

Book Club Questions for “The Stranger”

1. "The Stranger" offers a fictionalized account of the life of Rebekah from the Book of Genesis. How does the novel expand upon Rebekah's character and experiences beyond what is written in the biblical narrative?
2. Jenifer Jennings portrays Rebekah as a strong and independent woman in "The Stranger." How does Rebekah's character defy traditional gender roles and expectations for women in ancient times, and what qualities make her a compelling protagonist?
3. Rebekah is burdened with the responsibility of shepherding her flock and caring for her family after her father's injury. How does she cope with these immense responsibilities, both emotionally and practically?
4. The novel delves into Rebekah's relationship with her family, particularly her brother Laban and her father Bethuel. How do these familial dynamics shape Rebekah's choices and actions throughout the story, and what insights can we glean from her interactions with her relatives?
5. Laban is tasked with learning the skills necessary to replace his father as the family's shepherd. How does he initially approach this responsibility, and how does his attitude change throughout the story?
6. "The Stranger" explores themes of destiny, choice, and divine guidance as Rebekah navigates the complexities of her life. How does Rebekah discern God's will amidst the uncertainties and challenges she faces, and what lessons can readers draw from her journey of faith?
7. Jenifer Jennings incorporates elements of historical research and cultural context into "The Stranger," offering insights into ancient Mesopotamian society and customs. What details or descriptions from the novel helped you visualize the historical setting, and how did they enrich your reading experience?
8. Throughout the story, Rebekah grapples with the idea of identity and belonging. How does her sense of identity evolve as she navigates the choices presented to her?
9. Discuss the themes of duty and sacrifice in the novel. How do Rebekah's sense of duty to her family and her own desires conflict throughout the story?
10. In what ways does "The Stranger" resonate with contemporary issues and experiences, despite being set in ancient times? Discuss how the themes of identity, faith, and family portrayed in the novel offer timeless lessons for readers today and reflect universal aspects of the human condition.