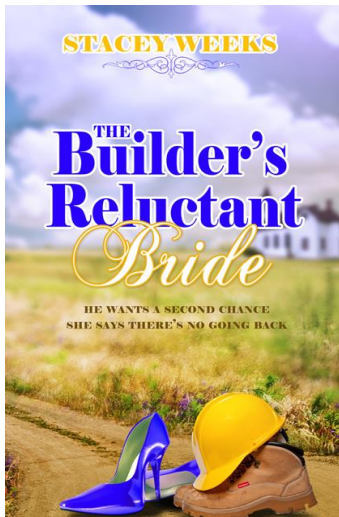


Discussion Questions



THE BUILDER'S RELUCTANT BRIDE

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About the Book

He wants a second chance. She says there's no going back.

Ten years ago, a public disgrace sent Jenna Jenkins running from her hometown. Now, the success of her professional future hinges on joining her hometown church restoration project. Her partner and team leader on the job is William Scott—expert renovator, volunteer fireman, and the ex-flame who ruined her life.

William is in crisis, facing the tightening screws of personal and professional failure. When the interior designer on the church renovation project turns out to be Jenna Jenkins, William sees it as a chance to make amends. But Jenna wants nothing to do with him.

How much will William sacrifice to redeem his mistakes and prove his love?

Can Jenna protect her heart this time or will William break her for good?

TITLE: The Builder's Reluctant Bride

Discussion:

Question 1: What choices did Jenna make that led her to this place in her life?

Answer 1: She ran from her humiliation instead of dealing with her feelings. She turned away from God when life failed to meet her expectations. She rushed into marriage without seeking God's leading or blessing.

Question 2: How might she have chosen differently?

Answer 2: She could have sought God's comfort and His wisdom. She could have allowed William to explain himself. She could have taken longer to get to know her husband before marriage and prayerfully considered his proposal seeking wisdom and counsel from trusted family.

Question 3: Much forgiveness is extended in this story. List the examples. How does Jenna's early refusal to forgive hurt Jenna?

Answer 3: God forgave William, Jenna, and Linda when they repented of their actions. Jenna eventually forgave William and Linda for their actions against her, and William for withholding the details of the renovation show. She forgave her brother for tricking her into working with William. William forgives Jenna for her choices on the worksite that affect him. Jenna forgives Linda for the haircutting disaster.

Question 4: Is our ability to forgive contingent on the offender being repentant?

Answer 4: God commands us to forgive and therefore gives us everything we need to obey the command whether they are repentant or not.

Question 5: Jenna is afraid to be vulnerable again. What changes her?

Answer 5: When Jenna realizes that God never abandoned her during her difficult years, but used them to grow and stretch her. She finds rest in the truth that only God can meet our deepest needs. And because God can be fully trusted, she can risk her heart.

Question 6: Jenna and William both suffer great loss in life and it changes them. William turns toward God in his loss, and Jenna turns away from God. How do their opposite coping skills affect the rest of their lives?

Answer 6: William finds comfort in the sovereignty of God and because his faith doesn't hinge on God delivering answers he prefers, he is able to move past the loss. Jenna turned from God because He didn't answer her prayers the way she desired. She mistakenly believed that meant He didn't care.

Question 7: What obstacle was the hardest for William and Jenna to overcome?

Answer 7: They both needed to surrender their dependance on their own ability and trust that God is their provider.

Question 8: William carries much guilt. How does his father help him understand that Jenna's adult decisions are not William's responsibility?

Answer 8: He reminds William that although he played a role in Jenna's hurts, each person is accountable to God for how they respond to the injustices of life. William is responsible for the pain he caused, but Jenna is responsible for her response.

Question 9: When does William stop depending on his own strength and fully surrender to God's plan and lean into God's strength? How does that surrender change his future?

Answer 9 When William's dad arranges help to fix the church after it flooded, William learned that he wasn't alone. William finally humbled himself, accepted the help, and recognized it as God's provision. This new level of humility allowed him to place Jenna's health into God's hand and trust that God will provide everything they need to meet the challenges ahead.

Question 10: How does William show Jenna his faith in God is genuine? How do you show others your faith in God is genuine?

Answer 10: Genuine faith lives out confession, repentance and seeking restoration in broken relationships. William did everything he could to express his repentance. Then, he patiently waited for Jenna to observe the changes his professed faith has made in his life. He acted, spoke, and worked with honour.

