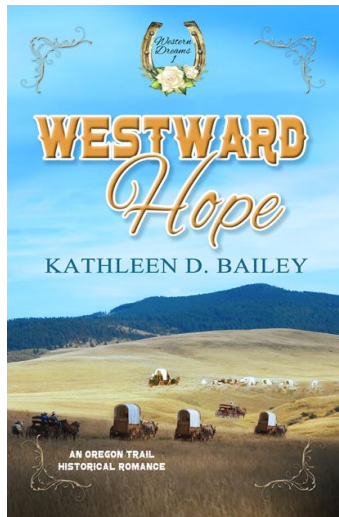


Discussion Questions



WESTWARD HOPE

Western Dreams #1

Author: Kathleen D. Bailey

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About the Book

Why him? Why here? Why now?

Caroline Pierce O'Leary expects to work hard to earn her passage to the Oregon Country. She doesn't expect to find that the wagon train scout is a man with whom she shares a troubled past. Though Caroline is a Christian now, thanks to her late husband, she finds forgiving Michael to be the hardest part of her journey, harder even than the Trail.

Michael Moriarty thought he'd left his past behind in "green and hurting Ireland." Seeing Caroline on his wagon train, brings his past to the forefront. With a price on his head, he doesn't want her to get hurt, but he can't deny what they were...and could still be.

Michael once betrayed Caroline in the worst possible way. Can she trust him to get her across the Oregon Trail? Can he trust himself to accept her forgiveness and God's?

TITLE: Westward Hope
Discussion:

Question 1: If you were an impoverished young widow, would you take to the trail as Caroline did? Why or why not?

Answer 1: subjective

Question 2: What part of the Trail experience would you find the most daunting?

Answer 2: subjective

Question 3: What part of the Trail experience would you find most appealing?

Answer 3: subjective

Question 4: What's a modern-day equivalent to the Trail?

Answer 4: Space travel; missions work to untouched regions

Question 5: Have you ever had trouble forgiving someone, as Caroline did Michael? What did you do?

Answer 5: subjective

Question 6: Why did Caroline compare Daniel's love to that of Christ?

Answer 6: Because Dan only wanted the best for her, and was willing to take on another man's woman and child.

Question 7: Why was Michael bitter against the church? How did he overcome it?

Answer 7: He was bitter, in part, because the Church didn't do anything to help him and his family in their struggle against the English. He overcame this when he remembered Daniel's sacrificial love and saw the same kind of love being expressed by Caroline.

Question 8: Contrast the male missionary's faith with Ben and Martha's.

Answer 8: The missionary only cared about "converting" the Indians. Ben and Martha lived their faith.

Question 9: Name one way God protected Caroline on the journey.

Answer 9 He saved her from the cholera.

Question 10:

Answer 10: Michael was willing to give up his life in Ireland to save his sister and take the blame. Don't know how else he could have handled it. We learn in the second book that Oona did not want to go into the convent.

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