

REVEALED
Reading Group Guide
FOUNTAIN CREEK CHRONICLES, Book 2
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 use some of your own.

A note from Tamera:

Dear friends,

I’m honored you’ve chosen *Revealed* as your reading group selection, and I hope you enjoyed Matthew and Annabelle’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 prologue, when we first meet Jonathan and Annabelle (Annabelle was also in *Rekindled*), Jonathan says to her, “You were exactly what I wanted, Annie, no matter that you might see me in a different way. You were honest with me from the start. I knew how you felt about me. But you see...a person can’t give what they haven’t got.” (pg. 15) What was Jonathan referring to in Annabelle’s life? What did she lack? And have you dealt with similar struggles in your own life (the inability to love)? If yes, to what do you attribute it?

3. “Someone who has been forgiven much, loves much.” This is what Hannah Carlson told Annabelle (referencing Jesus’ statement in Luke 7:47), and referring to Larson and Kathryn Jennings. (pg. 14) Read this passage and discuss the implications its message has on Annabelle’s life.

4. On pg. 206/207, Jonathan shares an analogy with Matthew. Read 2 Samuel 14:14 and

discuss how this verse took root in Jonathan's life, and eventually in Matthew's and Annabelle's.

5. On pg. 114, Annabelle remembers something Jonathan shared with her, "Only what we do for God will last." What impact did this remembrance from Jonathan have on her decision at the moment? Has there been a time in your life—perhaps when you were at a crossroads—when the Spirit reminded you of something that someone once said to you? Or perhaps brought a Scripture to mind that helped you make your decision?

6. There are physical landmarks in our lives—things that we can pick up and touch and they take us back to special moments in our lives. Or they remind us of loved ones gone on before us. Turn to pg. 170. What did Annabelle find on the prairie? What impact did the rediscovery of that item have on her? What impact did the discovery have on Matthew? Has God ever used a tangible object—placed somewhere at just the right time—to remind you of his guidance and presence in your life?

7. Has God ever sent you on a task that you truly felt he'd led you to. Only, in the middle of it, events occurred that caused you to second-guess him. It wasn't turning out like you'd planned? On pg. 173, (Ch. 20) God guided Annabelle's steps and yet—in the midst of it—she doubted him, certain she'd misunderstood. She "expected more from God than this" (pg. 176). Have you ever experienced this kind of doubt and this "unfulfilled expectation" from God? What helped you get through that time? And how did God remind you of his presence?

8. Abuse is rampant in our society and chances are high that in a group of ten women, at least four have suffered some kind of physical or sexual abuse. This is not an easy thing to share, I realize but, if you're able, would you share if you've ever experienced any kind of physical or sexual abuse in your life? And if you've received healing from your past hurts? Personal note from the author: I'm always quick to add that healing from abuse doesn't mean we'll forget those hurts. Far from it. As Rick Warren says, if we'll let him... God will use our greatest area of pain to bring the greatest healing and opportunity for ministry.

(Note from Tamera: Like Annabelle, I was sexually abused as a young girl. My perpetrator was *not* someone in my immediate family and is no longer living. In writing *Revealed*, God took me back to moments in my life that I would rather not have revisited again. But he did it in order to cleanse me and make me whole, to restore my innocence. And he can do that for you, too. He's waiting to do that for you. As you know, Annabelle had been abused as a young girl and was then sold into a life of prostitution. She felt unclean and sullied and was certain she'd never be able to cast off those feelings of being dirty and used. On pg. 261, (top of the page just before the scene break) she has an epiphany moment. Read this scene and discuss its importance in her life and how this was integral in her healing.

9. On pg. 253, Matthew says, "I think we're given room in this life to make choices, and that includes making bad ones from time to time. No matter how sorry we may be, we still have to pay the cost." What decisions was he referring to in his own life? What were

your original feelings about Matthew at the outset of the book? How had they changed by the time this scene occurred?

10. On pg. 294, Jack Brennan (a main character in *Remembered*, Book 3) reads off a list of names of people they had buried since the outset of their journey. He begins by listing Jonathan Wesley McCutchens, then continues on. The names listed here are actually names of Tamera's relatives and friends who have passed on from this life to the next. These people are part of the "cloud of witnesses" in her life that she "hears" cheering her on in this earthly race (Hebrews 12:1,2). Who are these people—the "cloud of witnesses"—in your own life?

11. On pg. 298, Annabelle awakens during the night and experiences a moment of profound growth, and grace, in her life. Read that passage (five paragraphs before the break) and discuss the implications that forgiveness had on her life. How do you forgive someone who never asked for forgiveness in the first place?

12. On pg. 318, Matthew has an unexpected moment with his father, and his father says to him, "You did good." On the back cover of *Revealed*, you find this inscription—"Words, once spoken, can mend a broken life...or cripple it. But words left unspoken can haunt the soul, inflicting a far deeper wound." How did words (both those spoken and those left unspoken) impact Matthew's life? How have such words impacted your own?

13. And finally, what was your favorite scene in *Revealed*, and why do you think it spoke to you the way it did? Who was your favorite character and why?

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Recipe Idea for *Revealed* Group Gatherings

Matthew's Stovetop (or campfire) Hot Cocoa

½ cup granulated sugar
1/3 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
4 ½ cups whole milk (2% will do but it's not nearly as good)
½ teaspoon vanilla (optional)

In medium saucepan, combine sugar, cocoa and ½ cup milk. Stir constantly over medium heat until mixture comes to a boil. Cook, stirring constantly for 2 minutes. Add milk and heat; do not boil. Remove from heat and stir in vanilla, if desired. Serve hot, with

marshmallows, if desired. (And Matthew didn't use marshmallows, by the way. And he also served Annabelle hers with a sexy little smile.)

Serves six (the *cocoa* serves six, not Matthew's sexy little smile)

Annabelle's Buttermilk Biscuits

½ cup cold butter or margarine

2 ¼ cups self rising flour

1 ¼ cups buttermilk (I use low fat)

Cut butter with a sharp knife or pastry blender into 1/4-inch-thick slices. Sprinkle butter slices over flour in bowl. Toss butter with flour. Cut butter into flour with a pastry blender until crumbly and mixture resembles small peas. Cover and chill 10 minutes. Add buttermilk, stirring *just until dry ingredients are moistened*. Don't over mix.

Turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface; knead 3 or 4 times, gradually adding additional flour as needed. With floured hands, pat dough into a 3/4-inch-thick rectangle (about 9 x 5 inches). Sprinkle top of dough with additional flour to keep it from being sticky. Fold dough over onto itself in 3 sections, starting with one of the shorter ends. Repeat entire process 2 more times, beginning with pressing into a 3/4-inch-thick dough rectangle (about 9 x 5 inches). Press or pat dough to 1/2-inch thickness on a lightly floured surface; cut with a 2-inch round cutter, and place side by side, barely touching, on a parchment-paper-lined or lightly greased jelly-roll pan. Bake at 450° F for 13 to 15 minutes or until lightly browned. Remove from oven; brush with 2 Tbsp. melted butter. Be sure to have a couple kinds of jam handy too! *Mmmmm... 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)