

## Book Club Questions for “Assia”

1. "Assia" provides a unique perspective on the early Christian community and the events surrounding Pentecost through the eyes of Jesus' fictional younger sister. How does the novel offer insight into the experiences and emotions of those waiting for the promised outpouring of the Holy Spirit?
2. Jenifer Jennings portrays Assia as a character torn between her family obligations and her desire to follow Jesus' teachings. How does Assia navigate this tension throughout the novel, and what internal conflicts does she grapple with?
3. The novel delves into Assia's relationship with her oldest brother, Jesus, and the impact of his resurrection on her family's expectations. How does Assia's perception of Jesus evolve over the course of the story, and how does it influence her decisions and actions?
4. "Assia" explores themes of faith, obedience, and sacrifice as Assia wrestles with the choice between fulfilling her societal obligations and embracing the call to follow Jesus. How does Assia's journey of faith parallel her struggles with societal expectations, and what lessons can readers draw from her experiences?
5. The character of Assia serves as a lens through which to explore the challenges faced by women in the early Christian community, as well as their role in spreading the message of Jesus. How does Assia navigate the patriarchal norms of her society, and what insights can we gain from her perspective on discipleship and ministry?
6. Jenifer Jennings incorporates elements of historical research and cultural context into "Assia," offering insights into life in Jerusalem during the period following Jesus' resurrection. What details or descriptions from the novel helped you visualize the historical setting, and how did they enhance your reading experience?
7. Assia encounters various challenges and obstacles throughout the novel, from familial expectations to societal pressures to conform. How does Assia demonstrate resilience and determination in the face of adversity, and what moments in the novel highlight her strength?
8. The theme of waiting and anticipation is prevalent in "Assia," as Assia and her family eagerly await the fulfillment of Jesus' promise to send the Holy Spirit. How does Assia cope with the uncertainty of waiting, and what insights can readers draw from her experiences in trusting God's timing?
9. Assia's role as a witness to the events of Pentecost and the early Christian movement is central to the narrative, as she grapples with the challenges of embracing her new identity as a follower of Jesus. How does Assia's journey of discipleship unfold throughout the novel, and what lessons can we learn from her example?
10. In what ways does "Assia" resonate with contemporary issues and experiences, despite being set in ancient times? Discuss how the themes of faith, obedience, and spiritual transformation portrayed in the novel offer timeless lessons for readers today and reflect universal aspects of the human condition.