

Focus On Love ~ Discussion Questions

1. The dinner theater where Liz works performs several musicals during the book including *White Christmas* and *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*. If you are a fan of musical theater, what production would you like for them to do next? Have you ever been to a dinner theater?
2. Ryan is a professional award-winning photographer, Liz is a hobbyist with a natural talent, and Mr. Foster runs a point-and-shoot school photography business. Where on the spectrum do your talents lie? How fancy is your camera?
3. Which character in the book did you relate to the most? Why? Did you have a favorite scene?
4. In the opening prologue, Liz is severely disappointed by a person...and discards God too. Have you ever blamed God for the actions of an individual? How does free will factor into our human interactions?
5. Ryan's support of his sister while her husband is deployed reminds us of the sacrifices our military families make. What are practical ways a community can support these families? How would you go about finding out who they are?
6. Coming to his sister's aid wasn't the first time Ryan had to wrestle with the choice between pursuing his dream and duty to his family. Have you ever been in a similar situation? What factors weighed into that decision?
7. One theme in the book is the difference between faith as a list of religious rules and faith as a love relationship. Where does your faith heritage fall on that spectrum? Is there a balance?
8. Ryan's life offers Liz an example of Jesus' sacrificial love by leaving behind one life to take on another less glamorous position. (i.e. giving up the pudding cups in favor of carrot sticks) What impact would that example of love have on a heart? Who set that example for you? How have your actions changed another's life?
9. After coming back to her childhood faith, Liz searches the Bible for verses about love. What is your favorite "love" verse? Have you ever approached Bible study by focusing on a single theme?
10. Liz made an effort to reach out in love and forgiveness to seek reconciliation...and was harshly rejected. Yet, Jesus also knows what it's like to offer love and be rejected. When faced with rejection, how do you respond? Who is there to hold you through the pain?
11. Throughout the book, Liz had a dream of doing photography full-time. What is the dream of your heart? If you are now living your dream, did someone help you get to this place?
12. Ryan tells Liz that the main commandment is to love God and to love others. Just love. How would your life be different if you just focused on love?