



Solitude and Discussion Guide

The following material is designed for two purposes. One is for you to consider the questions in a time of solitude. Ask God to meet you there as you look at each issue and meditate on what is true and what God is revealing to you. Ask God to be with you as you search deeply for areas that need attention and healing.

The second purpose of the material is for discussion with others. If you have a small group, ask each person to read the book, consider the questions in solitude, and then bring the truth into the group. My hope is that when a person shares, there will be no shame or rejection. And I hope there will be acceptance.

1. Think about your life. Does a situation come to mind when you had a choice to reject or accept someone? What did you do? Would you still make that decision today? Is there anything you could do to make it better or resolve the issues?
2. Everyone has a story, but it might not be the *real* story. Is there a story in your life that you have considered

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- true, but you are not sure whether it is? What could you do to determine whether you have the real story? Are you willing to make the effort?
3. It is not easy to make something right after many years. Do you have an example of trying to right a wrong and make amends? What are the benefits that have come to you as a result? If you made amends about a certain situation, would it make a difference in someone's life? Is anything holding you back from making that bold move? What would be a first step in that direction?
 4. All of us have different childhood experiences even if we live in the same home. The way our parents raise us imprints us in certain ways. Sometimes it leads us to avoid others. Sometimes it leads us to step out and live in commendable ways. Other times it leads us to seek attention in inappropriate ways. What kind of imprint did your parents leave on you? Was it positive or negative? Have you stopped to consider how it has hurt you? Have you considered how going through it might have helped you? Do you ever thank God for the fact that you survived it?
 5. Who do you relate to most in the story of Ada Guthrie and Jonathan Rush: mother or son? Why do you choose that person? What feelings do you have as a result of reading about someone who reminds you of yourself? Is there a need for you to forgive yourself for something you did and have never fully resolved? Have you considered that rather than punish you, God wants to restore you and free you? What prevents you from

Sometimes, God Has to Intervene

taking a bigger step toward him and seeking a deeper relationship with him?

6. Sometimes people who are stuck in bitterness and anger believe there is not much to life other than dealing with past hurts and trying to rise above them. Have past hurts prevented you from discovering what God has for your life? What mission do you think you could accomplish? What gifts or skills do you possess that would help you with that mission? What stands in your way of stepping out into a life that will enrich others and leave you fulfilled and excited?