

A Daughter's Destiny

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

There are three sets of discussion questions that go with the book, *A Daughter's Destiny*. Please choose the set that best fits the objective of your group.

The first set helps to deepen the mother-daughter relationship.

The second set helps readers to process through their broken dreams.

The third set goes with a Bible Study teaching on DVD that corresponds to each chapter in the book. On the DVD the author uses *A Daughter's Destiny* as an illustration of misguided choices with life lessons based on teaching from the Bible.

To invite Anita Carman to speak at your event, please email speaker@inspirewomen.org or call 713-521-1609

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**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR
Deepening the mother-daughter relationship**

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A DAUGHTER'S DESTINY

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR Deepening the mother-daughter relationship

Chapter 1: Born a Daughter

1. What did your mother dream about being when she was a young girl and did she fulfill her dreams? If not, why not?
2. What quality in your mother did you wish was different? How have you done the opposite to ensure you would not be or end up like her?
3. What fears or insecurities do you see in yourself that were in your mother? Are your fears warranted based on your life and current situation? Or are you living in your mother's world, detached from your own?
4. What one event, incident, or conversation stands out in your mind that most defines your relationship with your mother? For me, for the longest time, the one event that obliterated all other memories was her suicide. What you remember may be something negative or it may be something positive. If you had to choose one event or incident or conversation that best portrays your relationship with your mother, what would it be?
5. Did your mother serve as the one who rescued other members in her family? Did she resent this role? What is your role in your family? Are you the rescuer or the one being rescued?

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Chapter 2: Hope Rises and Falls

1. Describe a need that you looked to your mother to meet? Was she able to meet the need? If not, what do you think was going on in her life that kept her from meeting it?
2. In your life, whom have you relied upon as your Prince Charming or Savior? How has this relationship worked out for you?
3. Was your mother married to the same person all her life? Do you think it was a marriage filled with love or did she feel trapped in her marriage?
4. Was there or is there someone in your mother's life who plays the role of her prince or knight in shining armor? If so, how do you think she will respond if this person is no longer in her life?
5. No matter how secure we are with a person in our lives, the fact remains that we humans are not immortal. How have you personally relied on someone to the point that it creates panic in your spirit at the thought of his or her absence?

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Chapter 3: Choices at the Crossroads

1. When you think about your mother as a young girl with dreams of her own, do you think her dreams were in line with her times and supported by the culture she lived in?
2. Were the odds against your mother to survive? Perhaps she grew up in a bad neighborhood. Perhaps she was a child from a divorce situation. Perhaps she wanted to be a doctor at a time when women were not accepted in some fields. What odds did your mother defy in her life?
3. Are there choices your mother made in her life that you are ashamed of? How have the skeletons in your family's closet affected your confidence or expectations for what God wants to do through you?
4. Did your mother have a best friend? If so, how has that person influenced your mother's life? Do you have a best friend? How would life be without your best friend?
5. Describe a crossroad in your life and the values that helped you choose which way to go. Do you like the values that drive your decisions? From whom did you get your values?

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Chapter 4: Clarity through Flashbacks

1. There are times when outside events collide with our lives. Describe an outside event that changed your life. Was this event unique to your life or was it a repetition of your mother's experience?
2. There are people God puts in our lives for a season. Describe a time you had to relocate and find a new community and new friends. How was your ability to start again in a new city influenced by how your mother coped with change?
3. Do you remember seasons when your mother was discouraged or depressed? Do you see similarities in your emotional makeup? How do you cope with disappointing news and setbacks?
4. If your mother is no longer living, were there words you wished you had said to her? If your mother is still living, what unfinished business or misunderstandings do you have to bring closure to?
5. What events, actions or words are emotional triggers that bring back memories from your relationship with your mother? Do you need closure from something that happened in your relationship with your mother?

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Chapter 5: The Wilderness Years

1. Describe a time of loneliness in your life. Do you think your mother experienced similar loneliness in her life?
2. What is the greatest loss you encountered in your life? What losses do you remember your mother experiencing that set her back emotionally or physically? Do you recall her losing a job or a house, or did a door of opportunity open and then shut?
3. Have you ever suffered from the betrayal of a trusted friend? Do you think your mother ever trusted someone who let her down?
4. What is your attitude towards challenges that never seem to end? How much of your coping mechanism was influenced by what you observed in your mother?
5. Can you think of a time your mother persevered at great sacrifice? What drove her to endure? What did her endurance show you about her values and priorities? Do you see yourself holding similar values?

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Chapter 6: Dawn after the Darkness

1. Did your mother understand the Gospel message? Did she know that God sent His Son to die on the cross for her sins and that when she accepted Jesus, God forgave her completely and wrote her name as part of His family tree? What about you? Do you understand the Gospel message?
2. Did your mother understand that her life was not given to her to pursue her own dreams but to serve God's dreams on earth? What about you? Whose dreams are you chasing?
3. If your mother's life did not reflect God's priorities, how much of your life is driven by what pleases your mother as compared to what pleases God?
4. Describe your understanding of what it means to be the child of a heavenly Father. When people look at you, how do they know you are related to God?
5. How much do you trust God? Is your faith or lack of faith influenced by your mother?

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Chapter 7: Women, Finding Closure

1. What mistakes did you make in your life that you wish you could undo? What would you like your children or spiritual children to learn and not repeat?
2. In writing this book I learned that my mother endured some sufferings so I would not need to. Can you think of choices your mother made that gave you a different foundation than what she had growing up?
3. After taking the time to understand my mother's life, I realized that, without trying to, I exhibited similar qualities to the ones she had throughout her life. I find myself willing to do hard things to spare my children the hardship. I find myself paying the cost or taking a personal risk in order to protect a family or a community. How have your mother's choices shaped your purpose?
4. God does not send us to meet every need in the world, but He uses our background for the call that is perfectly matched to us. In God's call for my life, I find cohesiveness when I respond to a need I saw in my mother, which I now see in thousands of women. How has your mother's life inspired you to a call that was prepared in you since your formative years?
5. God did not cause the suffering in my mother's life. She experienced the evils in a fallen world. What God did was to turn her suffering into purpose in her daughter's life. What do you think was your mother's purpose? How did her purpose influence your purpose?