

The Redemption of Sarah Cain Discussion Questions

1. In the opening pages of *The Redemption of Sarah Cain*, author Beverly Lewis establishes Ivy's and Sarah's distinct personalities and beliefs. How are Ivy and Sarah different? Does their relationship seem typical of real-life sisters?
2. Weary of materialism and longing for a simpler life, Ivy and her husband long-ago gave up modern living to become Amish. Can you relate to longings for a slower-paced, simpler life?
3. How do you think you would adapt to the hard work and deprivations of Amish life? Which modern conveniences/technologies would you most dread doing without?
4. What positives can we incorporate into our own lives from the Amish culture? Are there any negative aspects to the Plain lifestyle that we should be wary of?
5. What do you think about Ivy's choice of her estranged sister as guardian for her five children? Have you struggled with choosing a guardian for your own children?
6. Were you surprised by Sarah's reluctance to answer the lawyer's summons? What are Sarah's reasons for being so adamantly opposed to raising her sister's children? What does she fear? Do you empathize with Sarah?
7. When Sarah first comes to her sister's home, she plans to stay only long enough to find her nieces and nephews an Amish guardian. Do you agree with the logic of her thinking? In your opinion, what's more important in raising children: blood relation or common backgrounds and beliefs? Is anyone in your family from a different culture or faith?
8. Describe each of the Cottrell children. Did you have a favorite? If so, why?
9. *The Redemption of Sarah Cain* alternates between two points of view: 16-year-old niece Lyddie's and Sarah's. How does this structure contribute to the novel? Did you find both points of view equally compelling or did you prefer one?
10. Sarah comes to Amish country with preconceived notions of her sister's life. Have you ever misjudged someone, only to change your opinion later? How does Sarah's view of her sister's life choices change over the course of the novel?
11. Sarah carries heavy guilt from a past mistake. Were you surprised when you discovered what it was? Did it shed light on Sarah's reluctance to raise her

sister's children--or to marry Bryan, who wants children of his own?

12. Describe Bryan Ford. What do you think of him? How do his faithfulness and forgiveness help Sarah begin to see the love of God?

13. Which character do you think benefits the most from Sarah's move to Lancaster County? Which character sacrifices the most? Have you had to make sacrifices for family?

14. A major theme of the novel is redemption. In what ways does Sarah find redemption? How about Bryan? The children? Can you relate anything in the novel to your own journey toward redemption?

15. Have you seen the movie version of The Redemption of Sarah Cain? If so, can you describe some of the differences between the book and the movie? Which did you prefer?