

Discussion Guides.
For readers in general and book clubs in particular

DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR UNTIL I FOUND YOU

By Victoria Bylin

1. Kate's spiritual journey begins when she visits Leona in the hospital and confesses that her life is a mess. What are some of the experiences and events that motivate her seek God?
2. Nick is a reformed veteran of life in the fast lane. What motivates him to take a one-year social sabbatical? Do you think it was a wise step, or another example of Nick being extreme?
3. In her journal, Leona describes the ups and down of her marriage. Why does she feel compelled to tell Kate about the condors? What does she hope Kate will discover for herself?
4. While visiting the living nativity scene during the Christmas Faire, Kate wonders if wanting to believe in God is enough. She says she hopes so, because it's the best she can do. Have you ever asked yourself a similar question? How do you cope with doubt in your Christian walk?
5. California condors are remarkable creatures. What is the most unusual animal you've ever seen, either in the wild or at the zoo? What is the most breathtaking view you've ever enjoyed? Did these experiences make you more aware of God?
6. Which of the secondary characters was your favorite and why?
7. Eve Landon says that "Aging is both a war and an art form." Do you agree? How do you view growing old? What would Leona say to Eve's remark?
8. Nick is a daredevil at heart. Is this trait an asset in his faith walk or a liability? On a personal level, what's the biggest risk you've ever taken when it comes to faith?
9. When Kate tells Nick that she's going back to Sutton, he tells her he'll support her completely. At the same time, he's worried about her. What are Nick's biggest concerns? What is at stake for him personally?
10. Have you ever lived in a small town like Meadows? What are the best things about it? What aspects are the hardest to cope with?

DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR TOGETHER WITH YOU

By Victoria Bylin

1. Who was your favorite character in *Together With You*? Did you relate more to Carly, Ryan, Penny, or Carly's father? Why?
2. Dr. Ryan Tremaine made some horrific mistakes in his first marriage. When the story opens, he'd determined to make things right with his sons. What would you have added to Ryan's "Sink or Swim List"?
3. Carly Jo Mason is juggling the demands of her education, career, and the desire to get married and have a family. What do you think of her choices?
4. Carly and Ryan have no intention of falling in love, but it happens. What do you think of how Carly handled herself? Did she make good choices or poor ones?
5. When it comes to their faith differences, Ryan wants to believe that mutual respect is enough as long as a man and women love each other. If you were sitting with Ryan in that Mexican restaurant the way Carly was, what would you say to him?
6. Carly leaves a small town in Kentucky to pursue her education at UCLA. Have you ever made a big move like Carly's? What was it like for you? How did your faith help you adjust?
7. What symbols did you pick up on in the story? In particular, which symbols related to Penny and what did they mean to her?
8. The cover for *Together With You* has a very mainstream romance feel to it. Do you like the cover? Or do you think it's too much?
9. At its very heart, this story is about God extending His grace to human beings who have fallen short. How did Carly fall short? What about Ryan? What enabled them to both triumph?
10. Where do you think Carly, Ryan and the kids will all be in ten years? (Spoiler: If I'd written a second epilogue, I'd have sent Carly and Ryan on a medical mission trip. Kyle would be an intern at UCLA, Eric would be studying marine biology at UC San Diego, and Penny would be in high school and doing well with a little extra help from her teachers, family and friends.

DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR SOMEONE LIKE YOU

By Victoria Bylin

1. When the story opens, Zeke Monroe has fallen away from a life-long Christian faith. What causes people to change the way Zeke did?
2. Julia Dare is a single mom and a brand new Christian. She's walked away from her old life and is determined to start fresh. What advice would you give her?
3. And then there's Hunter Adams . . . He's the father of Julia's son, her former live-in boyfriend, and a major problem for both Zeke and Julia. He's a narcissist, someone who wants to be worshipped and adored, and who values people for what they give him. How did you react to Hunter? As Christians, how do we handle difficult people?
4. Zeke and Julia have a past. What did they need to reconcile before they could move forward with a new relationship?
5. Someone Like You is primarily a romance, but it's also about fatherhood. What are the traits of a good father? How do those traits reflect God's divine nature? Hunter is determined to turn Max into his "mini-me." How did this impact Max? How is Zeke's father different from Hunter? In what ways were they alike?
6. Discuss the symbolism of the geodes.
7. Everybody loves Ladybug the goat. If you haven't already watched goats screaming on YouTube, it's quite a sound. Did you have a favorite Ladybug moment?
8. George and Ellen have quite a romance of their own. Compare it to Julia and Zeke's relationship. Which relationship was simpler? What real-world situations impacted the two couples?
9. Narcissism is rampant in our modern culture, and studies show that it's on the rise. Do you agree with this assessment? What examples do you see in movies, the arts, and music?
10. What marriage advice do you have for Zeke and Julia? How can they best get along with Hunter while protecting Max?

DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR THE TWO OF US

By Victoria Bylin

1. The Two Of Us features two very different sisters. Mia is super responsible. Lucy is more impulsive. Which sister did you most relate to? Who would you invite over for coffee? On the other hand, if you were in trouble and needed help, who would you call?
2. Jake lost his hearing in a tragedy that cost him his career. What factors have helped him to recover?
3. Pirate is Jake's hearing dog. Do you have any experience with a dog like Pirate? Either a helper dog or a therapy dog? If you have a pet, how does it help you cope?
4. Alzheimer's disease provides the backdrop for the later years of Claire and Frank's marriage. This devastating disease affects every one it touches, both victims and caregivers. What did you admire most about Frank? What did you admire about Claire?
5. Has your family been affected by Alzheimer's disease? What tips and tricks did you pick up from The Two Of Us? Why was Lucy able to be so patient, when Mia admitted to quickly becoming impatient?
6. Mia freaks out a little about turning 30. Why do you think she reacted so strongly? Have you ever been bothered by a milestone birthday? If so, which one?
7. Jake and Mia have a breakthrough moment when they hike up Echo Falls. Have you ever gone hiking? What was your most memorable experience and why? Do you feel closer to God on a mountain than you do in a city? Why or why not?
8. Mia leans so heavily on her career because she's afraid to trust other people. How does Jake help her overcome that insecurity?
9. The Stop The Camp group is a classic example of small town politics. If you lived in Echo Falls, which side of the debate would you have been on? Why?
10. Of the three couples—Jack and Mia, Sam and Lucy, Frank and Claire—which one did you most relate to? How are the couples similar? How are they different? What is the one common bond they all share?