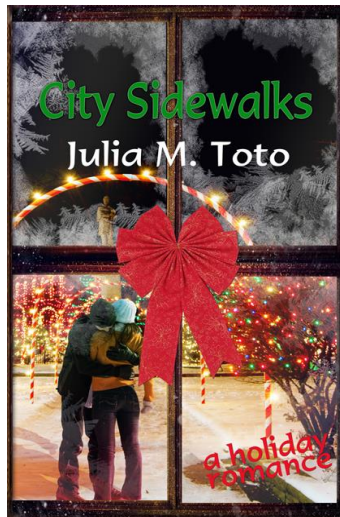


## Discussion Questions

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### **CITY SIDEWALKS**

Christmas Extravaganza 2013

Author: Julia M. Toto

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### **About the Book**

Successful marketing director and single mother Christina King knows how to put out fires. But when a critical deadline collides with her rambunctious twins' Christmas break, Christina calls 911. Little does she know things are about to get even hotter.

With Christmas just around the corner, former firefighter Rudy Gallagher considers his temporary position as lifestyle manager a steppingstone toward entrepreneurship. He doesn't count on his new client being a woman who once ditched him, leaving him with unanswered questions. He needs the job. Can he keep it "strictly business"?

Christina guards her heart and tries to avoid explanations, but when she encounters a ghost of Christmas past at a homeless shelter, secrets begin to unfold. As their worldviews clash, Rudy is hot under the collar, and Christina struggles to embrace the true meaning of Christmas.

TITLE: City Sidewalks  
Discussion:

Question 1: Was Christina's decision to hire Rudy based on selfish motivation? Yet it was all part of God's bigger plan. God does not want us to be selfish, but He knows that we sometimes are. Is there a time in your life God seems to have used your selfishness to bring about His bigger blessing?

Answer 1: Romans 8:28

Question 2: Rudy had never stopped loving Christina. Yet he was a loving faithful husband to Jasmine while she was alive. Do you believe it's possible for a person to love two people, while choosing to be faithful and dedicated to one? Which demonstrates a greater love?

Answer 2: Proverbs 5:15-18

Question 3: Christina worked hard to rise above the poverty in which she'd been raised. Thus, her lack of sympathy toward those who chose to pan handle rather than work. As a Christian, how do you feel when you pass people on the street asking for money while smoking cigarettes? As Christians, should we put conditions on our giving?

Answer 3: Ephesians 4:28

Question 4: Rudy assumed that Christina's indifference to the street people was the result of her being born with a silver spoon in her mouth. He judged her as harshly as she had judged others. Are there prejudices against wealthy people in our society today?

Answer 4: John 7:24

Question 5: A surprising number of schoolchildren come from families who have no permanent residence. Regardless of circumstances, children are not to blame. How can the Church reach out to these children and help them receive the kind of education, worth ethic, and hope necessary to break the cycle of poverty?

Answer 5: Isaiah 58:10

Question 6: Gertie had never lied about her friendship with Christina's father, but she didn't tell Christina the whole truth either. Is this a sin of omission? Or was she being prudent and wise?

Answer 6: Proverbs 4:24-26

Question 7: Even though she had set it as a career goal, Christina realized that walking in her boss's shoes was not as covetous as she'd once believed. Have you ever set goals, only to realize they were not as desirable as you'd once believed?

Answer 7: Matthew 6:33

Question 8: Christina needed to protect her children from the pain and heartache of her own childhood, but by over compensating, sheâ€™d isolated and indulged them. Has your own fear ever prevented you from embracing opportunities to teach your children about Godâ€™s love, mercy, and justice outside the church walls?

Answer 8: Micah 6:8

Question 9: Rudy had a servantâ€™s heart. He wasnâ€™t perfect and his life had not been without pain and heartache. Yet he allowed God to use him in many ways, and many places. Have you ever missed an opportunity to serve because you werenâ€™t a â€œperfectâ€• Christian yet?

Answer 9 Exodus 6:10-13

Question 10: Christina reconciled with her father right before he passed, and felt sheâ€™d done it too late. Rudy said she was right on time. Is it ever too late to forgive someone, and if so when? Is there someone you need to forgive today?

Answer 10: Colossians 3:13

