

A Picture Perfect Christmas ~ Discussion Questions

1. With a seasonal setting like Christmas, this story is full of traditions including cookie recipes, hot chocolate, tree trimming, puzzles, and even a candlelight service. What are your top five traditions surrounding Christmas? Is there one tradition others hold that you would like to adopt with your family?
2. At the start of the book, Liz is busy planning all the details for her picture-perfect wedding. And yet it always seems in life that something goes wrong. From missing cakes to photographers with no film to weather issues to being locked out of part of the church, what are some of the good, bad, and ugly stories for your wedding or weddings you've attended?
3. Which character in the book did you relate to the most? Why? Did you have a favorite scene?
4. In the opening chapter, Ryan brings Liz a small snowman ornament on the anniversary of a romantic moment in their relationship. If your family or marriage, do you have an item or "inside joke" that represents a special occasion or event? How important is it to remember the good times in life? What role do physical objects or memorials play?
5. On the subject of gifts, both Liz and Ryan are looking for the perfect gift for each other. How hard is it to find that perfect gift for your loved ones? Do you seek out something personal, the easiest item to find on their list, or opt for a gift card instead? Does it depend on the depth of the relationship or proximity (i.e. shipping costs)?
6. Early on, Ryan decides to travel out-of-state in order to personally invite Liz's parents to the wedding. To what lengths would you go for a loved one's happiness? In the previous book, *Focus On Love*, Ryan's actions by taking a break from his freelance career mirrored those of Christ setting aside Heaven to come to earth. How are his current actions consistent with his character as a Christian?
7. One of the key themes in the book is the importance of family and celebrating with the ones you have. Is your family closely connected or scattered? If there are lingering tensions, how have you coped during the holidays?
8. Liz's father was definitely the antagonist in *Focus On Love*. After discovering the rest of his story, do you feel his actions and reactions were justified? Why or why not? Have you ever let personal pain skew your view of God?