

JourneyForth Discussion Questions

Seeking Mother

**by Kimberly Rae
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Part 1

Chapters 1–7

1. Would you want to help rescue Sandy at the orphanage, or would you want someone else to do it? Why?
2. Jasmina says that Grandmother treats her “as if I had value.” Are there people in your life who treat you with value? Are there people who treat you as if you don’t have value? What is the difference between the two? How can you tell?
3. “Teaching girls is a waste of time,” Jasmina’s father used to say. Why do you think that is the perspective in some cultures? What would you say in response to someone who thinks that?
4. In Chapter 4, Jasmina wants to ask Grandmother a question, but she has been brought up that younger people should not ask adults direct questions. Is that the case in your current culture? Do people in your culture tend to value being direct or indirect? Which do you think is better—direct or indirect? Why?
5. Are you allowed or even encouraged to ask adults questions? Do you think that is good? How do you think your life and decisions might be different if you were encouraged not to ask questions about things that are important to you?
6. Mandy talks about the house where she was a slave. You have probably studied about slavery in past history. Were you surprised to read that there are still places where slavery thrives? Do you think slavery is more common than most people think? How would such assumptions make things easier for traffickers?
7. In Chapter 5, Amrita says, “Darkness is playtime for evil people.” Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Explain your position.
8. Jasmina grew up hungry for food and knowledge. If you were growing up in a one-room bamboo hut and were not allowed to go to school, do you think you would hunger for knowledge? What would you want most to learn?
9. Drugs destroyed Dapika’s mother’s relationship with the person she loved most, her daughter. Do you know of anyone who let drugs destroy them or their relationships? Do you think they started out planning to be addicted? What choice took them down the wrong path?
10. Dapika says God wants us to help the helpless. Can you think of a way you, personally, can do that?

Part 2

Chapter 8–15

1. Do you think it was wise for Jasmina to keep Grandmother's strange behavior a secret? What would you have done?
2. In some places in India, the cow is considered sacred. Do you think it is right to value a cow as holy and give it special care even when people are going hungry? Do you think religious beliefs can harm people rather than help them? Can there be a difference between a religious belief and what the Bible teaches?
3. Amrita hates her madam for how the madam treated her. Does Amrita's hatred make her happy? Does it benefit her life in any way? Can you think of a Bible verse or teaching that shows the damage of hate?
4. How does God want us to respond, even to people who have been cruel? Would Amrita be free if she got revenge? What if she forgave?
5. Amrita refuses to accept Jesus because she doesn't want anyone to control her life. Would belonging to Jesus enslave Amrita again or free her? What would you tell someone like Amrita if you could?
6. What do you think is meant by the Indian proverb, "A cat in a cage turns into a lion"?
7. What is meant by the Indian proverb, "Anger is a stone cast into a wasp's nest"?
8. Amrita says, "One thing I have learned from Asha's God. Returning evil for evil only continues the cycle." Do you agree? Why or why not? Have you ever gotten back at someone, and the cycle continued back to you again?
9. Do you think "a cobra will strike whether you call it Cobra or Mr. Cobra" is a good proverb? What would be a simpler way to state its meaning?

Part 3

Chapter 16–26

1. Jasmina finds out Amrita was trafficked when she was very young. Do you think God sees those who are enslaved? Does He care? Do you think it would make a difference if you prayed for them?
2. Psalm 147:4 says God knows the stars all by name. What does that make you think about God and how He views His creation? What about how He feels about *you*?
3. Jasmina is grieving and does not know what to do. Should she try to figure it out herself or pray? Why do you think we often forget to pray when we are scared or confused?
4. Jasmina is afraid to ask the adults about the things most important to her. Do you feel that way sometimes? Can you think of something you would like to ask about? Do you think the people who love you would want you to ask? Why or why not?
5. Jasmina's feelings of grief are normal. Do you think reading Psalms would give comfort to people who are sad? Why or why not? What part of the Bible do you go to when you are sad?

6. Jasmina keeps secrets because she wants to protect someone she loves. Has that ever worked out well for her? Can secrets be good sometimes? If yes, when? If no, why not? Would it have been better for Grandmother and Jasmina if she had told one of the other missionaries what was happening?
7. Dapika agrees to help Jasmina keep her secret even though she doesn't feel it is right. What do you think she should have done?
8. When Jasmina got to the homes of rich people with high status, what did she tell herself about her own status to gain courage? (See page 107.)
9. By the end of this section, do you think J is on the right side or the wrong side? Would you trust him?

Part 4

Chapters 27–39

1. J teaches Jasmina some self-defense techniques. Do you know any other techniques for fending off an attacker?
2. J says self-defense is all about being fiercer than whoever has you. Do you agree? Why or why not?
3. Samir still wants to hate his parents for selling him. That would be a very hard thing to forgive. Do you think it is possible to forgive so much without Jesus giving you strength? Is it possible with Jesus?
4. Have you ever been treated badly by someone you loved or trusted? Does it still hurt when you think about what happened? Have you ever told that person that they hurt you? Do you think if that person asked forgiveness, it would stop the hurt? What if they don't? Do you think God could help you stop hurting if you asked Him?
5. Jasmina tells Samir, "I will not let hate have me just as I would not let a trafficker have me, if I ever had the choice." Do you think she is wise? How do the two compare? Can people be slaves by their own choice?
6. What feelings might people be slaves to? Do you struggle letting a certain feeling or type of feeling take you captive or control you? What should you do?
7. Through all three books Jasmina searches for true freedom. By the end of *Seeking Mother*, do you think she finds freedom? Where is true freedom found?
8. Was Jasmina's meeting with her parents what you expected?
9. How did you feel when you learned Amrita was alive? Had you suspected it?
10. When Jasmina does not know what to decide, J tells her, "I can't tell you what you should do, but I can pray." Do you think that is a good thing to say to any friend needing to make a big decision?
11. Do you think Jasmina's life will be happy? Why or why not? What do you think will happen to her in the future?