

Book Club Questions for "The Hope"

1. "The Hope" delves into Rebekah's longing for motherhood and her eventual prayer for twins, as described in the book of Genesis. How does the novel portray Rebekah's journey of faith and hope amidst the challenges of infertility and familial discord?
2. Jenifer Jennings depicts Rebekah as a woman of strength and determination, yet also vulnerable to the complexities of family dynamics and personal desires. How does Rebekah navigate the tensions within her household, particularly between her twin sons Jacob and Esau, and what insights can we gain from her experiences as a wife and mother?
3. The novel explores themes of sibling rivalry, parental favoritism, and the consequences of deceit as Jacob and Esau vie for their father's blessing and birthright. How does Rebekah's involvement in Jacob's deception impact her relationship with both her sons, and what lessons can we draw from her actions and their consequences?
4. "The Hope" delves into Rebekah's relationship with her husband Isaac and the challenges they face as a couple in the midst of family conflict and divine intervention. How does Rebekah support and influence Isaac, and how does their partnership reflect the complexities of marriage and faith?
5. The character of Jacob serves as a focal point of the narrative, as he grapples with his identity and destiny in the wake of his mother's schemes and his brother's anger. How does Jacob's journey of self-discovery parallel Rebekah's own quest for fulfillment and purpose, and what insights can we gain from their intertwined stories?
6. Jenifer Jennings incorporates elements of historical research and cultural context into "The Hope," offering insights into the customs and traditions of ancient Mesopotamia. What details or descriptions from the novel helped you visualize the historical setting, and how did they enhance your reading experience?
7. Rebekah encounters various trials and challenges throughout the novel, from the pain of infertility to the strain of family conflict to the weight of her own decisions and regrets. How does Rebekah demonstrate resilience and faith in the face of adversity, and what moments in the novel highlight her strength of character?
8. The theme of divine providence and human agency is prevalent in "The Hope," as Rebekah grapples with the tension between God's will and her own desires. How does Rebekah reconcile her faith in God's promises with the choices she makes to shape her family's future, and what lessons can readers draw from her experiences?
9. Rebekah's role as a central figure in the patriarchal lineage of Israel is central to the narrative, as she plays a crucial role in the fulfillment of God's covenant with Abraham. How does Rebekah's journey reflect the broader themes of God's faithfulness and sovereignty in the biblical narrative, and what insights can we gain from her example as a woman of faith?
10. In what ways does "The Hope" resonate with contemporary themes and experiences, despite being set in ancient times? Discuss how the themes of family, faith, and destiny portrayed in the novel offer timeless lessons for readers today and reflect universal aspects of the human condition.