

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Harvest of Gold

1. In the first two chapters of the novel, we glimpse certain strengths in Sarah and Darius's relationship. But we also become aware that this marriage is already in trouble. Identify some of the strengths and weaknesses you see in Sarah and Darius's relationship.
2. Most of the characters in *Harvest of Gold* seem to be engaged in a battle. The king is battling to save his life. The Babylonian brothers are trying to preserve their freedom. Nehemiah is striving to save Jerusalem. Sarah and Darius are desperate to keep their marriage intact. Where are the places you see a battle in your life?
3. What do you see in your life that is worth fighting for? What have you given up on?
4. What are some of the lessons we can learn from Nehemiah to help us overcome in the midst of the battles of life?
5. In Chapter 12 Sarah has a miscarriage and Nehemiah prays for her. How can *you* help and comfort others as they grieve? How do you personally cope with loss?

6. In Chapter 24, Nehemiah talks about Gideon. Are there places in your life where you are hiding in a metaphorical winepress? What are you afraid of? (For example, failure, disappointment, suffering, ending up alone . . .)

7. Gideon's perception of himself differed from the way God saw him. Do you think you are like Gideon in that respect? How do you think God sees you? In contrast, how do you see yourself?

8. Describe Darius. How do you think Darius's emotional distance affects his marriage? Can you relate?

9. What prevents Darius from placing his trust in the Lord? In the end, what causes him to change?

10. We sometimes build walls around our hearts that need to come down: walls of fear, defensiveness, pride, emotional distance. But there are also godly defensive walls that we should establish around our lives: walls that protect our relationship with God and with others, walls that safeguard our destiny and our soul. But like Jerusalem, many of us have allowed these walls to fall into ruin. Talk about areas of your life where the wrong walls have to come down, and areas where new protective structures have to be raised up.

11. Nehemiah has a special role in Sarah and Darius's lives. In your own words, describe their relationship. Do you have a Nehemiah in your life? Are you a Nehemiah in someone else's life?

12. What caused Nehemiah to overcome all the odds against him?

13. Who is your favorite character in this book? Why?

14. Which character can you identify with the most? Why?

15. What are some of the scenes in this story that touched your heart? Why?