

## Book Club Discussion Questions

### *Beyond Betrayal* by Jane Hoppe

#### GENERAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What do you enjoy most about *Beyond Betrayal*? Least?
- Which character(s) do you most identify with?
- Which conflict(s) can you most relate to?
- What theme(s) thread through the story?
- How do the characters change or not change?
- What are your favorite settings and scenes? Why?
- What emotions do you feel most strongly? What in the story triggered your feelings?
- Would you like to read a sequel to this story? If so, what do you hope happens next?

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#### SPECIFIC DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Carly buys into advertising and beautiful people; Jack loves movies and music; Maria reads Victorian novels. How do these voices influence their choices? What influences who you choose to listen to (friends, parents, teachers, bible, classic literature, advertising, TV shows, movies, music)? In what ways do these voices influence you?

What price do you pay for choosing not to listen to the loudest voices in the culture? What are the payoffs for doing so?

What does classic literature say to us today? For example, how does it influence Maria's choices?

Weigh in on a few of the discussions Bill has with his American Lit class students ...

- How do you deal with God after your loved ones have just been slaughtered by the Nazis (or something else horrible happens)?
- Describe the pain of not feeling truly known by a parent.
- Did the TV series *Friends* characters' sexual promiscuity hurt anyone? How close to reality was that show?

In *Beyond Betrayal*, we glimpse a few of the hurts of Maria, Carly, Leo, Heather, and Jordan. Contrast the effects of forgiving and not forgiving in one or two of those hurts.

In this novel, Maria's epiphanies, healing, and changes in thinking move her from longing for romance toward the model of the single woman who is content but open to romance.

- How do you feel about this at the end of the book?
- Contrast this growth with Carly's view on singleness.

Describe the spiritual hypocrisy that has caused Maria's hard heart toward Christianity. What people and events contribute to the softening of Maria's hostility toward Christianity and God?