or flustered when your plans go astray?
2. If you received bad news and had to make a choice whether to call your loved ones in the middle of the night or wait until morning, what would you do? Why?
3. The Bible says “God is Love” (1 John 4:8). How do you grasp this truth when life takes a harsh turn and you are overcome with grief and feel abandoned?
4. The smallest acts of kindness are powerful “shouts of love” when life becomes dark. Can you recall a time when you experienced a sacrificial act of kindness from someone? How did that experience impact you?
5. Christ's commandment to “Love your neighbour as yourself...” (Matthew 22:39) is a powerful, sacrificial directive. Visualize the people you know in your neighbourhood, your workplace, church, golf club, or other close community group. If you learned that one of these people is going through a painful circumstance, what is one practical, tangible “shout of love” you could extend?



“Holding His Hand” by Mary Ann Benjamins, p. 26

1. It's quite common for people to put off going to the doctor even when they suspect something might be seriously wrong. Have you ever delayed going to the doctor? Did you eventually go? Did you have someone nag you into going? Why is it that some people fear the diagnosis so much they may delay getting necessary treatment?
2. Mary Ann felt overwhelmed by the diagnosis she was given, but even more overwhelmed by the way the doctor referred to God. Have you noticed how often people refer to God these days, even in normal conversation? Never mind swearing, the use of phrases such as “Oh, my God!” “OMG,” etc. have become part of routine conversation. Even five-year-olds are quite likely to say, “Oh, God.” Do you notice it? Does this bother you? Have you come up with any ways to address it?
3. Everyone has difficult situations come into his or her life at some point. In your experience, are Christian families able to cope better with these difficult situations or not? What are some advantages Christians might have in dealing with sickness and death?
4. Families communicate in many different ways. Can you think of a time when you had to share bad news with a child? Do you have any suggestions as to how to discuss tough issues with children in a positive yet realistic way?
5. Through this experience, MaryAnn realized she had inadvertently placed her husband in a position as intermediary between her and God—perhaps because he was a pastor. Can you think of a time when you allowed someone else to be your intermediary between you and the Lord—someone to be your “faith” for you?
6. Some people, like Mary Ann, learn more about themselves as a result of confronting a difficult diagnosis. A potentially negative experience can have positive outcomes. Even a health problem can be a “blessing in disguise” to help us learn spiritual lessons. What attitude should we have toward the trials in our lives? Can you share a difficult situation in your life that God used to help you grow as His child?



“Chrysalis: Life in the Making” by Ruth Smith Meyer, p. 32

1. In your own experiences, what are some of the qualities in marriages/close friendships/working relationships that complement each other to create teamwork?
2. Have you found that certain qualities that initially drew you to your spouse/significant other/close friend/work colleague can become difficulties later on? How can we effectively deal with these sorts of problems?
3. In this true story, Ruth shares some techniques for active listening. “We learned to accept responsibility for only our own feelings, receive each other’s feelings without viewing them as something we have to fix or change, and respond to each other’s sharing with compassion and love. What a treat to have Norm write down some of his innermost thoughts to share with me! Instead of seeing only his own perceptions and needs, he began to hear mine too. I heard and acknowledged his pain, and he did the same for mine... Finally, we could truly hear each other with our hearts.” (p. 36-37) What role do you think careful listening plays in close relationships? What can you do to help increase the level of your own active listening?
4. Was there ever a time when you felt totally inadequate in a relationship and had to give it completely to God? What happened? Could you see in hindsight how God worked in your life?
5. Are you able to talk to your loved one about the possibility of his/her death, or your own? How do you think the subject could be broached? When is it an appropriate time? What sorts of things do you think should be openly discussed?



“The Forever Kind of Love” by Ruth Smith Meyer, p. 39

1. What do you think contemporary society’s definition of love might be?
2. How would you describe the change from the first three verses to the last four of this poem? What would you say is the reason for the switch?
3. What feelings does the fourth verse raise in you?
4. Verses four through seven contain successive steps. What are they? Do you agree with the order and the need for each step?
5. Do you identify with any of these verses when thinking of your love with a spouse, significant other or family member? How have your own experiences echoed these definitions of love?
6. What feeling does the last verse create in you?

“Life with a Capital ‘L’” by Jeannie Lockerbie Stephenson, p. 41

1. Think of a time in your own life when you felt bored, or in a rut. What did you do about it? Were your choices wise ones, or impulsive ones you later regretted?
2. When Jeannie was a child, she attended Wildwood Camp in New Brunswick, Canada. Once, she was specifically told not to step into a particular area along the shore. She disobeyed, crunched down on a bed of clamshells, and still has scars on her toes to remind her. Read I John 1:9 and Galatians 6:7. Then think about—or discuss—times in your life when you have been forgiven, yet suffered the consequences of your action.
3. Pete and Joe, the two young Christian men in the story, suggested that the girls read John 10:10. That verse speaks of “abundant life,” “life to the full,” or “Life with a Capital ‘L.’” This kind of life brings true joy. Read the following verses and reflect on the types of joy God promises to give to His followers: 1 Peter 1:8-9, Habakkuk 3:17-18, and John 16:24.



“My Mother’s Gift” by Ann Brent, p. 48

1. How difficult is it for children to feel different from their peers? Can you recall an experience you’ve had that helped you relate to the way Ann felt when the teacher refused to believe she didn’t know her father’s name?
2. Ann’s mother made a significant impact on Ann’s life by not talking about Ann’s father. Describe the different aspects of the gift Ann’s mom gave her, and how they impacted her life.
3. How do you think Ann’s life might have been different if her mother spoke about her father with anger, hatred, and bitterness?
4. In what ways did Ann’s mother’s choice benefit not only Ann, but herself as well?
5. What was significant about the timing of Ann’s grandfather’s visit?
6. Read Isaiah 41:10. How might the promises found in those words help you in any situation?

“Live Life to the Full” by Evangeline Inman, p. 54

1. Can you share about a difficult time in your life when you experienced the comfort of God?
2. In 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 we read, “Praise be to... God, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.” What are some ways that you have been able to reach out to comfort others that are going through a difficult time?
3. Romans 8:28 tells us, “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to his purpose.” What are some ways that you have seen God work all things together for good, even though it seemed impossible?
4. Jesus said, “I have come that they may have life and have it to the full” (John 10:10). What do you think living an abundant or full life means for those who have lost their child or other family member, their health, or their dream?

“Two Men Ahead of Their Time” by Connie Brummel Crook, p. 64

1. Connie felt the need to finish her teacher training, even though she had no intention of teaching after her marriage to Reg. Have you ever felt the urgency to complete a task, although, at the time, it might have seemed unnecessary to yourself and even to others? What motivated you to do it?
2. Connie’s decision proved to be very wise when she was suddenly widowed. Have you ever realized later, when you were so very, very thankful that you had followed that urge to act, that it had been God prompting you? How did you come to understand this?
3. “Through the ages, people have blamed the Almighty for all sorts of operations they’d botched up themselves. Long ago, people broke every law of sanitation, and when plagues came, they blamed the Almighty and said, ‘Thy will be done.’ They were submissive when they should have been investigating.” Nellie McClung depicts two extremes here in people’s reactions to tragedies—those who blame God and those who readily accept their circumstances as His will. Give reasons for agreeing or disagreeing with each argument.
4. “This is the meaning of the women’s movement, and we need not apologize for it. Prevention is the highest form of reform. If we sit passively under unfair and deplorable conditions, we become, in the sight of God, partners with them. Submission to injustice, submission to oppression, is rebellion against God.” Nellie said these words in 1914—almost a century ago. Since then, there have been monumental changes in the world and in Canada, where woman’s place has changed almost completely. So do these words still have meaning for today’s world?



5. Nellie's husband Wes and Connie's husband Reg were two men from two different eras in Canadian history, but they were both ahead of their times in how they treated their wives. Both men realized that a woman can be a partner and an equal, and were prepared to take any flack that came from others. Do you think women have reached equal status in most marriages today? Are there still issues that need to be addressed?

“What Is Thy Neighbour's, Do Not Covet” by Paul M. Beckingham, p. 75

1. What is your relationship with jealousy? Do you keep it locked in a box—or does it tend to get out and trouble you?
2. When has jealousy worked for you? What did it give you?
3. When has jealousy let you down, publicly embarrassed, or disappointed you?
4. How do you think jealousy works—subtly, secretly, and underhandedly—to stunt your spiritual growth?
5. Jealousy attacks our areas of vulnerability and perceived weakness. We are safe to name those areas before the God who is never disillusioned with us, because He never held false illusions about us in the first place. Can you pinpoint areas in your own life you need to talk to God about?
6. Jealousy is a form of suffering—for you and for those who are trapped within your jealousy. But why allow yourself to suffer from jealousy? The suffering that jealousy causes can be transformed and healed. What is the alternative path that you can choose to take? Commit, with God's help, to take that path.

“Twenty-five Years Later” by N. J. Lindquist, p. 81

1. Have you ever had an experience like Mariane's where you attended a class reunion or some other kind of get-together with people from the past? Were you nervous about meeting the people—even though you once may have been very close? What happened? Why do you think we get nervous in these situations?
2. One member of a family frequently gets the job of looking after elderly relatives, and it's most often a woman. How do you feel about Mariane's leaving a career she loved in order to look after her father and his business? Did the fact that she turned out to be a good businesswoman mean she had done the wrong thing in the first place? Is it proof that obedience will be rewarded? Or is it just a lucky circumstance? Have you ever given up something you loved because of pressure from other people? Or maybe you resisted—how did that work out?
3. Many of us struggle, wondering why God allows bad things to happen to innocent people. But Romans 8:35-39 says that nothing—no matter how terrible it might seem—can separate us from God's love. Can you relate this to your own life?
4. It was a total shock to Mariane that the others wanted to be with her. Strangely enough, many people don't know what their particular gifts are because they often involve something that's easy for them. Have you ever realized that someone else was totally downplaying his or her strengths? Have you ever been surprised by having someone else validate a gift you didn't realize you had?
5. If you're part of a discussion group, consider taking time to tell one another what you admire in the other person, either aloud or in writing. We all need affirmation and building one another up. If you're alone, think about occasions when people have thanked you or told you something positive about yourself, and write those affirmations down.





“On Being Still and Knowing” by Glynis M. Belec, p. 92

1. Think about a time you felt your life was spiraling out of control. What was your initial reaction?
2. How has a sense of humour allowed you to see beyond the trials of life? When is it okay to laugh in stress-filled or sad circumstances?
3. Glynis loves Psalm 46:10, which states: “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.” Do you have a favourite Scripture verse or an inspirational saying that has helped you over a rough spot in your life? What is it? What does it mean? How has it helped you?
4. How can “God signs” change our attitude?
5. Do you have a standard response when people ask why bad things happen to good people, or are you bothered by this yourself? How have you wrestled with this issue? What conclusions have you drawn?
6. Can you think of a couple of ways the love of a family can be like the love of God?

“If Heaven Were Strawberries” by Bonnie Beldan-Thomson, p. 98

1. In what ways are future experiences limited by today’s attitudes and actions?
2. Imagine that a person who has a taste for gossip and who thrives on one-upmanship (constantly striving to outdo a competitor) is suddenly transported into a place that operates with only “heavenly” values.
 - a) What do you think these “heavenly” values would include?
 - b) What adjustments would that person need to make?
3. Discuss ways in which we can enlarge our understanding of what it means, day by day, moment by moment, to live by “heavenly” values.
4. Consider the following saying: “Work as if all depended on you; believe as if it all depended on God.” Ask God to show you one specific area in which to work with Him in development of “heavenly” values in your life.

“When You’re Understood...” by Ed Hird, p. 99

1. “When you’re understood, you can put up with almost anything.” Why do you think this quotation from the author has ended up on hundreds of romance websites?
2. How can a marriage or friendship be both rewarding and difficult at the same time?
3. Lots of people make jokes about their in-laws. What can each party do to help relationships with in-laws be life-giving instead of draining?
4. It’s easy for most of us to promise, “in sickness and in health, for richer for poorer,” when we get married. But then life hits. What are some challenges you’ve faced if you’ve been married? What difference did your attitudes make?
5. How do you feel about the idea of resisting sarcasm in your marriage, or other family or work relationships? How can we consciously develop other options to take its place?
6. What “ordinary behaviours” do you employ in your marriage or friendships that strengthen your sense of connection to each other?
7. Why do you think many couples feel hesitant to pray together? What would be a good way to experiment in this area?
8. Why are so many Christians timid to pray aloud with other Christians? Any tips or suggestions?



“True Thanksgiving” by Rosemary Flaaten, p. 106

1. Have there been circumstances in your life where you’ve had difficulty being thankful? How did you get through them?
2. Where have you seen good come out of struggles, joy out of hurt, or life spring up after death?
3. What has been the effect of coddled grief, self-pity, or anger in your life? How have these affected your relationships?
4. Where do you sense God asking you to trust His goodness right now?



“Mrs. Onley’s Funeral” by Ron Hughes, p. 110

1. Think of people in your own life who, like Mrs. Onley, exhibit a crusty exterior that hides a softer heart. What are the kinds of life circumstances that contribute to the development of that “hard shell”?
2. What kinds of things in your own life trigger a strong reflex to put up barriers to protect or distance yourself from others?
3. Do you see people like Mrs. Onley as strong because they follow their own agenda unwaveringly—or weak because they seem unable to consider the needs and feelings of others?
4. Each of us is going to have a funeral some day, although many of us avoid thinking about that fact. Take some time to ask yourself, “What are some of the specific things I’d like people to recall about me at my funeral?”
5. Can you think of any ways you’d need to change the way you live now to ensure that people will remember you the way you want to be remembered?

“Life—Interrupted” by Johanne E. Robertson, p. 119

1. Johanne’s physical condition gave her warning signs that something was not right, even before she went to the hospital. God often gives us warning signs when things are amiss in our spiritual journey. Think of a time when you chose to ignore warning signs of pending trouble. What happened? What would you do differently?
2. As a result of the stroke, Johanne sometimes has to deal with sudden and extreme worries. How do you react when sudden worry comes upon you?
3. Reading was, and continues to be, a critical part of Johanne’s recovery. How has reading played a part in your life?
4. How did Johanne come face-to-face with her misguided belief that she was immune from anything bad happening to her because she was one of God’s children? What did she learn?
5. Has your life ever felt “interrupted” by a sudden tragedy? What did you learn through the experience about God and about yourself?

“More Than One Way” by Ruth Smith Meyer, p. 129

1. With which group do you identify: the step-by-step people who need to be given small, progressive steps to complete a task, or the ones who need to understand the whole picture first before they can begin?
2. Can you give an example from your own life of a time when you felt either overwhelmed with too much information, or frustrated with too little?
3. How does each particular personality trait help or hinder one’s faith journey?



4. Has it been a struggle for you to be able to accept that God may have made you the way you are for a reason, and that there isn't something "wrong" with the way you see things? How have you overcome this?
5. In the past, have you looked down on "Doubting Thomas" (John 20:24-25), or have you felt his reaction was justified?
6. Explain what it means to you to know that Jesus is "the way and the truth and the life" (John 14:6).

"Seeing the Heart of God" by Gloria V. Phillips, p. 132

1. Each of us has experienced periods of difficulty in our lives. Have you ever felt so alone that even though you knew others shared your pain, there was no one you could talk to about it? How did you handle it?
2. Why do you think that we often try to shut out emotional pain by working harder or pretending everything is fine, instead of acknowledging our pain and turning to God or another person who might be able to help us?
3. How can we reach out to someone we know is hurting? What are some things we could do that might help?
4. Gloria states that in her experience, "Time alone does not heal; only God can bring true healing." From your own experience, do you agree or disagree?
5. What role, if any, do you think prayer plays in healing?
6. What has this story shown you about God's love?

"The Road Trip That Wasn't" by Janet Sketchley, p. 139

1. Janet came to see that God was looking out for her. The men in the truck across the road, the cell phone battery not being quite dead, her father's availability to drive out to get her and the boys... everything seemed to be working in her favour. Do you agree that this was God's provision, or do you feel it was simply coincidence or luck?
2. Have you experienced God's care in even the small things in your life? Has it strengthened your faith? Does it make it easier to face the unknown?
3. The eagle in flight became a symbolic reminder to Janet of God's care. Have you ever encountered something that reassured you in a personal way that God was thinking of you? Something you saw, heard, smelled, touched...?
4. Why do you think eagles' wings are seen as a symbol of divine protection in both the Old and New Testaments? Look up Exodus 19:4; Deuteronomy 32:11-12; Isaiah 40:31; Revelation 12:14.
5. The car breakdown Janet recounts wasn't life-threatening or headline news, but it prompted a story. From your own life, what memories come to mind of day-to-day experiences that impacted your faith? Who do you know who might benefit from hearing your story?

"Active Surrender" by Brian C. Austin, p. 147

1. It's hard not to see surrender as an act of weakness or failure. Can you describe a time in your life when surrender, however difficult it might have been, turned out to be a positive thing?
2. Can you think of instances in your own or others' lives where refusing to surrender did more damage than good to yourself or to those around you?
3. Whether or not you believe in a God somewhere out there, how do you deal with what you see as "unfairness" in your own life at times?



4. Our perception of unfairness in our own lives can work both ways. Why should so many people in North America have it so easy? In other parts of the world, parents watch their children starve, people die of sickness that could easily be cured with simple medicine, civil wars drag on endlessly and leave everyone damaged... Some people blame these evils on God; others blame it on mankind's mindboggling inhumanity towards others. How can we work through these hard issues to be able to conclude, like Brian, that God remains worthy of our complete trust?
5. If we accept the belief that God always hears our prayers, why don't we always get the answers we expect?

“Surviving with a Woman of a Certain Age” by Denise Budd Rumble, p. 151

1. Think about a time when you had a communication glitch between yourself and your husband (or a child, parent, or friend). How did you resolve it—or do the repercussions still linger?
2. Do you consciously try to keep the lines of communication humming between yourself and those you care about? How do you let them know what's going on in your life/mind/emotions?
3. For women: If you are “a woman of a certain age,” how do you feel about it all? Are you happy about the changes? Why or why not? If you aren't there yet, are you dreading it?
For men: Do you feel women get too much attention for their hormones? Is it mostly in their head, or is it really a physical issue? What things have you found you can do to help?
4. What about the “mid-life crisis” that many men go through? How is it similar to or different from menopause?
5. Later in life, menopause and mid-life crises will be over and done with. What are you looking forward to doing then?
6. Do you go through times when you feel like you just can't drag yourself through another day, whether it's physically, mentally, emotionally or spiritually? Read Psalm 139 and let your Maker's words soothe your spirit.

“Careful What You Whisper” by T. L. Wiens, p. 159

1. How careful are we when we pray those quick “arrow prayers”? Do we truly expect a reply, or do we just whisper things without thinking? How do you react to this idea—might we have fallen into the trap our society has made common of casually invoking God's name in all sorts of occasions, without even realizing what we're saying?
2. When we do actually mean our prayer, how do we stop ourselves from complaining when God's answer isn't at all what we expected?
3. Can you think of a time when God blessed you by answering your prayer in a very unexpected way (or by seemingly not answering it at all)? How does God's blessing often look?
4. Facing trials shouldn't surprise us. James 1:2, 1 Peter 1:6, and John 16:33 are just a few of the verses in the Bible that talk about this. If we are Christian believers, how does our reaction to trials affect our witness to those around us who don't know Christ?





“A Personal Makeover—Inside and Out” by Kimberley Payne, p. 167

1. Like Kimberley, were you gifted with the anti-athlete gene? What happened to help you change your anti-athletic ways? Or do you still believe you have no athletic ability?
2. Do you feel you are too old, too young, too fat, too thin, too busy, or too uncoordinated to start an exercise program? What steps can you take to prove your feelings wrong?
3. The call to care for our bodies is really about stewardship. The parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30 teaches that we are accountable and responsible to God for the way we use the resources we are given. This includes our bodies, our “temples.” Check out the verses below to see what they say:
 - 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
 - Luke 10:27
 - 2 Timothy 2:20-21
4. How can we teach our children to become physically and spiritually fit?
5. Do you agree with Kimberley’s statement? “I began to see that my faith shouldn’t be kept partitioned off from the rest of my life in a storage trunk, just pulled out for Christmas and Easter, or even for every Sunday morning. Instead, it needed to be intertwined with all the parts of my life. If I was going to follow Him as my Lord, God wanted me to include Him in everything.” Why? Why not?

“What Do I Want to Be When I Grow Up?” by Les Lindquist, p. 172

1. Think about your first job. What was it? How did you get that job? Was it your first choice or did you just want a job, any job?
2. What was your first “permanent” job? Again, did you choose it carefully or did it just more or less happen? (Yes, being a homemaker and mother counts!)
3. Some people say the best job is the one they’d do even if they were never paid. Did you ever have a dream job? Are you doing it now? If you are, how did it happen? If not, why aren’t you in it? What steps could you take to work towards making it a reality?
4. What do you feel is your greatest strength? How did you discover what it was? Have you ever asked people who know you well what they see as your greatest strength?
5. What do you feel is your greatest weakness? Have you thought of working with someone whose strength is your weakness, and vice versa, so you can work together?
6. If you had to choose between a job you would love and a job that paid much better, how would you make the decision? Which do you think you would choose?
 7. Which type of job would motivate you more?
 - a) One that allows you to choose how to use your time (exercise autonomy)?
 - b) One that allows you to use your strengths (demonstrate mastery)?
 - c) One that makes a difference in the world (fulfill a purpose)?
 8. Where do you feel God fits into the everyday life of your job? Do you separate your spiritual life from your occupation? Can you share some examples of how your spiritual life and your occupation might intersect?





“Visual Gymnastics” by Ann Brent, p. 181

1. We begin aging the day we’re born, and with each new physical stage comes new challenges. What has surprised you the most about the changes you’ve faced with each new stage of life?
2. Anger, anxiety, frustration and fear are all emotions that might be present when any sort of change is happening. Do you embrace change, or run from it? Why do you think you react in that way?
3. In this story, Ann faces her mid-life changes with humour and practical adaptation (buying reading glasses and new products to thicken hair). What other ways are there to deal with challenges? What can help us through times of change?
4. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 begins: “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven.” Read verses one to eight in this chapter and write down as many points as you can about what we can learn about change from this passage. Does this concept help in accepting the changes you face? Can you add some additional points from your own experience explaining different “times” you have faced?

“My Parents, My Friends” by A. A. Adourian, p. 183

1. What did you learn from one or both of your parents (or another family member) that you will never forget?
2. What type of relationship did you have/do you have with your own parents? Were there issues you were able to work through, or were the barriers too high or too strong for you to break them down? If the latter, is there any way you can go around the barriers now?
3. How much do you think a relationship with another person depends on us, and how much does it depend on the other person?
4. Do you have any family stories that you love to repeat? Share one or two with the group now.
5. If you’ve experienced the death of a close family member, how have you tried to stay close to the rest of your family following that loss? What has worked and what hasn’t? What could be better? Can you think of something you could do to improve the situation?
6. How would you describe your relationship with your Heavenly Father? How did your relationship with your own father help or hinder your relationship with God? (Read John 17 to see how Jesus described His relationship with God.)
7. The theme of hands recurred throughout this chapter. Look at your own hands. How will they be remembered? How do you want them to be remembered?

“My Love Ladder” by Heidi McLaughlin, p. 193

1. What is one treasure you bring out each Christmas season that evokes feelings, smells and reminiscences of a poignant memory?
2. What’s one way you can change the way you celebrate Christmas so that it becomes more significant and memorable?
3. The Love Ladder became a focal point of conversation for Heidi’s new blended family. It gave them permission to be authentic about grief. If you are part of a blended family, or if your family has experienced another form of loss or tragedy, how do you express your pain and find healing for your disappointments, rejections and frustration?
4. Christmas can be a very upsetting time for people who’ve experienced pain in the previous year or during another holiday season. If you are one of these people, what is one thing that has helped you get through the clutter of the holiday expectations? What is one thing a friend or family member could do to help?



5. The Love Ladder became a tangible reminder of how God restored things in Heidi's life. What is there in your life that you'd like to have God restore?
6. "My Love Ladder" has become a story that Heidi has shared many times and God has used to bring hope into other people's lives. What story do you have that can direct someone back to loving our God who cares about every detail of our lives?

"A Parable of Perception" by Heather McGillivray, p. 196

1. Have you ever felt hopeless about a character trait you couldn't change in yourself? In someone else?
2. Is the old saying, "You've made your bed, now lie in it," scriptural? Does God abandon us when we wander off where we shouldn't?
3. It's easy to accept others—until we find something about them that is flawed. Think of a relationship you may have abandoned because you discovered something about that person you found hard to accept. Are you willing to have that relationship restored? Can you pray for God to restore this person back into your life?
4. In this story, the shark feels the minnow's pain because he allowed himself to get close to her. Can you think of a time in your life when you shared the pain or heartache of someone close to you? Have you ever thought about avoiding close relationships because of the potential pain?
5. Both the minnow and shark learned that they really had heard an answer to prayer. Think of a time when you received an answer to a specific prayer. Were you sure at the time that God really was speaking to you? Was there a period of doubting?
6. Things rarely turn out the way we think they will. But even sad endings are beautiful in God's hands. Can you think of a sad situation God has used for good in your life?

"The Best Recipe Around" by Rosemary Flaaten, p. 203

1. Sometimes we adopt the values from our childhood, and other times we reject them, but we are all influenced by them. Rosemary picked up the positive value of thrift and simplicity, and added to that value through her travels to Third World countries where people have very little. Can you relate to her values and how they influenced her? Do you agree that thriftiness and simplicity might not always be the ideal?
2. Can you think of a time when you were the recipient of what Rosemary calls "extravagant" love? What effect did it have on you? Were you able to accept it in the spirit in which it was given, or did you feel a strong urge to either refuse it or repay it?
3. In Mark 12: 41-44 and Luke 21:1-4, Jesus said that the widow who gave a small amount gave more than the rich people who gave more. The difference was that the widow gave all she had, while the rich people gave much larger amounts, but didn't give anything that impacted them. Does this mean that what we do for others needs to have a personal cost and not be separate from who we are? How does the idea of extravagant love fit in with this verse?
4. Loving extravagantly means doing things we may not want to do. Our pride, envy, or lack of forgiveness can easily hold us back from giving everything we could give. Can you think of a situation in your life where you were able to show extravagant love, and it made a difference? Or is there a situation where you know you should show extravagant love, but it's a struggle?
5. Brainstorm, alone or with the group, what it might look like for you to dump extravagant humility, forgiveness, or celebration into one of your relationships that needs some help.





“Bannock and Sweet Tea” by M. D. Meyer, p. 207

1. Even though your life is likely quite different from Gracie’s, the author, writing in first person, hopes that you, the reader, will in some way experience Gracie’s story along with her. Can you think of one or two ways your life story is similar to Gracie’s, or some point of connection? Were you able to feel her pain and her feeling of being powerless?
2. Some Canadians are not familiar with our shared history of residential schools and the “sixties scoop.” Is there something you learned from this piece (and from the accompanying footnotes) that you didn’t know before?
3. What do you think of the way that Tamara got to know Gracie? Could you see yourself doing something like this?
4. Even after Gracie accepts the forgiveness and love of Jesus, she talks about living her life “in a boxing ring,” and the unrelenting pain that she eventually learns to walk through rather than try to avoid. Gracie also talks about the “God of all comfort” and her “coach in the corner.” How do you reconcile these two seemingly opposing views of her life? Have you ever felt as if you were living in a boxing ring with God encouraging you to keep going? If so, does it get easier?
5. Gracie talks about hope for the future, hope for the next generation. Do you feel hopeful for the next generation, or do you see new problems on the horizon?

“Dancing in the Kitchen” by Marcia Lee Laycock, p. 217

1. As people get older, they often change due to medical issues. And those changes are often more noticeable when family members don’t see each other often. Have you had any experience coping with medical issues in aging family members? If so, could you share a couple of things that helped you? Or maybe a few things you wish you’d known?
2. Marcia found a connection that spanned the distance between her young daughters and her mother—their love of dance. It’s easy to forget or ignore people’s talents as they get older—especially if they can no longer use those talents. Can you think of ways families or groups could intentionally affirm and validate people as they age?
3. How important is it that children are taught about their grandparents and their heritage? Any ideas as to how best to do that?
4. How valuable are stories and pictures when trying to help children see older people as being similar to them? Any ideas as to creative ways to help children understand the similarities and differences?

“O Canada” by Marguerite Cummings, p. 219

1. In the opening paragraphs, Marguerite describes how a more experienced mother offered help and friendship by inviting her to a monthly coffee gathering. At the end of the story, things have gone full circle, and, using the experience that she has gained, Marguerite is able to help a family new to Canada. Have you ever found yourself in a similar situation, either as the giver or as the receiver of help in a new circumstance? How did you feel?
2. Are you now or have you been part of a school community, whether through your own children or perhaps through some children you care about? If so, what is/was your involvement? Is/was there a group praying for that school community? Please share your experience.
3. Can you think of two or three key ingredients for any well-functioning prayer group, whether connected to a school or not?



4. In the story, Marguerite's prayer group struggles somewhat with discipline, for example with regards to "chatting" instead of praying. What advice would you give in such a situation?
5. In each of the three incidents described in the story, it seems as if God is arranging a "divine appointment" in answer to prayer. Have you ever experienced similar incidents? Please describe what happened in one incident if you feel comfortable to do so.
6. If you were considering starting a school-related prayer group but didn't know anyone else with whom to pray, how could this story encourage you?

Note: for more advice on starting a school-related prayer group, please visit <http://margueritec.wordpress.com>.

"Cries for Keyon" by Vilma Blenman, p. 225

1. This poem features thoughts from various members of a community. Which monologue or character in the poem speaks to you most strongly? Why?
2. Is there a speaker or perspective that you strongly disagree with? Why?
3. What role can the church community play in stemming the tide of young Black males being lost to gun violence?
4. Debate the issue: What are the causes for gun violence in the Black community? What do you think is the cure? Whose "fault" and whose "responsibility" is it to do something about the violence?
5. If you find it difficult to relate directly to this poem, can you think of a similar situation in your own community where a specific group of people seems to be having more difficulties than other groups? What could be done to help this group?

"Love in the Ice and Snow" by Bonnie Beldan-Thomson, p. 229

1. Alzheimer's and other types of dementia have impacted many families. Have you been impacted by some form of dementia within your own circles?
2. In the story, the main character Karen took comfort in reciting The Prayer of the Heart (see page 230 in the print book). Do you have a prayer habit that you rely on in difficult times? Would you share the prayer with the group?
3. Can you recall one time when you experienced comfort from the Lord? How were you sustained?
4. Music often stays with people after other memories have gone. What are some of the songs or hymns that are imprinted into your soul?
5. What are the implications, day by day, of living as Jesus' friend?
6. What advantages and disadvantages do you see in putting children into contact with individuals who have life-altering or life-threatening illnesses?
7. Have there been times when you've learned about God's love from other people? Consider ways by which you can be a means of grace in the lives of others. Prayerfully commit to moving with God in this way.





“The Wheels On the Bus Go ‘Round” by Angelina Fast-Vlaar, p. 238

1. Does this poem speak to you personally? What meaning does it have for you?
2. What is the author’s flashback in the lines “A lump forms in my throat as I hear / the echo of words spoken long ago”?
3. From what this poem implies, how well do you think the author is coping? How is her husband coping?
4. What does the author convey by repeating the poem’s title as the last line?
5. What might we do as families, churches, or communities to better help individuals who are coping with this type of loss and heartbreak?

“Margie and Me” by Judi Peers, p. 239

1. In this story, Judi heard God whispering a person’s name, “Margie Oswald,” and later the words “foam flowers.” God’s whispers often indicate the need for action on our part. Can you recall a time in your life when you heard a “God whisper”? Did you act on it or ignore it? What was the result?
2. In Ephesians 4:16, Paul says that God lives in all of us and uses all of us. Yet many Christians feel unworthy of being used by God. And others feel ignored by the church. Why do you think we seem to value some gifts and talents (e.g., leadership, teaching) more than others? How can we address this issue so that every person is actually able to contribute?
3. Do you feel that you play a vital role in God’s eyes? If not, why not?
4. Read Matthew 25:40, the passage quoted at the end of the story. What concrete steps can you take this week to put these words of Christ into action?

“When Grown Men Cry” by Brian C. Austin, p. 244

1. When Brian was a child (50 years ago), the phrase “big boys don’t cry” was very common. Is that mentality still prevalent?
2. What is it about crying that is so difficult for men in particular? Do you think it is increasingly difficult for women as well?
3. Have you ever noticed, perhaps been frustrated, embarrassed or offended when men have laughed at inappropriate times? How would you respond to the statement: “They’re not laughing. They’re crying in the only way they know how”?
4. Why do we want so badly to have something profound to say when someone is grieving? What do you think is most helpful to people?
5. Why do we experience the death of someone young with so much more intensity than when an elderly loved one dies? Should there be a difference?
6. Can you describe a time when you experienced grief and joy at the same time? How did you process everything?
7. Why do you think we tend to feel guilty if we experience and express joy in the midst of grief?





“The Bathroom and the Neighbours’ Cat” by Bill Bonikowsky, p. 246

1. Why did Bill vigorously proceed with the de-construction phase of his bathroom project late into the night when it should have been obvious that he could achieve nothing significant in his renovation before Joy’s arrival the next morning?
2. What is it about a man’s makeup that would make him so eager to please his wife and then—when it becomes obvious that his attempt to please is going to fall short—so fearful?
3. What words of advice would you offer to (1) Bill? (2) Joy?
4. Are there some things that shouldn’t be done or given as surprises? Can you share any of your own positive or negative experiences when giving or receiving surprises?
5. Can you think of a time when you were angry with your spouse or a close friend over something he/she did when, in retrospect, you realize he/she had been attempting to do something that would please you? How might you have handled the situation better?

“Thou Shalt Have No Gods But Me” by Paul M. Beckingham, p. 253

1. Think about how people relate to pets they love. While God is certainly not a pet, consider the idea of showing your love for Him the way you might to a beloved pet. How can you be as much a lover of God as your dog or cat thinks you are of pets?
2. What aspects of your relationship with God seem to work best, and how can you do more of that?
3. “Wow! I just came alive!” When was the last time you said that? Where was God in that experience for you?
4. God “richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment” (1 Timothy 6:17). But maybe you’ve settled for less than God’s best. Perhaps you’re taking solace in God’s creation more than in the Lover of your Soul. Spend a quiet moment checking out your inventory of personal comforts. What do you need to feel good? Identify those areas where you might have accepted less than God’s best for you. Gently give those areas back to God. Now open your heart to receive more of what God has for you—His love and forgiveness, comfort and joy.
5. Early believers in the Church of Rome “exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised” (Romans 1:25). Popular addictions go beyond sex and drugs, drink and gambling, to include more “respectable” toxins: coffee, work, shopping, church, TV, sports, hobbies, travel, entertainment. Some are harmless in themselves. But if they crowd out your family, personal values and God, you start to feel the prison bars closing in. Where are the shrinking places for you today? How will you make space for God, family and self-care today?

“What’s Next?” by Jayne E. Self, p. 258

1. When children grow up and leave home, parents are ushered into a new phase in their lives. The associated lifestyle changes can be challenging. What did the main character do ahead of time to prepare for “Empty Nest Syndrome”? How did her preparations help her cope with the emotional upheaval?
2. Why do you think Dave seemed to handle the change in their lives without missing a beat?
3. Why was it important for the main character to check her physical health?
4. The author involved her husband in her search for new purpose, but didn’t just accept his advice. How did she balance his input with her own ideas, hopes and dreams? Why do you think she made the final choice she did?
5. If you’ve already faced an “empty nest,” what advice would you give others who are about to experience this? If you’re yet to experience an “empty nest,” what kinds of things would you like to know before you enter this phase?



6. Is there anything churches or communities could do to help parents prepare for this inevitable time? (See Ecclesiastes 3:1)

“Forgiven” by Angelina Fast-Vlaar, p. 269

1. What does the word “forgiveness” mean to you, in the context of some of your own life experiences?
2. How have you handled family-related, church-related, or work-related hurt?
3. How difficult is it to forgive someone who’s hurt you? Is it easier to forgive someone who asks for forgiveness than someone who may not even acknowledge he or she did anything to hurt you?
4. In what ways can you relate to Susan’s struggle to forgive Ken amid the deeper issues that were affecting her feelings?
5. Discuss the role Rob played in helping Susan reach a place of forgiveness. Can you share a time someone helped you?

“Praise from a Cantankerous Soul” by David Kitz, p. 281

1. Perhaps the well-known adage, “Prayer changes things,” should be joined by its lesser-known cousin, “Praise changes things.” Why do you think an attitude of praise worked to change things in the real-life account you read in this chapter?
2. James said, “Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds” (James 1:2). Yet, what are the first words to come out of our mouths when something bad happens? Do you think if we changed our reactions, we might also change the eventual results?
3. Praise changes our point of view. God’s perspective on the events in our life is completely different from our own because He sees the beginning and the end—He has the full picture. When we focus on Him, we begin to see things from a different perspective. Can you recall an occasion when you gained God’s perspective in a time of tragedy or loss?
4. Psalm 103 is quoted in the story. Reread it—better yet, memorize it. If you don’t have a foundation of praise in your life, now might be a good time to start. It will help you weather many a storm.
5. To start your day tomorrow, read Psalm 100. Then, let your praise to God flow like a river. See if it changes your day.

“Charlie” by Adele Simmons, p. 287

1. Charlie was disgruntled when the author came to visit him. Can you think of a time when religious jargon and well-intentioned platitudes insulted you and made you feel worse?
2. The author chose to sing an earthy song she thought Charlie would relate to in order to build a relationship with him. Can you think of a time when you felt God telling you to do something you knew other people might question? What happened?
3. Shortly before Jesus was betrayed and crucified, he prayed to His Father: “My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world” (John 17:15-18). The author used songs and references that some would consider “worldly” to communicate with Charlie. What do you think it means when Jesus says that His followers should not be “of the world, even as I am not of it”? In this same verse, Jesus also sends His followers into the world and asks us to serve this world. How do you think you can both serve the world, and not be of the world?



4. Saint Francis of Assisi is credited with the saying, “Preach the gospel at all times. If necessary, use words.” Can you think of any areas of your life that have the potential to woo others to faith in unthreatening ways?

“Soulmates” by Wendy Elaine Nelles, p. 292

1. The subjects of this profile, Don and Nancy Krain, asked the writer, “But why would anyone want to read our story? We’re just ordinary people.” What did you find intriguing or unusual about the Krains’ story?
2. Most Christian testimonies that get published retell dramatic, life-and-death experiences, or portray conversions to Christ from sensational, sin-filled former lives. What do you think about those kinds of stories? Do you think it’s possible we can learn just as much from the stories of “ordinary people” like the Krains?
3. The Krains say that their marriage is stronger, and they are happier, despite the fact that their lives have turned out completely different from what they had planned. Why do you think this is? Have you had similar experiences in your own life?
4. In the Krains’ experience, many Christians know little about the Jewish roots of the Christian faith. Do you think knowing about the Jewish faith is important? Have you ever tried to learn more? If so, what did you find interesting? If not, would you consider it now?
5. Many friends, both Christian and Jewish, warned the Krains not to take university courses in religious studies, fearing that they would “lose their faith.” Do you agree or disagree with this opinion? What are the pros and cons of taking academic courses in religious studies?

“A Glimpse of Heaven” by Donna Fawcett, p. 302

1. Donna’s mother chose to keep her cancer diagnosis in the background for 15 years, partly so her family wouldn’t worry and partly so people wouldn’t “coddle” her. What do you think about her decision?
2. We tend to think of dying as a terribly sad experience, but in spite of the pain she was in, Donna’s mother had no fear and no doubt where she was going and that she’d see them again. How do you feel about her desire to enjoy every second of the time she had left with her family rather than to mourn? (See 2 Corinthians 5:4.)
3. Can you relate to Donna’s mother’s assurance that she was going to Heaven, or are you surprised by her strong faith in God and her confidence that Heaven was her destination?
4. Donna believes that the dream she had was a gift from God. Do you think that’s possible? Can a dream be a real experience from God? Why or why not?
5. Have you ever had a dream or another experience in which you felt God was speaking to you, or allowing you to see something beyond the norm? If so, how did it affect you?

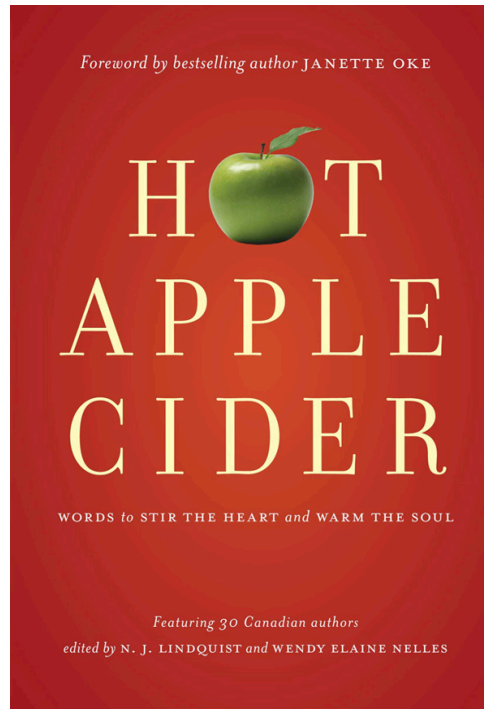
“Morning Glory” by Judi Peers, p. 307

1. Each new day opens before us like a flower, full of potential for glorifying our Creator. How does seeking God’s face early each morning help us accomplish this? See Psalm 63:1-2 and Isaiah 26:9.
2. What are some things that might keep us from seeking God’s face each morning?
3. According to Colossians 3:12-14, how are we to clothe ourselves each morning?
4. Meditate upon the following scriptures: Ephesians 5:1, 2 Corinthians 3:17-18, Colossians 1:24-27. What is the great mystery that enables us to share and reflect God’s glory?





If you've enjoyed *A Second Cup of Hot Apple Cider*, you'll want to read the first book in the series, *Hot Apple Cider: Words to Stir the Heart and Warm the Soul*, which contains 44 more stories of life, faith, and hope.



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