

WITH THIS PLEDGE

Reading Guide Discussion Questions

Spoiler Alert: Questions contain key plot points to the story.



1. Before reading *With This Pledge*, had you heard about Carnton in Franklin, Tennessee? Were you familiar with the Battle of Franklin and with the history of the final months of the Civil War?
2. Did you feel closer to Lizzie or to Roland in the novel? Which of them did you identify with most? Are you from the North or the South? How do you think your own personal heritage shaped your perspective as you read the novel?
3. Lizzie felt powerless to change her world due to the social mores and restrictions placed on women during the 19th century. Have you ever experienced the brunt of such restrictions? If yes, how did you meet those challenges? Did your situation change?
4. Roland Jones was a slaveowner in real life and held extensive properties in Yalobusha, Mississippi. How did knowing this about him shape your view of him and the opinions he so staunchly held?
5. Though we don't know the real name of the older black woman who served as cook to the McGavocks, we do know that she was "left behind" when the rest of the slaves were moved South during the war. What are your thoughts about Tempy's character? And if you could write the rest of her story, what would it be? (Stay tuned... there's more for Tempy in *Colors of Truth* (book 2) and in book 3!)
6. As the battle unfolded that night and you ascended the stairs with Lizzie after the surgeon requested her assistance, what thoughts were going through your mind? How would you have responded in her place? Would you have been able to do what she did in the story?
7. Roland and Sister Catherine share a conversation in Ch 18 that centers around faith, believing, and temptation. Did you relate to what they were saying? Sister Catherine comments, "Sometimes life on this side of the veil is far more difficult than I think it

should be. Especially for those of us who belong to God. But then again, his promises do not eliminate suffering." Do you agree or disagree? Why?

8. Ch 20, Lizzie is faced with the choice of whether or not to be completely honest with Towny. Can you relate to Lizzie's motivation behind saying yes to Towny? Does her motivation translate in any way to today's culture? If yes, how?
9. We're introduced to Preacher E.M. Bounds in this story. Bounds really did accompany the Army of Tennessee into battle as portrayed in the novel. One of his favorite sayings was "Prayers are deathless. They outlive the lives of those who utter them." Do you agree or disagree? Has your life been changed because someone prayed faithfully for you? Have you seen an answer to faithful prayer in your own life? Please share.
10. In Ch 30, Roland confronts Lizzie about her stance on slavery. What was the motivation behind his timing? Can you relate to Lizzie's reasons for the McGavocks not being aware of her beliefs? Do you think you would have had the courage to stand against opposing views on slavery during that time? What difficult choices have you made in your life in relation to standing for what you know is right?
11. In Ch 38, Roland struggles to reconcile the fact that two men he greatly admired and who largely shaped his faith might have been immoral men. What faith legacy are you leaving to your family? Will it stand the test of time?
12. Did you enjoy The Christmas Carol being woven into the story? Had you read that story before? What parallels did you see between Scrooge's life and Roland's? What lessons can we learn that we can apply to our daily lives?
13. In the epilogue, Lizzie writes a letter that's been "being written" inside her for a very long time. Who is the letter to? And have you ever written a letter like that to someone who's already passed? Do you believe those who've gone on before us can see back to this earthly realm? Can you give Biblical evidence (or supposition) for this?

**Check <https://tameraalexander.com>
for NOVEL RECIPES (recipes included in Tamera's novels)
under the BONUS FEATURES tab.**

ADDITIONAL NOTES
TO SHARE WITH BOOK CLUB