

Winds of Change

Book Group Discussion Questions

- 1) At the beginning of *Winds of Change*, Kate is surrounded by a loving community that “warms her heart.” Why is this so important? Do you have such a community? If not, how can you find or create one?
- 2) During the kids' rodeo, Gianna struggles to overcome her fear of letting go of the horse's mane. Share a time when fear immobilized you and how you overcame it. Did someone help you?
- 3) Kate recognizes that the conflict with Mike has changed their relationship in a negative way. They have gone from being partners to being adversaries. This can happen in any relationship. How would you suggest individuals resolve it? Have you ever restored an adversarial relationship back into a healthy partnership? What was necessary for this to happen?
- 4) While traveling to the beach, Shannon presses Kate about her past. What does it cost Kate to share her personal story? What makes Kate willing to share such painful experiences? Do you have a painful experience of any kind that, if shared, could help someone else heal?
- 5) Kate tells Shannon, “Violence and affection don't mix.” What events in Shannon's life caused her confusion? Is there any exception to this statement? What effect does violence have on affection?
- 6) At a low point, while locked in the garage, Kate wonders where God is. Was he still her refuge and strength? What causes her to doubt His love and care for her? Discuss any low points you may have had, where God seemed to have abandoned you. Is it possible for Him to abandon his own?
- 7) When encouraging Clint's new-found faith, Mike says, “God's Word is powerful. Inviting his presence into your home can't be a bad thing.” How do you go about bringing God's Word and his presence into your home? What good comes of it? How can you encourage others to do the same?
- 8) As he considers who may have abducted Kate and the kids, Mike's reflection on modern-day slavery indicates the evil practice includes slave labor and slave military service as well as sex slaves. Equally heinous is the sale of organs taken from captives. Are you aware of any organizations that fight these evils? How can you support them?

- 9) While rowing to her doom in the abandoned factory across the river, Kate hums Mike's worship song to gain strength. Is there a song, poem or scripture you sing or repeat when you need courage or strength? If not, share how you find the strength to get through tough times.
- 10) After being reunited, Kate's Aunt Mary declares that Kate is "Safe in the Shepherd's fold." Kate agrees and adds, "That's the story of my life." Reflect back over your life and share ways God has kept you safe.

- prepared by Patricia Watkins, educator and periodical author -