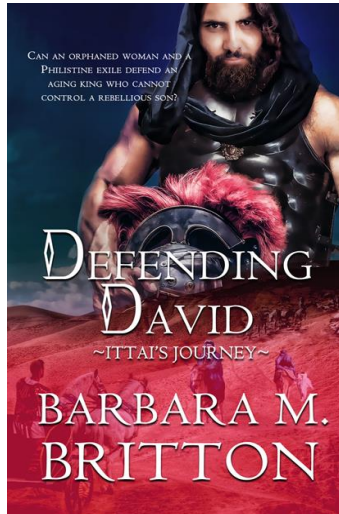


## Discussion Questions

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### **DEFENDING DAVID**

Tribes of Israel

Author: Barbara M. Britton

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### **About the Book**

When a quiet journey to Jerusalem turns tragic, newly orphaned Rimona must flee a kinsman set on selling her as a slave. Racing into the rocky hills outside of Hebron, Rimona is rescued by a Philistine commander journeying to Jerusalem with six-hundred warriors.

Exiled commander, Ittai the Gittite, is seeking refuge in the City of David. Protecting a frantic Hebrew woman is not in his leadership plan. Although, having a nobleman's niece in his caravan might prove useful for finding shelter in a foreign land.

Rimona and Ittai arrive in Jerusalem on the eve of a rebellion. In the chaos of an heir's betrayal, will they be separated forever, or can they defend King David and help the aging monarch control his rebellious son?

TITLE: Defending David

Discussion:

Question 1: Ittai and Rimona have their lives turned upside down in this story. Ittai is exiled from his homeland while Rimona relocates due to the death of her mother. Have you experienced a time in your life where you experienced a lot of change? How did you handle the changes? How did Rimona and Ittai deal with life's upheaval?

Answer 1: In the novel you will see Ittai and Rimona relying on their faith in God. They prayed to God for protection, guidance, help and wisdom. They also had people of faith around them to give them encouragement.

Question 2: Rimona has very few possessions. One of her prized possessions is an earring with three emeralds. The earring's design reminds Rimona of her parents. Do you have a special item in your life that contains a hidden meaning? Would you like to share about her special possession?

Answer 2: Answers will vary. My husband has a family Bible that has been passed down in his family. The Bible contains the names of relatives and has helped my husband discover his heritage. I have a necklace that was given to me by an elderly friend when I attended college. Every time I wear the necklace, I think of Edna.

Question 3: Many Christians do not know about Ittai the Gittite and his relationship with King David. Ittai is a loyal friend to King David when chaos abounds in the kingdom, and Ittai becomes a leader in David's army. Did you know about Ittai before reading this book? What friendship qualities did you admire in Ittai? Does he remind you of other Bible characters?

Answer 3: Some people may see a similarity between Ittai's loyalty to David and Ruth's loyalty to her mother-in-law, Naomi, in the book of Ruth 1:15-18. Do you see similarities? What other brave Bible characters can you find? (Gideon, Abigail, Abraham?)

Question 4: Absalom won the hearts of the Israelites by settling their disputes (II Samuel 15:1-6). Why do you think Absalom rebelled instead of waiting to rule once his father died? Were you sad when Absalom died? Why or why not? Could you relate to David's grief?

Answer 4: Losing a child is always difficult. David mourned the loss of his son. Joab made sure his cousin perished and did not mourn the loss.

Question 5: Did it surprise you that the man who had slain tens of thousands struggles with his son's rebellion and appears weak--being emotional over his son's betrayal? What emotions did you see in David that were new to you? What stories about David did you know about before reading "Defending David."

Answer 5: David killed a bear and a lion as a shepherd (I Samuel 17:34-36). He killed Goliath with a sling stone (I Samuel 17:50). He was victorious against the Philistines (one example: I Samuel 23:1-5) and other countries in battle.

Question 6: David wrote many psalms and songs of praise to God. Scholars believe David wrote over 70 psalms. What is one of your favorites?

Answer 6: Ittai and Lana recite Psalm 121 in the music room. It is one of my favorites. God, the Creator of the universe, watches over us. What comfort we have as Christians.

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