

FINDING JEWEL

Study Guide

For Groups or Individual Enrichment

Author's Note: A very special thanks to Kim Whitten Bain, who took on the task of doing the lion's share of this Study Guide while juggling the many responsibilities of being Director - Girls Ministry at Idlewild Baptist Church in Lutz, Florida!

Suggestions for the Group Leader

This study guide is planned to enhance the experience of the Finding Jewel reader by

- *starting conversations and stirring interest and*
- *enriching each participant's knowledge of the toll on human lives caused by the exploding criminal industry of human trafficking that encircles our globe today.*

I encourage you, as the leader, to be creative—use your imagination to make this book and study guide relevant, pertinent, and riveting within your group setting. Allow your readers to come up with their own questions that the group can discuss. Some enrichment ideas to get you thinking:

1. *As a group, see the movie Sound of Freedom.*
2. *Have a local, reputable anti-human trafficking group or individual come to speak. (This may be someone who has been trafficked and is now working as an abolitionist.)*
3. *Law enforcement loves to educate young people on this subject—contact your local Sheriff's Department to schedule a Sheriff to come and speak.*
4. *Have someone specializing in self-defense come and teach your group how to protect themselves.*

Note: When inviting guest speakers, always remember to inform them of the age of their audience to ensure age-appropriate material.

Please contact me with any questions you may have as you present this material, using the Comment form below.

As a general rule, depending on your time constraints, I suggest you work through one or two chapters a week as a group.

I would also love to hear about some of your creative ideas that have been successful with your group(s). I may post them on this website (under 'Join the Conversation') so others may learn from successful presentations!

FINDING JEWEL, BREAKING THEIR CHAINS

STUDY GUIDE

CHAPTER 1

1. *Finding Jewel* is a fictional story, set in the mythical kingdom of Menducium, where the horror of human trafficking is prevalent far and wide. Based on our reality, do you believe that human trafficking exists where you live?
2. What is inherently wrong with the idea of humans being for sale?
3. How does the character and storyline of Jewel help bring the horrors of child slavery and trafficking to life?
4. Do you have any initial thoughts or impressions of the Cracken family or their farm?
5. What are some motivations that cause the Crackens to behave the way they do?

CHAPTER 2

1. What do you think *The Song* is and what significance might it play in the story of *Finding Jewel*?
2. Do you believe that Jewel was not “brave enough to escape”? (Page 11) Why or why not?
3. Why do victims of trafficking or other violence/abuse not attempt escape?
4. Are there any beliefs or customs that cause victims to stay in their circumstances?
5. Have you ever been in a circumstance that you disagreed with but chose to stay in? Why?

CHAPTER 3

1. How does the character of Melody respond to Jewel? If you were Melody, what would you have done similarly or differently in your interactions with Jewel?
2. What are some things you and others may want to be mindful of when interacting with a person who is involved in or has been rescued from a life of trauma?
3. What are ways that you could and could not relate to Jewel when it came to fear or concern for her future?
4. At the end of the chapter, Melody asks permission from Jewel. What is permission and consent?
5. Why are permission and consent important and necessary?

CHAPTER 4

1. How was Jewel feeling about her appearance at the beginning of the chapter?
2. Should appearance or clothing make a difference in the way that we view others? Why or why not? If it does, why does this exist?
3. How does Mistress Melody using Jewel’s name and calling her family affect Jewel’s understanding of her situation?
4. Is a name important? Why or why not? What do you know about your own name?
5. What was the interaction between Jewel and the two younger girls at the Oaks farm? Strategize about ways you could be helpful or encouraging to someone who feels out of place at your home, school, or group. What are some ways others have helped you feel at ease in a new environment?

6. Reflect on this statement: “Her [Jewel’s] habit of dreading another’s touch would not be abated so quickly by a few brief encounters that spoke kindness and compassion rather than pain.” Why would the author say this?

CHAPTER 5

1. What are your first impressions of the characters Tobias, Calmus, and young Simon?
2. How does *The Song* play a part in this chapter?
3. What are your thoughts on Jubilee, and how does this character contribute to the story?
4. Why and how are animals used in therapy, counseling, or healing for those seeking help?

CHAPTER 6

1. What are your impressions of Spice House so far?
2. Why does Melody resist physical contact with Jewel? What does this tell you about Melody’s knowledge of Jewel’s emotions and circumstances?
3. How does Mrs. Marta interact with Jewel? Do you agree with her interactions?
4. What are some healthy ways for you to connect with someone who has been through trauma that show respect for them as a person?
5. Why is it important that Melody helps set boundaries for Jewel’s room and who is allowed to enter?
6. What are some healthy rules or boundaries you have when it comes to your person or your personal space?

CHAPTER 7

1. What changes in Jewel’s thought life need to be made so she sees herself as a “free girl” and not a slave?
2. What might Jewel have been thinking when Melody encouraged her to “ask as many questions as you want” when it comes to Spice House? Why is this an important statement for Jewel?
3. What does Melody’s openness and honesty about Jewel’s surroundings do for Jewel as she adjusts to life with freedom?
4. What additional fears might Jewel be experiencing in these first moments at Spice House?
5. What are some ways you can sympathize with someone who has experienced life circumstances that are different than your own?

CHAPTER 8

1. Why is it significant that Jewel works with Mrs. Marta and Melody to clean up the kitchen? Would you have asked Jewel to clean or allowed her to sit and watch? What are the benefits or challenges to both ideas?
2. When Simon meets Jewel for the first time, he bows the traditional Menducium greeting. What could Jewel have been thinking as she witnessed this?
3. Why or why is it not important to treat those we do not know with respect when we first meet them?
4. How do Noble and DuoDay play a part in this chapter?
5. What are your impressions of the character Calmus? What is special or unique about him?
6. Why does Jewel respond to Calmus the way she does?

CHAPTER 9

1. Describing the snake at the beginning of the chapter, Calmus says, “I guess a lot of evil is like dat. Pretty on da outside an’ inside all full up wid poison.” Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Give some reasons.
2. The author describes the people of Menducium this way: “People in this kingdom looked after their own interests and thought nothing of destroying another’s life or reputation if it achieved their own goals.” Do you see this in your own culture? Cite some examples.
3. When have you ever looked after your own interests instead of the interests of others?
4. What happens to people or a society when they only look out for their own interests? How does this contribute to the problem of human trafficking?
5. What are you discovering about Melody’s story?
6. Why is it important to “teach another how to love well and accept love,” as Mrs. Marta describes Melody doing?

CHAPTER 10

1. Jewel is shown an opportunity to learn in a schoolroom. What does education do for the problem of human trafficking?
2. Where can you find *reliable* resources that will educate you on the problems of trafficking and slavery in our modern world?
3. Melody asks Jewel to break the habit of calling her “Mistress.” Why does Melody ask Jewel to refer to her by her first name? How does this request change the way Jewel perceives or thinks about herself?
4. Why would the idea of Papa returning bring both delight and fear to Jewel?

CHAPTER 11

1. What are some of the reasons Jewel feels uncomfortable in the presence of her new family?
2. How does gratitude or saying something we are grateful or thankful for change the focus of “what we have instead of what we don’t have,” as Mrs. Marta states?
3. The author writes, “Now Jewel would gradually learn to exhale all those years of soul-poisoning vapors as her heart opened to the healing of life in House of Spice.” Have you ever had to open your own heart to healing?
4. The author writes, “With the basic necessities of hunger and safety satisfied—the housekeeper’s cooking taking care of the hunger and safety personified in Jubilee’s near-constant presence—Jewel’s curiosity and hunger for learning exploded.” How does taking care of the basic necessities of hunger and safety create opportunities for exploring other things?
5. What do you think is the significance of the leather necklace?

CHAPTER 12

1. Because of her experiences as a young girl, Melody is aware that Jewel would “carry scars from her abuse for years, and indeed her whole life.” How is this statement true?
2. Do you have scars or mistreatments in your own life that you will carry with you? What is the best way to begin healing in those areas?
3. Melody observes that the years of abuse that Jewel had endured would be the tools she uses to transform herself. How is this a true statement?

4. How can those who have overcome abuse use their trials for good instead of evil?
5. What must it be like for Jewel to develop friendships after what she has endured?
6. Have you ever made friends or reached out to someone who has a completely different background than yours? Why is this idea important to our society as a whole?

CHAPTER 13

1. Why does the title of *General* for Papa create fear and confusion for Jewel?
2. Is Jewel passing unnecessary judgment on Papa based on his title?
3. Have you ever assumed information about another person based on the behavior of others?
4. Why does Calmus believe that his being born was not a mistake? Do you believe this about yourself?
5. What do you do when you struggle with powerful emotions the way Calmus did?
6. Have people ever given you a nickname, the way that some did to Calmus? How did these words affect you?
7. Have you ever given someone a nickname or said unkind things to others? What does this do to others?

CHAPTER 14

1. What was your first thought when you read that DuoDay returned without Melody?
2. Why was it so brave for Jewel to offer to be in charge of DuoDay? How do you see growth in her character during this moment?
3. Under what circumstances does the trafficking of humans happen in this Kingdom?
4. What circumstances create opportunities for trafficking to happen in our own society or where you live?
5. Are there different circumstances in other countries that create opportunities for the tragedy of trafficking to occur?
6. Marta describes the evil Prince Hynic's actions in this way: "But then he added evil to his greed." How do evil and greed go together? How does this create a recipe for disaster and abuse?
7. Are women and children the only victims of human trafficking today?
8. What is the true purpose of the trips that the Master goes on when traveling for Spice House?

CHAPTER 15

1. Why do you think the traffickers set Zeb and Selina's house and buildings on fire?
2. The traffickers that were sent to Zeb and Selina's house were strangers to the family. Do you think the majority of trafficking today happens by people the victims do not know or by those that the victim knows?
3. In our society, what are some of the best prevention methods we can learn when it comes to stopping abuse from people that are known to the victim?
4. Why was it not important for Melody to defeat all three traffickers, but only to get Zeb away from them?

CHAPTER 16

1. Many come together to help the Zadens. According to their own circumstances, gifts, and abilities, each one has a different task that supports the overall completion of the work. Discuss the importance of coordinating those efforts.

2. Reflect on your thoughts and discussions on question one. How will your conclusions help you choose a path in helping in the fight against human trafficking in your area?
3. What safety measures did Tobias put in place to protect everyone involved? Think about safety measures you and your group should put into place to be safe from becoming victims of trafficking today.
4. What area in Jewel's healing was symbolized by her gifting Melody with her apple? Was there more than one area symbolized by the apple?
5. When Jewel recognized Quantas, she was triggered into old habits of survival. Discuss what "triggering" is in a person who has been through trauma. Does being triggered into old habits mean that Jewel had to completely begin again in her healing journey? Why or why not?

CHAPTER 17

1. Marta and Melody determine to sit quietly with Jewel after her frightful revelation. They don't try to talk her out of her fear. Was this a good decision? Why or why not?
2. Tobias determines that before Jewel can help anyone else, she needs to learn "to be safe herself." Discuss why Tobias did not think that Jewel's response to hide from danger was good enough.
3. Jewel begins lessons with a stonebow as a means of protection fitting for her time period and place. Determine some ways of protection that can be effective in helping you and others stay safe today. Look at offensive (such as classes in self-defense) and defensive means (such as not wearing two noise-canceling earbuds in public).

CHAPTER 18

1. From an outsider's vantage point, everything at Spice House seems normal, even serene. What might be some of the unseen changes that are happening within Spice House after the burning of the Zadens' home?
2. One of the changes that is mentioned is the "uncertainty that hung around the estate." Discuss what that uncertainty might be.
3. Jewel would unburden herself to Jubilee from the fearful thoughts that would swirl around her about the General and her anxiety about her future. What do you think prevented her from sharing with Melody or Mrs. Marta?
4. Jewel's curiosity is heightened regarding the mysterious Master Sebastian and where he lives. Create a few scenarios as to why he hasn't come to Spice House.
5. Flags can be symbols, for good or bad. The Cassius household looks on the Cassius banners with pride and love. What characteristics do the flags symbolize to them? Traffickers (and gangs) today also use symbols; one is tattoos. What might a trafficker's tattoo symbolize?

CHAPTER 19

1. Compare the arrival of Quantas in Chapter 16 to the arrival of the Master of Spice House in this chapter. List and discuss the traits of each man that you notice from the way he arrives. What are the different characteristics of power that each man demonstrates?
2. What is a worldview? The worldview of most Menduciums strongly contrasts with the worldview of the inhabitants of Spice House. Why, or why not, is a person's worldview important when it comes to human trafficking?
3. Do you know what your worldview is? Explain it if you can. Do your actions line up with your worldview? Can you tell from their actions what worldview the inhabitants of Spice House have?

CHAPTER 20

1. What are some characteristics that the General displays at the dinner table that might tell you he would be an excellent candidate to help victims of human trafficking? What characteristics do you have that will be helpful in your relationships?
2. When Jewel learns about her history, and forgotten memories flood her heart, she is comforted by the General, Melody, and even Jubilee. What do each of them do to show their support? What do they avoid doing?
3. Often when we comfort a victim of trauma, what we refrain from doing is just as important as what we do for them. Where can you go to learn about walking (in a healthy way) beside someone suffering from trauma?
4. The author writes in this final chapter, “But in remembering, and surrendering to feeling again, Jewel began the arduous yet joyful journey to healing and wholeness.” Share your thoughts on why remembering and feeling would be key parts of the healing process.
5. Throughout the book the author has an underlying theme of relationships being integral to healing from trauma. Are relationships also an integral part of causing trauma? What type of relationships might cause trauma? Discuss some examples. What are some components of good relationships/bad relationships?

THOUGHTS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION
