

JourneyForth Discussion Questions

Capturing Jasmina

by Kimberly Rae

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Section 1

Prologue & Chapters 1–6

1. Do you think Jasmina's father was deceived or sold his children willingly? Explain.
2. Would a method like the one used to traffick Jasmina and Samir work in your neighborhood? Do you think traffickers use different methods for different places?
3. In Jasmina's mind, based on her upbringing, why are girls valued less than boys in her culture?
4. How does your culture see the value of girls vs. boys? What do you think that value is based upon?
5. Jasmina wants to find her parents and ask them why they sold her. Is there something you wish you could ask your parents but haven't? What has held you back?
6. Jasmina thinks the truth enslaves. Do you think truth enslaves people, sets them free, or both? Why?
7. Jasmina thinks everyone in America is rich. Is that true? After reading the book, has your definition of rich and poor changed?
8. Which do you think would be the hardest thing about living in Jasmina's world?
 - a. Not being able to go to school
 - b. Having to do chores while your brother played
 - c. Living in a bamboo hut
 - d. Not having a shower, running water, or electricity
9. Were you surprised to learn that some clothes sold in America come from sweatshops overseas? What do you think working in a sweatshop is like?
10. If you were forced to live in a brick building with no windows for three years, what are some of the things you would miss most and why?

Section 2

Chapters 7–14

1. Do you think living on the streets would be more dangerous in India or in the United States? Why? What are some of the dangers one might encounter on the streets in the United States?

2. Where were most of your clothes made? (Check the labels to find out.) Have you ever thought about the people who made them? What do you think their lives are like compared to yours? Better? Worse?
3. Would you have trusted the quarry owner's offer of work? Why or why not?
4. Jasmina wonders if the gods are punishing her for something she did in a past life. What would you tell her about why there are hard things in life, like evil?
5. It is a terrible thing that some people are willing to sell and buy other people. Why do you think they do this? How do you think God feels about it?
6. Can you think of a time in the Bible where a person was sold? Was it because God didn't care? What happened to that person? (See Genesis 50:20.)
7. Do you think you would keep trying to escape like Jasmina? Why or why not?
8. Jasmina would not trust the woman who helped her. Is that understandable? Do you think sometimes people are hurt by life and have little reason to trust others? Have you known someone like that? Can you think of some ways to build trust with people who have been hurt?
9. Jasmina was given a journal to write her story and help her separate the truth from the lies. Do you ever write things down or talk about them with someone you trust? Who is that person? Does that help you understand the situation better? Do you prefer to write things down and keep them private?
10. Would you like to eat rice for breakfast, lunch, and dinner? Why or why not?
11. Jasmina describes Asha and Mark in their home. Do you think they act as Christians should? Do you think the way they act affects Jasmina's understanding of what a Christian is?
12. Do you think how you act is important? If someone defined Christians by your actions, would he or she want to become one?

Section 3

Chapters 15–22

1. What do you think would be some of the hardest things about living on the streets?
2. Have you ever wished for full independence for a while? Does Jasmina's story make independence a little less appealing? Why or why not?
3. Jasmina starts to blame others for who she has become. Does that help her? Does it make her happier?
4. The women who pray amaze Jasmina. Their smiles in a horrible place make her want to know more about them. Can you think of other small things Christians do that make lost people want to know more?
5. What if someone followed and watched you for a day? Would he discover you are different from the world? What do you think he would see?

6. Jasmina does not know who Jesus is. How does it make you feel to know there are still people in the world who haven't heard of Jesus yet?
7. If God asked you to go anywhere in the world and tell others about Jesus, where would you want to go? Why there?
8. Asha says she wants to rescue girls not just from something bad, but to something good. What do you think the something good is? Do you think it's important for victims to have more to hope for than just rescue and physical freedom?
9. Milo asks Asha if she met Jasmina in front of the ice cream shop, and they laugh. That joke was based on a real incident that happened to author Kimberly Rae. (You can read the fictionalized version between Asha and Milo in Kimberly's book *Stolen Woman*, Chapter six, available on Amazon.com.)

Section 4

Chapters 23–37

1. If you were Jasmina, what would you think of the women working together to rescue a girl who escaped? Do you think you would start to trust them? Why or why not?
2. On the rescue, the women sing about being lost but now they're found, blind but now they see. Can you think of a famous hymn that contains those words? Did you know it was written by a former slaver who trafficked and sold slaves? John Newton is the man, and his story is worth reading!
3. When Dapika feels threatened by Jasmina, Milo tells her, "You don't have to fight for your place or your friends." Do you ever feel like you have to fight for your place at home or school or church? Do you ever feel competition or need to prove yourself among your friends? Where do you think that feeling comes from? Yourself? The friends? Someone else?
4. Do you think the feelings above bring people together or divide them? Why?
5. The Scarlet Cord is named for Rahab's red rope in the Bible. (See Joshua 2.) Do you think Rahab in the Bible might have been a trafficked victim? Why or why not?
6. Rahab tells Jasmina, "God cares, and it makes no difference where they come from or what they have done. . . . Or what has been done to them." Have you ever done something that made you think God might not love you anymore? Has anything ever been done to you that made you feel that God did not care? Is there someone you trust (parent, teacher, youth group worker) you can talk to about this and study what the Bible says?
7. If you were given a Bible to read for the very first time, what do you think you would notice most about God from that first reading?
8. Jasmina learns that God wants family to love each other. Do you feel that your family loves as God wants? Do you love your family in a way that shows God's love for them? In your opinion, what would a truly godly family look like?

9. Asha tells Jasmina, “God says you are valuable, worth dying for. He loves you, and you matter.” That is true for you too! Can you think of places in the Bible that tell you those truths? If you can’t, check out Psalm 139, Zephaniah 3:17, Jeremiah 31:3, and John 3:16. Find your favorite verses and memorize them.
10. Do you think girls in America are just as much in danger of being trafficked as girls in India? Why or why not?
11. Jasmina assumes that people who have more choices or more things have more happiness. Is that true? Does getting to shop at a store full of shoes give your life real happiness? Do the people you know who seem to have everything (or the people on TV) seem truly happy? What would you tell Jasmina about where real happiness comes from?