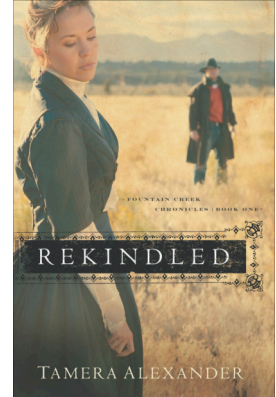


REKINDLED

Reading Group Guide

FOUNTAIN CREEK CHRONICLES, Book 1

By Tamera Alexander



Warning! The discussion questions contain “spoilers.” So if you haven’t read or finished reading the book yet, these will ruin a few plot surprises. Also, you don’t have to use every question in your group discussion. Pick and choose, or add one of your own.

A note from Tamera:

Dear friends,

I’m honored you’ve chosen *Rekindled* as your reading group selection, and I hope you enjoyed Larson and Kathryn’s story. Christ drew me closer to Him as I wrote this story, and my prayer is that somewhere along the way as you read, you took a step closer to Him too.

I’d love to join your group discussion! If you’re interested, email me at tameraalexander@ymail.com and inquire about Virtual Book Club Meetings. I’ll also send you a Book Club Packet with goodies to distribute to your group.

Thanks again, and I hope our paths cross again soon,
Tamera

1. In the first chapter of *Rekindled*, we get a glimpse of Larson and Kathryn and their marital relationship. Is their love for each other founded on a stable foundation? What are their character strengths and weaknesses? What are some areas in which they each need to grow? And do you think the challenges they faced in their marriage are common or uncommon?
2. During Larson’s healing, he often wondered why God had allowed him to live. Have you ever wondered why God has led you through certain circumstances in your life? Sometimes we get answers here in this life, but most times we don’t. Can you think of a specific time when you have “walked through fire”? And if yes, has God chosen to reveal the “why” of your having walked that path? What good came from that painful experience—either to you and/or to others?
3. The things that happened to Larson as a young boy were horrific—and happen all too

often in real life. When faced with such things, many wonder where God is, why He doesn't protect His children. Scripture tells us God is all-powerful and all-knowing. It talks about God's loving-kindness, His compassion and mercy, His love of children. It tells us God is love. So why doesn't He stop terrible things from happening? How do you reconcile God's character as it's revealed in Scripture with the fact that horrible things happen to the innocent?

4. A pair of "unlikely outcasts" nurture Larson back to healing. What did you think about Isaiah and Abby? Their marriage? Their faith? What are some of the sacrifices they made for Larson? And can you recall lessons that Larson learned from being in their care and from observing them on a daily basis?

5. Instead of turning to God, people often search for security in other places. Where did Kathryn first seek her security? Where did Larson first seek to find his worth? Do you ever search for tangible security "aside from" God? Have you ever trusted in something—or someone—instead of putting your full trust in God, and how can this thwart God's ultimate plan of being Jehovah Jireh—your *Provider*?

6. Isaiah tells Larson, "...every person's been hurt and has wounds. Some scars are just easier to see than others. The outward scars aren't what determine what a man will become. It's the inward scars that can keep a man from living the life God intended." Do you, or someone you know, have inward scars that you carry inside? Scars that are keeping you from living the life that God intended? Discuss how our past can not only be overcome but how God can use that for His glory and our eternal good, if we are willing.

7. To which character in *Rekindled* did you relate the most? What was it about that character that spoke to you?

8. During the course of the story, Kathryn wishes she could "turn back the clock and relive every moment of those years—both the good and the bad—with Larson again." Have you ever wished your way through a phase of life only to look back and wish you could do it all over again? What can we learn from Kathryn's regrets?

9. Kathryn bore a certain "guilt by association" because of her friendship with Annabelle. As Christians we're called to avoid even the hint of sexual immorality, and yet we're called to be friends to sinners. How do we live out this dichotomy?

10. When Larson returned, he misunderstood Kathryn's living situation and what she was doing. What can this teach us about making swift judgments about people? Or about making decisions based on first impressions alone? Have you ever had to reverse an opinion about someone once you've gotten to know them better?

11. Gabriel (Gabe) was an integral character in both Larson and Kathryn's lives. What lessons did Larson and Kathryn learn through Gabe's influence on their lives? And is there a particular attribute about Gabe that you connected with?

12. Eventually, Larson reaches the place where he's able to let go of the bitterness in his heart. Even when he believes that another man has fathered Kathryn's baby, he's brought to a point of reconciliation with the situation. What was the key factor in his being able to do this? Read Matthew 6:14-15; Luke 6:37; and Colossians 3:13 and discuss how the truths within these scriptures influenced Larson's motivation.

13. In Ch. 20, Kathryn is speaking with "Jacob" about her marriage with Larson. She says, "Time passes, and you almost forget what it was that you wanted at the outset [of marriage]. Then it almost feels selfish to ask for something more when you're not even certain there's *something more* to be had..." Sometimes it's hard to be completely honest. Have you ever been in a relationship where you haven't been completely honest about your feelings and/or desires? Why weren't you more honest? Considering the differences between men and women and how we communicate, are there steps you can take in your marriage (or dating relationship) to help facilitate a more honest environment?

14. What enabled Larson (Jacob) and Kathryn to have a deeper relationship with each other the second time around?

15. Larson was forced to face his greatest fear in the story's culmination. What are some examples of fears that have kept you from acting on dreams you have for your life? What does the Bible say about fear?

Tamera's website: www.tameraalexander.com
Tamera's blog: www.tameraalexander.blogspot.com
Tamera's group blog: www.writespassage.blogspot.com
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/tamera.alexander>
Contact Tamera: tameraalexander@ymail.com

Recipe Idea for *Rekindled* Group Gatherings

Abby's Savory Apple Pie

1 package Pillsbury Pie Crusts (okay, Abby didn't have Pillsbury, so you can make your own if you want)
9-10 apples, two kinds, one of them being Granny Smith
¼ cup apple juice
2 T lemon juice
¾ cup sugar
¼ cup corn starch
Dash of salt
1 tsp vanilla
1 tsp cinnamon
½ tsp allspice

Preheat oven to 425° F. Roll one crust out into pie plate. Peel and chip apples into a large mixing bowl. In separate bowl, combine all dry ingredients and stir to blend. Combine all liquid ingredients in another bowl and stir to blend. Spoon dry mixture into pie dish, then pour liquid mixture over apples. Place second pie crust on top, crimp edges and cut four slivers in the top in order for steam to release.

Place pie in oven and bake for 15 minutes. Then remove from the oven and cover entire pie with foil. Cut slits in center of foil and peel back so that only the outer edge is covered (to prevent it from burning). Or they have these really cool “pie edge protectors” that work wonders. Reduce heat to 375° F and continue baking for 45-55 minutes or until golden. Enjoy!

Tamera’s Complete Book List:

Rekindled, FOUNTAIN CREEK CHRONICLES, Book 1, Bethany House Publishers (ISBN 0-7642-0108-5)

Revealed, FOUNTAIN CREEK CHRONICLES, Book 2, Bethany House Publishers (ISBN 0-7642-0109-3)

Remembered, FOUNTAIN CREEK CHRONICLES, Book 3, Bethany House Publishers (ISBN 0-7642-0110-7)

Fountain Creek Chronicles Trilogy, Books 1- 3 in one volume, Bethany House Publishers (ISBN 978-0-7642-0736-5)

From a Distance, TIMBER RIDGE REFLECTIONS, Book 1, Bethany House Publishers (ISBN 978-0-7642-0389-3)

Beyond This Moment, TIMBER RIDGE REFLECTIONS, Book 2, Bethany House Publishers (ISBN 978-0-7642-0390-9)

Within My Heart, TIMBER RIDGE REFLECTIONS, Book 3, Bethany House Publishers (ISBN 978-0-7642-0391-6)

The Inheritance, *Women of Faith Fiction*, Thomas Nelson Publishers (ISBN 978-1-59554-632-6)