

GRACE IN DEEP WATERS DISCUSSION GUIDE



This is a long list of suggested questions. Please feel free to choose a few, adapt them, change the order or add your own questions.

GENERAL QUESTIONS

- The title is *Grace in Deep Waters*—who is this true for? What does this mean to you?
- Who is your favourite secondary character? Why?
- What themes in the book resonated with you? Why?
- What is something you learned from this novel that you could apply in your own life?

GRIEF

- Choose a character in the story. What griefs have they experienced? Did they deal with grief well/badly? How?
- What are unhealthy ways to deal with grief?
- What are healthy ways to deal with grief?
- To be human is to grieve often. What differences might there be for Christians?

PRAYER

- Have you ever prayed for a long time and not seen an answer? How did that make you feel?
- What helped you persevere? Perhaps share biblical stories/principles/testimonies...

BLANCHE

- Do you agree or disagree with why Blanche is staying with her mother-in-law?
- What might be good reasons to temporarily separate from your spouse? Which biblical stories/principles might support your view?
- Why does Blanche deal with her grief better than William?
- Why might Blanche have been tempted by Anton?
- What were some mistakes she made?
- How can we protect ourselves (as marrieds or singles) from ending up in her situation? (or worse)
- Why did Blanche initially run from any conflict? How does this change by the end of the book? What changes her?
- What was your (or your family) way of dealing with conflict? How could this story encourage/challenge you?

WILLIAM

- William is not a very pleasant character for most of the book. What are some of the contributing factors to his personality?
- William has a poor view of counselling. Why might that be his view?
- How does your church (or you and your peers) view counselling? Why?
- How does that impact how your church views people with mental health issues or simply unresolved grief/trauma?

- How do you think the church should view it? Why?
- What evidence is there before William's 'long swim' that he doesn't know Jesus? What evidence is there after, that he does?
- How did you change after becoming a Christian?
- Have you ever seen a public confession like William's? Why do you think he did it publicly and not a private letter? How did the public confession you experienced impact you? When do you think public confession is appropriate? Why? (i.e. what biblical support do you have for your view)