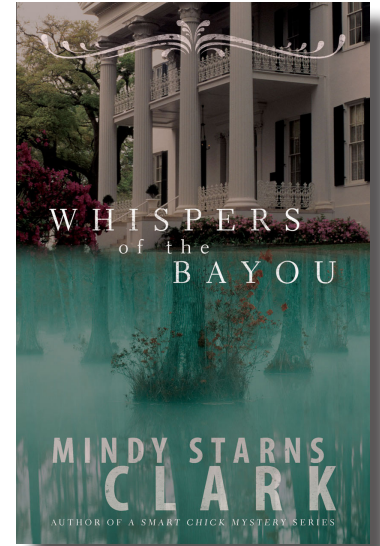


Book Group Discussion Questions

WHISPERS OF THE BAYOU

by *Mindy Starns Clark*



1. Each chapter in this book begins with an excerpt from the epic poem *Evangeline* by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Did you think the excerpts were appropriate to the story? Did reading them make you want to read the entire poem?
2. In the beginning of the story, Miranda says that she doesn't mind listening to other's problems, she just doesn't like to share her own. What makes her this way? Can you identify with these feelings?
3. Miranda considers herself to be a poor mother, i.e., disconnected, uninterested, unintuitive. Do you agree or disagree? How do her actions contradict her own opinion of herself as a mother? In what ways does she need improvement?
4. Miranda's most tender moments with her daughter are marred by fear. She wrestles with the idea that real love requires bravery and trust. Do you agree? How might Miranda's ability to love others change once she has accepted Christ?
5. When Holt describes his spiritual conversion, he talks about the cross he must bear. Why is Romans 5:3-4 his life verse?
6. Miranda's connection with Holt intensifies quickly through the story. What do you think had the greatest impact on their bond: their mutual desire to connect, their shared sense of humor, the leading of the Holy Spirit, or something else? What is it about Holt that brings Miranda to open up far more than usual?
7. What do you think of the decisions AJ made in the past? Was Miranda too quick to forgive her?
8. Though the Holy Spirit was working separately through Nathan and Miranda, they both came to accept Him in the same general time period. Is this believable? Why do you think they were both ready to take that step of faith?
9. When you think of the Cajuns, what image comes to mind? Have your perceptions changed after reading this book? Before reading this story, were you aware of the tragic history of the Cajuns?
10. Until you learned the truth, who did you think killed Willy? What terrible thing did you think Willy had done?