



Pieces of Granite

Book Discussion Guide

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1. What was your favorite part of this story?
2. What did you learn from this story?
3. Do you recall what Debbie's minor rebellion was in college? Have you done something rebellious? Talk about it.
4. Which character(s) do you identify with the most? Who did you like the most? Please tell why.
5. In the beginning of the book, Debbie says, "God doesn't give you more than you can handle." Look at 1 Corinthians 10:13. Do you believe her statement was the proper Biblical interpretation? Did she learn something else? If so, what did she learn? What did you learn?
6. Debbie is viewed as the "glue" holding everyone together. What are the dangers of trying to be entirely self-sufficient without relying on others or God?
7. Jerry and Debbie both experience moments where God feels entirely absent. How do they navigate the "valley" when they can no longer feel or hear Him?
8. Debbie comes from a close-knit, yet sometimes adversarial family. What could the siblings do to get along better?
9. Debbie is a professional marriage counselor who specializes in helping other families, yet she struggles when her own family faces a crisis. How does her professional background affect how she handles her personal life?
10. We live in a world that praises emotional strength. The three leads in this book, Debbie, Jerry, and Richard (Ricky), all have difficulty in showing weakness. How did that failure affect their actions? Besides themselves, who did they hurt? Think about your personal life. Do you often try to be too strong during difficult times? How can you change? Where should we go for strength?
11. Jerry often suffered debilitating panic attacks. How did that affect his family? His work? What should he have done instead of trying to live with them? Did you sympathize with his retreat, or were you frustrated by it? Or both? Have you ever had a panic attack? Do you wish to share how that felt?
12. Richard (Ricky) is the prodigal son who hasn't yet realized he is prodigal. What do you think set him on his current road? Do you believe he can change? What attributes still make him likable?
13. When Debbie turns to Ricky for help, he suggests an unthinkable solution. How did this interaction highlight her isolation?
14. Debbie is definitely a tomboy. She'd rather go to a baseball game than a scrapbooking retreat. She'd rather sling a hammer than dress fancy and wear makeup. Can you relate? Why or why not?
15. Jerry teaches classes that include special needs children, so why do you think he was concerned about raising a child with Down syndrome? How did his past marriage play into this?

16. How did having his face burned at a young age affect Jerry?

17. You meet two stay-at-home parents in this book: Debbie and Lee. How did their parenting styles differ? What about their spiritual beliefs? How did that affect their lifestyles and parenting?

18. Near the end of the book, Debbie did a couple of things that were way out of character for her. What were those actions? What prompted her to behave that way? What did she learn from that behavior? Do you think it will happen again? Has that happened to you?

19. How do you see the title *Pieces of Granite* fitting with the theme of the story? How does it symbolize Debbie's identity? What causes her "rock solid" exterior to fracture?

20. Crisis can either bring a couple closer together or pull them apart. How do Debbie and Jerry communicate—or fail to communicate—their fears to one another?

21. This isn't a question, but rather a challenge for you to take a God Walk. Note the sensory images around you that inform of God's love and creation.