

GLIMPSES Study Guide
Chapter 1: Our Story

1) Consider the scripture heading for this chapter: The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace (Exodus 14:14). This promise from God is for all of His children. How does it apply to you in your present circumstances? Write or discuss your response.

2) Review the intricate ways in which the Lord prearranged for Carrie and Jan to meet long before their first encounter at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. What was Jan's response when she first learned of Carrie's diagnosis from their mutual friend? Have you had a similar response after hearing difficult news? If so, what was the result?

3) What do you suppose might have happened if Carrie had refused Jan's offer of help during her cancer treatment? Do you know of someone - or are you that someone - who finds it difficult to let others share in your pain and suffering?

4) Of what benefit to Carrie was Jan's history of cancer diagnosis, surgery, treatment and healing?

5) Have you ever found yourself in the midst of a situation in which you would never have imagined it possible to experience peace and joy, but that is exactly what happened? Meditate on the following scriptures: Lamentations

3:21-23

Romans 8:28

James 1:2-4

GLIMPSES Study Guide
Chapter 2: Diagnosis: Cancer

- 1) Why does the word “cancer” carry such an ominous connotation? What is the antidote to that?

- 2) What did Jan and Philippe see as a common thread throughout their decision-making process? Prayerfully meditate on Jeremiah 33:3; Romans 8:31-32; Philippians 4:19. How do these scriptures speak to you?

- 3) Compare and contrast Carrie’s and Jan’s reactions to their diagnoses. To whom do you find it easier to relate? Why?

- 4) What was the bond that made Carrie and Jan kindred spirits? Consider Isaiah 30:20; 2 Corinthians 4:7-10; I Peter 4:1-2. How might this help you understand your own suffering or that of another? Write or discuss your response.

- 5) Read aloud the prayer closing this chapter on page 29, asking the Lord to strengthen you with the assurance of His everlasting love.

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Chapter 3: Praise

1) Have you ever received an urgent command from God? What were the circumstances? Did you act in obedience on it?

2) What was the result of Philippe's obedience in praising the Lord after he had heard such terrible news? What do you think may have resulted if he had failed to obey God's voice?

3) Contemplate these biblical characters and their obedience to God's voice:

Noah (Genesis 6:9-22; Genesis 7)

Abraham (Genesis 22:1-18)

Mary (Luke 1:26-38)

How might history have been different if they had not walked in obedience? Write or discuss your thoughts.

4) Consider the chapter scripture heading from Psalm 22:3 - You are holy, O You who inhabit the praises of Israel (NASB). What does it mean for God to "inhabit" our praises? Another translation reads, Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the praise of Israel (NIV). Which speaks to you more clearly about God's response to our praises?

5) What is a "sacrifice of praise?" Ask the Holy Spirit to interpret Hebrews 13:15 for you and teach you how to offer it to Him. Journal your response.

GLIMPSES Study Guide

Chapter 4: Fear

1) How do our childhood experiences impact our response to threatening situations as adults? What have you encountered and how did/do you deal with your fears? Write or discuss your response.

2) Compare Carrie's and Jan's responses to fear and their origins from childhood. What did Jan learn from her own cancer experience that was helpful to Carrie? How can you in turn help another?

3) Have you ever pictured Jesus holding you through desperate and frightening circumstances? Prayerfully meditate on God's Word:

Deuteronomy 33:27

Psalm 23

John 14:1-2

Romans 8:38

4) Think about Jan's statement on page 41: "To a great extent, fear became the cancer. It was doing far more damage in my life than the actual physical disease had accomplished." What does God's Word say about fear? Consider Psalm 23:4; Psalm 91:5; Isaiah 41:10,13; I John 4:18.

5) Did you know that the Bible says "fear not" 366 times? That's one for every day of the year - and a Leap Year bonus to boot! How can you begin to take Him more at His Word and choose to trust rather than to fear?

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Chapter 5: Hope

1) What do you think about the quotation from Dr. Archibald Hart's friend: "As long as you keep hope alive, hope will keep you alive." On what is hope based? (hint: Col 1:27) What does this mean to you?

2) Think about PJ's essay on hope and her theory that we have it on several different emotional levels: casual hope, sincere hope, whispering hope. Describe your own experience with "whispering hope." How has Jesus met you in your time(s) of desperate need? Write or discuss your response.

3) Contemplate Carrie's Journal entry on page 47 in which she refers to "heavenly hope that is much more powerful than any worldly power or control." How can you cultivate this heavenly hope?

4) Proverbs 13:12 reads, "Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life." How does this apply to Jan's desire to adopt a child so soon after her radical cancer surgery? Have you ever been heartsick from a lack or loss of hope? How was your hope restored?

5) Read these scripture passages aloud and prayerfully ask the Holy Spirit to bring new hope into your circumstances:

Psalm 62:5; Psalm 147:11; Isaiah 40:31; Romans 5:2-5; Romans 15:13;
Hebrews 10:23; Hebrews 11:1

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Chapter 6: Godly Marriage

1) Carrie maintained that “one needs to understand that everything we do, say, believe, pray about, exist for, is for God’s glory.” How does the marriage covenant bring glory to God?

2) Read Ephesians 5:22-33 where Paul instructs husbands and wives in God’s design for marriage. What does it mean for a husband to love his wife as Christ loved the church? As you read about Carrie’s and Jan’s husbands, how do they reflect this mandate from God?

3) What challenges have you faced in your own marriage - or observed in the marriages of family members or friends - when cancer or other illness strikes? How can you grow in Christlikeness through times like these? Write or discuss your response.

4) Carrie and Gary Oliver continued to teach at conferences, minister to others and write books right up until the time of her death. Consider Philippians 4:13, I Thessalonians 5:16, and Philippians 1:6. How can you grow through their testimony and these scriptures?

5) Read Revelation 19:6-10 and Revelation 21:1-6. How does this help you to put life on earth into a Kingdom perspective?

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Chapter 7: Passion and Purpose

1) Carrie wrote, “To be passionate is to know the love of the Father and to choose Him in all of our circumstances because He chose us with perfect passionate love on a Cross.” What is your definition of “passion?” How do you live it out on a daily basis?

2) What do you see as your purpose in life? How does it compare or contrast with what Carrie and Jan have shared?

3) How can a life-threatening illness like cancer impact your purpose in life? Explore both the positives and the negatives through writing or discussion.

4) “One individual life may be of priceless value to God’s purposes, and yours may be that life.” How does this quote from Oswald Chambers impact you? Are you willing to be that person He has called you to be?

5) Cite examples from this chapter of God’s promise in Romans 8:28 to “work all things together for good for those who love God and are called according to His purpose.” What evidence of this have you seen in your own life?

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Chapter 8: Loneliness

1) How does Carrie's description of loneliness fit with your own experience? Have you ever felt lonely in a room full of people? Describe the circumstances and why you think you felt that way.

2) How does sharing a devastating diagnosis like cancer create a bond that transcends loneliness? How does God's provision in Philippians 4:19 apply here?

3) When have you experienced the comforting love of Jesus when no human love could supply what you needed? Describe how He ministered to you.

4) Do you agree with Jan's thought that perhaps Jesus felt lonely at times? How do you think He reacted when His disciples fell asleep when they were to be watching and praying? When most of the disciples deserted Him? When He hung on the Cross? Read chapters 26 and 27 of the gospel of Matthew and journal your responses.

5) Meditate on Hebrews 4:14-16 and offer to God a prayer of thanksgiving for taking on the form of a Man so that He could sympathize with every human weakness, including loneliness.

GLIMPSES Study Guide
Chapter 9: Gifts

1) How often do you find yourself thanking God for His gift of salvation by grace as described in Ephesians 2:8-10? What is the difference between striving in an attempt to merit God's grace and being God's handiwork to perform the good works He prepared in advance for you to do?

2) Read 2 Corinthians 12:9-10. How do you perceive that Carrie lived out this scripture? How does it apply to you?

3) Have you ever taken a spiritual gift assessment? Study I Corinthians 12; Romans 12; Ephesians 4. Where do you feel that your giftedness lies? Ask others whom you trust to help you determine this.

4) How does a cancer diagnosis change one's perception of time? If you could "put time in a bottle," what would you put in yours? How does 2 Corinthians 4:7 apply here?

5) Read Matthew 6:19-21. How did God use seven-year-old Paul's willingness to sacrifice his new bike to bring eternal Kingdom fruit? Describe a time when you made a sacrificial choice on behalf of another. What lasting fruit resulted?

GLIMPSES Study Guide
Chapter 10: Reality

1) Study the scripture heading for this chapter, Philippians 4:12-13. How was Paul able to be content in every circumstance? Assess yourself in light of this passage. Write or discuss your thoughts.

2) How can trials and tribulations actually contribute to a richer, more abundant life? What indications have you seen in Carrie's and Jan's lives to this effect? What about your own life?

3) Think about this passage in the Lord's Prayer: "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." What does it mean to live eternity right now?

4) How can you "run in such a way as to get the prize?" Meditate on 1 Corinthians 9:24-25 and ask yourself what you are doing to run your race to get a crown that will last forever.

5) Have you ever had the experience of being with a loved one as they left this life? Describe the emotions you felt and how it impacted your perceptions of life and death. Meditate on 2 Corinthians 5:1-10 and I Thessalonians 4:13-18. Journal your responses.

GLIMPSES Study Guide
Chapter 11: Perseverance

1) Do you agree with Jan's statement that "persistence and perseverance are two very different things?" Give an example of persistence and one of perseverance in your own life experience. How are they different?

2) What figure in the Bible do you most relate to in terms of perseverance? Consider the stories of Abraham, Sarah, Noah, Moses, Nehemiah, Job, David, Mary the mother of Jesus, Peter, Paul, John and any others who come to mind. Discuss or write about the obstacles they faced and overcame with God's help.

3) How does Philippians 3:13-14 exemplify Carrie's statement that "we are called to persevere?" Have you ever felt like giving up? How has the Lord met you in your time of despair?

4) Meditate on these scriptures on perseverance and ask the Holy Spirit to encourage you in your own journey: Romans 5:2-5; Hebrews 12:1-3; James 1:2-4; James 5:11. Journal what you hear Him saying to you.

5) What is the "prize" to which Paul refers in I Corinthians 9:24-27? Are you running in such a way as to get the prize? What further steps can you take to deepen your relationship with Christ?

GLIMPSES Study Guide
Chapter 12: Lies of the Enemy

1) Consider the “three R’s” that Jan shared with Carrie: Reject, Rejoice, Receive. Apply them to your own circumstances and write or discuss your response.

2) How does praising God silence the enemy? Meditate on Joshua 6:15-20; Psalm 8; Psalm 27; Acts 16:25-34. What do these scriptures teach you about the power of praise? Will you apply this in your own life?

3) Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-5. What does it mean to “take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ?” Martin Luther once said, “You can’t keep a bird from landing on your head, but you can keep it from building a nest there.” Apply the following scriptures as a means of growing in this grace: Philippians 4:6-8; Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 6:13-18.

4) Many believers forget that Satan is not on a par with God; he is an angelic creation of God who rebelled and took a third of the angels with him. He is “the prince of darkness” and the “prince of this world” but he has already lost the battle by the blood of Jesus. Discuss or write about how this knowledge impacts your own situation and how you can use James 4:7-8 to grow in this area.

5) At what times are you most vulnerable to the attacks of the enemy? What steps can you take to fortify yourself with spiritual food to withstand the assaults?

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Chapter 13: Humility

1) How do you personally define humility? What synonyms would you use to describe it? Do you consider it a positive attribute? Why or why not?

2) Evangelist Andrew Murray defined humility as “complete dependence upon God.” How does this impact your own understanding? Where are you on the humility scale? Consider Philippians 2:3-4 and write or discuss your perceptions.

3) How does the secular world resist the concept of humility? How did Carrie’s and Jan’s physical trials teach them the truth of humility as being “complete dependence upon God?”

4) Consider God’s Word regarding pride: Psalm 31:23; Proverbs 8:13; Proverbs 16:5; Proverbs 16:18; Proverbs 29:23; Daniel 4:37; James 4:6. Why is pride so dangerous? Write or discuss your responses.

5) What steps of obedience and accountability can you take to ensure that you overcome pride and grow in the virtue of humility? Prayerfully ask God to guide you in this.

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Chapter 14: Grown-up Girlfriends

1) What divinely-orchestrated events resulted in the friendship between Carrie and Jan? How does this encourage you as you consider God's provision for all of us? What evidence of this do you see in your own friendships?

2) How can walking through a life trial with a friend grow us in our own journey of faith?

3) Many people are reluctant to ask others, even close friends, for help in times of need. Where do you stand in this? If it is difficult for you, as it was for both Carrie and Jan at times, ask yourself why and discuss or write your response.

4) Consider significant friendships in the Bible: David and Jonathan (I Samuel, chapters 18, 19, 20, 23); Naomi and Ruth (Book of Ruth); Paul and Timothy (Acts 16-20; I Timothy and 2 Timothy); the apostle John and Jesus (gospel of John; 1,2,3 John). How did they support and encourage one another in their walks? Write your responses for each example.

5) If you have difficulty finding friends, what can you do to reach out and become a friend? Consider opportunities to serve those in need as Jan did with Carrie. How was she blessed beyond expectation? You can do this, too! Prayerfully ask God to help you.

GLIMPSES Study Guide
Chapter 15: The Journey

1) Consider Jan's statement, "A 'trip' to the doctor's office became the journey of a lifetime." Have you experienced a life-changing event like that? As you reflect on it, what were your perceptions of God's presence?

2) The Israelites wandered through the desert for 40 years looking for the Promised Land because of their disobedience to God's instructions issued through Moses. Read Numbers 14 and note God's response to their rebellion and the consequences He imposed as a result.

3) God does not cause cancer or afflict people with disease or difficulties; we live in a fallen world where we will have trouble. But He does expect us to choose to trust Him in the midst of the "twists and turns" that Carrie writes about in her journal entry on p. 121. Read this again and note or discuss the various ways we can choose to either listen to God or follow our fears.

4) Look up the following passages and prayerfully claim these promises for yourself: Deuteronomy 31:6; 2 Chronicles 16:9; Psalm 23:2; Psalm 32:8-10; Isaiah 30:21; Isaiah 41:10, 13; John 14:1-4. What is the Lord impressing on you about your journey with Him?

5) Read Hebrews 11, often referred to as the Hall of Faith. Write or discuss your impressions of these journeys of faith in and with God. Finish by praying Hebrews 12:1-2 as a petition for your own journey with God.

GLIMPSES Study Guide
Chapter 16: Angels

1) Consider Jan's experience recounted at the beginning of this chapter. Have you ever been aware of a supernatural angelic intervention? Meditate on Psalm 91:11-12. Do you believe that this applies to you as well?(Please say YES! ☺)

2) The word angel means "messenger." Read the following scripture passages that describe some of the various functions of the angels of the Lord and define them for yourself:

a) Hebrews 1:6, Revelation 5:11-12; b) Acts 7:54, Gal.3:19; c) Acts 12:23; d) Rev. 1:20; e) Acts 27:23-25; f) 2 Thess. 1:7, I Thess. 4:16.

3) Because angels are created beings and messengers from God, what must we be careful to avoid doing? Read the account of the apostle John in Rev. 19:9-10 and Rev. 22:8-9.

4) Read Luke 1:11-20; Luke 1:26-38; Luke 2:8-14. What were the responses of these individuals to angelic visitations? How do you think you would react to an angel appearing to you?

5) How does the knowledge that God provides angelic protection over you help you navigate through the challenges of life? Write or discuss your thoughts.

GLIMPSES Study Guide
Chapter 17: Waiting

1) What does it mean to you to “wait for the Lord?” Read Psalm 27 and prayerfully meditate on verses 13 and 14. Have you experienced the fruit that comes from waiting for the Lord? How?

2) Consider prominent Biblical figures who had to wait a long time to see the fulfillment of God’s promises: Abraham (Gen.17:3/promise; Gen. 21:1/answer); Moses (Ex. 3:10/promise; Ex.12:31/answer); David (I Sam. 16:12-13/promise; 2 Sam.2:7/answer). Study these passages and write or discuss how this alters your perception of God’s timing and your own waiting for Him to answer.

3) Reread Carrie’s final Journal entry before her death (p.138), focusing on her words, “we wait for God to continue to show us how He desires to fulfill His purposes through us here on earth.” What purposes do you sense are waiting to be fulfilled in your own life? What is your part in waiting for the Lord to fulfill His plan?

4) Why is it vital for a believer in Christ to share testimonies of what He has done? Spend time meditating on the following scriptures and write or discuss your responses: Deut. 6:1-12; Habbakuk 3:2; Malachi 3:16-18; Matthew 28:16-20; Revelation 19:10.

5) Write your own testimony to share with your study group, friends or family, thanking God for His faithfulness to you.

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Chapter 18: Mentoring

1) How did this chapter help you to understand the roles of mentor/mentoree? Do you have a mentor? Do you mentor someone? Why is mentoring an essential Christian role?

2) Look up these Bible passages and write down who is mentoring whom: Numbers 27:18-20; 2 Kings 2:1-15; Acts 11:25-26; 2 Tim. 2:2. What fruit resulted from these relationships?

3) Godly mentors exemplify the characteristics in the following passages: Ability to see potential (Phil.1:4-6; I Tim. 4:12); Tolerance with mistakes (I Tim. 1:13); Flexibility (Phil. 4:11-13); Patience (2 Kings 2: 1-9); Perspective (Eph. 5:15-20). How would you assess yourself and where do you need to grow? Journal your thoughts.

4) Mentoring can be for a season or for a lifetime. Discuss or write how you could come alongside someone as Jan did with Carrie, or of other scenarios where another could benefit greatly from your experience and walk with God.

5) Consider Ephesians 5:1-2. Who is our ultimate Mentor? How can we grow more into His likeness day by day? What role does being mentored and mentoring others play in this?

GLIMPSES Study Guide

Chapter 19: Trust

1) Consider Proverbs 3:5-6. Why does God ask us to do this? Have you been able to surrender ALL to Him? If not, what is holding you back?

2) Reread Carrie's Journal excerpt on page 152, noting her "always" statements. Apply the following scriptures to these statements: Matthew 28:20; I Peter 5:7; Psalm 32:8; Isaiah 58:11. How do these truths reassure you in your own walk? Which ministers to you most right now?

3) Compare Psalm 13 with Job 19:2-27. Write or discuss the similarities and differences in the responses of David and Job to adversity. How do both passages begin? How do they end?

4) Recall your personal times of lament, complaint and even anger towards God. Write a psalm, poem or prayer expressing your emotions to God and trusting that He understands.

5) Meditate on Isaiah 40:31; Lamentations 3:21-23; Romans 8:28; John 16:33. What is the common theme? How does this impact your ability to trust God?

GLIMPSES Study Guide
Chapter 20: Right Relationship

1) Consider Jan's statement on page 162: "Forgiveness through the blood of Jesus equals right relationship, both with God and with one another." Read Hebrews 9:11-22. Why is the shedding of blood necessary for the forgiveness of sin?

2) Read Luke 6:37-38. What does Jesus say will happen when you forgive? What does He say will happen when you give? What is the correlation here?

3) Say the Lord's Prayer as contained in Matthew 6:9-13. What does Jesus say in verse 12? Continue reading Matthew 6:14-15. How high a premium does God place on forgiveness?

4) Describe a time in your walk with God when you chose to trust Him rather than to retreat into anger, grief or disbelief. What rewards did you reap in your relationship with Him? How did it affect your relationship with others? Write or discuss your responses.

5) Reflect on Carrie's words on pages 163-164: ..."but I know I can't live without the Father's love, however He chooses to demonstrate that love for me. I am glad that His promises are true and that ultimately, I can trust my Lord for everything this world has to offer me, both wonderful and difficult." How is this reminiscent of Paul's words in Philippians 4:10-13? Where do you feel you are in this process?

GLIMPSES Study Guide
Chapter 21: Grief

1) Consider the five stages of grief as outlined by Dr. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross on page 169. Using the trials of Job as a model, identify the stages of grief in these passages, noting how they often overlap: Job 1:21, Job 2: 11-13; Job 3, Job 10:1-17; Job 6:8-10, Job 9:14-20; Job 7:6-10, Job 10:18-22; Job 42:1-6.

2) Contemplate your own journeys through grief, writing an account of how you handled each phase and where you might have gotten stuck for a while. If you are grieving a loss right now, where are you in the process? How can you apply Carrie's and Jan's experiences to help you navigate through these deep waters? Journal your thoughts.

3) Write or discuss what all types of grief have in common as well as how they might differ. Read again the excerpt from C.S. Lewis on pages 171-172 and consider the similarities between grief and fear.

4) Prayerfully meditate on these scriptures: Psalm 18:1-19; Psalm 23; Psalm 27:1, 13-14; Psalm 42:1-5; Psalm 46; Lamentations 3:21-23; Lamentations 4:55-58. What do you sense the Holy Spirit saying to you in response?

5) "I hate my life right now, but I still love my Lord." Do these words of Dr. Gary Oliver, spoken shortly after the deaths of Carrie and their son Matt, resonate with anything in your own experience? Write a prayer expressing your feelings to God.

GLIMPSES Study Guide
Chapter 22: Sacrifice

1) Contemplate Romans 12:1; I Corinthians 6:19-20; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 1:20-21. What is the common theme that Paul weaves through these verses? Consider your own life and evaluate where you are in light of these passages. Journal your response.

2) Read again the excerpt from Experiencing God on pages 178-179. Ask God to reveal your “cross” as defined by the statement, “Your cross will be to voluntarily participate in Christ’s sufferings as He carries out His redemptive purposes.” How is He using it for His glory?

3) Read 2 Corinthians 4 and I Peter 4. Compare and contrast through writing or discussion the ways in which these two apostles admonish believers to submit their bodies for Christ’s purpose.

4) Who in your life has sacrificed in these ways on your behalf? For whom have you given sacrificially?

5) Read Hebrews 13:15-16. What is a “sacrifice of praise?” Read again Gary Oliver’s Sovereign Joy excerpt on page 182 and write or discuss how you might cultivate this joy even in the midst of great trials.

GLIMPSES Study Guide
Chapter 23: Prayer

1) What is your earliest recollection of prayer? When did you begin to know that God really hears and answers your prayers? Pray the Lord's Prayer aloud now (Matthew 6:9-13), proclaiming these words with the authority you have been given as a believer in Christ.

2) Consider the statement Carrie makes in her journal entry on page 186: "That is what it is ultimately about: a conversation with God and a belief that He hears us. So simple, yet so powerful." With this definition in mind, write or discuss the obstacles you have encountered in your own prayer life.

3) Think about Jan's answer to the question, "So why bother praying?" She writes, "It is not for the result; it is for the relationship." Chart your personal history of God's faithfulness to you as He has revealed Himself through times when you have called out to Him in prayer. Do you see growth in your relationship as your trust deepens?

4) Meditate on the scripture on page 184 that heads this chapter, Romans 8:26-27. Think about times when you have been sick, depressed, grief-stricken or generally overwhelmed and found it nearly impossible to pray. How have you experienced the power of the Holy Spirit interceding for you "with groans that words cannot express"?

5) Choose one of the psalms (I suggest Psalm 16,23,27,35,42,51,55-65,68-71,74,75,77,80,83,86,88-93,101-103,111-113,116,118,120,121,123,130,136, 138,139,140-150) and offer it to the Lord as your own prayer of praise, petition or thanksgiving. Record His response to you.

GLIMPSES Study Guide
Chapter 24: Suffering

1) Consider the words of Oswald Chambers on page 197: “God does not give us overcoming life; He gives us life as we overcome. The strain is the strength.” Read John 16:33. How have you seen this manifested in your life?

2) How has the Christian life surprised you as you have encountered suffering, both your own and that of your loved ones? Meditate on I Peter 4:12 and write or discuss your thoughts.

3) Read Psalm 91 and then read again the paragraph on page 197 concerning it. Do you agree with Oswald Chambers’ interpretation? Why or why not?

4) Listen to the Chris Rice song “Untitled Hymn: Come to Jesus” that Carrie writes about on page 197. How do these lyrics impact you in the midst or aftermath of your own times of suffering? Write or discuss your feelings.

5) Read aloud Romans 5:2-5. Have you been able to rejoice in your own suffering? If so, write or describe how the Holy Spirit enabled you to do this. If not, prayerfully ask Him to show you how.

GLIMPSES Study Guide

Chapter 25: Music

1) Have you experienced the Presence of God through music in worship? Consider the words in Psalm 22:3 in the translation that reads, “God inhabits the praises of His people.” Describe how He has manifested Himself in your times of worship.

2) How does God reveal Himself to us through our emotional responses in worship? Reread Jan’s description on pages 204-205 and write or discuss how you feel when singing and worshiping God results in tears. Do these emotions make you uncomfortable? Do they bring comfort and healing?

3) Have you ever had the experience of singing over someone who is suffering? How might you use the ministry of praising God through song to bring comfort to those who are in distress?

4) Think about the story of King George II that is related on page 207. How has the glory of the Lord prompted you to respond in worship? Listen to the MercyMe song “I Can Only Imagine” and consider the words: “When I come into your Presence, to my knees will I fall? Will I sing Alleluia? Will I be able to sing at all?” How do you think you will respond to His glory? Can you begin to express that even today?

5) Over the next week, read aloud each day one psalm from Psalms 144-150. Try singing each one, allowing the Holy Spirit to create the tune in you. Record how He ministers to you by rejoicing over you with singing!

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Chapter 26: Healing

1) Read again Carrie's journal entry on page 210, focusing on the last sentence. How did Carrie experience heaven on this earth despite the presence of disease in her body? How can you experience this and demonstrate it to others?

2) Meditate on Romans 12:1-2. What does it mean to offer your body as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God? What results can we expect from being obedient to God in this? Write or discuss your thoughts.

3) Have you experienced God's miraculous intervention in times of great physical distress? Consider Jan's testimonies on pages 211-212 and compare her responses to the two similar situations that God healed by different means. How do you discern His perfect will? Discuss this with your group or write your response.

4) Read Carrie's journal entry on page 213. How does God reveal Himself to us during our times of suffering? Assess your own response to God's Word in Isaiah 55:9. How do you see this in your own experience?

5) Ponder 2 Peter 2:24 and then consider Hebrews 11:39. Write or discuss your responses as God reveals greater dimensions of Himself to you.

GLIMPSES Study Guide
Chapter 27: Making Memories

1) Meditate on the scripture heading for this chapter, II Peter 1:12-15. Why does the apostle Peter feel that it is important to be refreshed in our memories? Go back now and read the entire first chapter of II Peter. What are the memories that Peter is encouraging these new Christians to recall? Why are they important?

2) Read again Carrie's journal entry on pages 217-219. In the last paragraph of this entry, she writes, "There are different lenses to see life with." Write or discuss how serious illness, an accident, or other traumatic life event can change the way we see life. Read I Corinthians 13, focusing on verses 12 and 13. What did Carrie learn - and how can you learn through this as well?

3) Why is a daily time set apart for God so important? Why does He want us to remember Him and what He has done for us each day? Write or discuss your response. If you do not already journal, consider recording each day the ways in which the Lord is at work in your life.

4) Read the words of Moses to the Israelites in Deuteronomy 6:6-9. What does he instruct them to do? Why was this so important?

5) Read Revelation 19:10. This verse refers to the significance of sharing testimonies with others of what Jesus has done. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to interpret what this means and the impact it can have on you, your family, your church and your community. Write or discuss your response.

GLIMPSES Study Guide
Chapter 28: Transparency

1) Read Jan's description of the differences between opaque, translucent and transparent on page 225. If you were to categorize your spiritual walk with one of these terms, which would it be? Why? If you are not yet transparent, what steps can you take to allow more of His light to shine through you?

2) Read again the excerpt from Bob Sorge's *Secrets of the Secret Place* on pages 226-227. Focus on what he says about temptation appealing to dark areas within our bodies. How can you apply this knowledge? Read and meditate on Ephesians 6:12; I John 4:4; James 1: 22-25; Philippians 4:8; 2 Corinthians 5:8-10. Write or discuss your responses.

3) Consider Brennan Manning's quote on page 229: "An intense inner desire to learn to think like Jesus is already the sign of God's presence. The rest is the operation and activity of the Holy Spirit." How badly do you hunger and thirst for righteousness? How is God meeting you as you draw near to Him?

4) On page 229, Carrie writes, "Transparency is not a complete uncovering with no boundaries of who we are, but rather it is agreeing with Jesus about who we are." Who does Jesus say you are? Find five scriptures that speak of your identity in Him.

5) How does transparency help to bring freedom in Christ? Read I John 1:5-10 and write a prayer to God, asking Him to help you walk in His light and find freedom in Christ.

GLIMPSES Study Guide

Chapter 29: Family

1) Reflect on your own experience with your family of origin. If it was largely joyful, express your thanks to God by writing a prayer of thanksgiving. If it was filled with pain, meditate on Psalm 68:5-6 and then write a prayer thanking God for rescuing you and beginning a new work.

2) How has your family of origin impacted the family you have through marriage? What generational patterns - both good and undesirable - have been perpetuated? If you are not married, how have you created a family through friendships? Write or discuss your thoughts.

3) Consider the biblical examples of dysfunctional families on pages 235-237. How might this help you to see your own family in a new light? Especially reflect on the exchange between Jacob and Esau in Genesis 33. What was the result? Write or discuss how you might use this same principle within your own family experience. What might God do for you?

4) How has Jesus Christ changed your concept of family? Read the entire chapter of Romans 8 and then meditate on verses 15-17 and verses 22-25. Who are you as an adopted child of God? How does this impact your life?

5) How can you use what you have learned through your own trials and through reading about those of Carrie and Jan to impact not only your family but the family of God, the Body of Christ? Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 and prayerfully ask God to show you how He might use you in this way.

GLIMPSES Study Guide
Chapter 30: More than Conquerors

1) Have you ever experienced a time when you knew that God's presence and power working in and through you were more than you could do in the natural? Describe through writing or discussion how God moved in and through you to accomplish His purpose.

2) Read I Samuel 17. How did God enable David to be more than a conqueror? How did this impact his future and the history of Israel? How might God use you even in the midst of weakness, pain or trials?

3) Read again the account of Kefa Sempangi on pages 243-245. Notice the impact of his prayer on the potential assassins. How did God use Kefa's obedience to change what he could not do himself in the natural? What Kingdom principles were in operation here? How can you learn from this and apply it in your own life circumstances?

4) Think about the various ways in which God continued to work in and through Carrie and Gary, Mike, Lynda, PJ and others dealing with the reality of cancer in their lives. Meditate on these scriptures, asking God to teach and strengthen you through His Word: Exodus 14:14; Deuteronomy 31:6; Joshua 1:9; Romans 8:35-39; 2 Corinthians 12:9; Philippians 4:19. Journal your thoughts.

5) Read again Carrie's journal entry on pages 246-247, paying close attention to the last sentence. Why is the Body of Christ so important as we walk through life together? How does God manifest Himself through His children and their spiritual gifts? Write or discuss how you have both given and received in this way. How can you grow in this?

GLIMPSES Study Guide
Chapter 31: Blessing

1) Read the promises God made to Abram in Genesis 12:1-3. Notice the various uses of the root word “bless.” Why did God bless Abram? What did He say would result from this? How significant is the power of a blessing?

2) Read Deuteronomy 28:1-14. What condition does Moses give to the Israelites in order for them to receive blessing? Now read Deuteronomy 28:15-20 and compare the curses with the blessings in verses 1-14. What premium was placed on obedience? Write or discuss your impressions.

3) Read Matthew 5:1-12, the passage from the Sermon on the Mount which we refer to as the Beatitudes (blessings). Compare and contrast to the passages from Deuteronomy you just read. How does the knowledge of God’s gift of grace through Jesus Christ make you feel?

4) Consider how you feel about investing in relationships like Carrie and Jan shared that may be of short duration. Now read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 and I Peter 1:22-25. How do these passages help to change your perspective?

5) Read aloud Psalm 103, preferably in the New King James translation that reads “BLESS the Lord, O my soul.” Why do we bless the Lord? Does it imply something different to you than praise? Write or discuss your impressions. Now offer it again to the Lord as a prayer.

GLIMPSES Study Guide

Chapter 32: JOY

1) Read the scripture heading for this chapter, John 15:9-11. What does Jesus say we must do so that His joy may be in us and our joy may be complete? Carefully consider this passage and ask the Lord to reveal to you what He desires for you to receive from this. Write or discuss your thoughts.

2) Read again Carrie's journal entry on page 259. What are the "good gifts that bring my heart joy" that she writes about? Have you experienced joy in the midst of sorrow? Describe your own journey.

3) Read the descriptions of joy given by Gary Oliver and Oswald Chambers on page 260. What do they have in common? What is true joy?

4) Meditate on Nehemiah 8:10. What is joy in this passage? Read Psalm 126. What is the source of joy here? Meditate on Galatians 5:22-25. How is joy described here? What does joy look like to you today? How can you cultivate more of it?

5) Read aloud Hannah Hurnard's poem entitled JOY on pages 263-264. What strikes you most about her perspective? What does she mean by the phrase "Joy is sorrow inside out"? Write or discuss your thoughts.

GLIMPSES Study Guide
Chapter 33: Compassion

1) Considering that the word compassion means “to suffer with,” read and meditate on these Old Testament scriptures: Nehemiah 9:5-31 (focusing on v. 19, 27, 28); Psalm 103 (focusing on v. 4 and 13); Isaiah 54 (focusing on v. 7, 8, 10). Who suffers with us? In what ways was this demonstrated in the Old Testament? Write or discuss what the Holy Spirit is impressing on you.

2) According to Jonathan Edwards, “The nature of human beings is to be inactive unless influenced by some affection.” Read again his excerpt on pages 268-269 and consider your own affections, writing down those things that motivate you. Now meditate on these passages from the New Testament: I Corinthians 6:19-20; I Cor. 7:22-23; 2 Cor. 4: 10-12; Galatians 2:20; I Peter 4:12-14. Who are we to emulate in our suffering? Write or discuss how this impacts your life.

3) Read again Carrie’s journal excerpt on pages 269-270. How does she show compassion in the midst of her own suffering? How does this encourage you in your own struggles?

4) Again referring to Jonathan Edwards’ treatise on Religious Affections (page 270), he writes, “The Scriptures choose this quality (compassion) as the one which will determine who is righteous.” Meditate on these scriptures, asking the Lord to speak to your heart through them: Psalm 37:21; Proverbs 14:31; Matthew 5:7; Ephesians 5:1-2; Philippians 2:1-5. Journal your responses.

5) Think now about the scripture heading for this chapter, 2 Corinthians 1:3-5. How can this spur you on to demonstrate compassion to others?

GLIMPSES Study Guide
Chapter 34: Obedience

1) “To obey is better than sacrifice.” Read I Samuel, chapter 15. What was the consequence of King Saul’s disobedience? How do these words speak to you and what can you learn from them?

2) In the excerpt from Hannah Hurnard on pages 278-279, she writes, “In the Hebrew language, hearing and obeying are the same word.” When you hear the voice of God by the power of the Holy Spirit, do you respond in obedience? How is faith tied in to obedience? Read and meditate on chapters 11 and 12 in the book of Hebrews and journal your response to God’s Word.

3) Why is it sometimes difficult to distinguish between God’s voice and our own thoughts? How do you know when it is God who is speaking? Read Jan’s testimonies on pages 280-281 and write or discuss the ways in which she has learned to discern God’s voice.

4) Meditate on God’s Word in Isaiah 55:8-11. How does this encourage you in your walk with Him?

5) Go back to the scripture heading for this chapter, James 1:22. What does James tell us will happen if we do not do what the Word says? What will happen if we do? What steps can you take to walk more closely with the Lord? Write or discuss your thoughts.

GLIMPSES Study Guide
Chapter 35: Anniversaries

1) Why do we celebrate anniversaries? Consider the annual holidays that are based on biblical events: Christmas, Hanukkah, Good Friday, Easter, Passover. Why is it important that we commemorate them each year? Write or discuss your responses.

2) Read again Carrie's journal entry on pages 286-287. How would you characterize the emotion with which she celebrated the one-year anniversary of her cancer diagnosis? What choice did she make when diagnosed with cancer that greatly impacted her response one year later? Have you ever dealt with this, either as a patient or caregiver? How did you respond?

3) Consider Gary Oliver's description on pages 288-289 of the first anniversary of Carrie's birthday following her death. How did Gary commemorate this day? What choice did he make? How can anniversaries of difficult events help to bring healing? Write or discuss your thoughts.

4) Meditate on Lamentations 3:22-32. What assurance do we have from God, regardless of our circumstances? How does this knowledge encourage us to move forward after times of loss and even tragedy? How have you experienced this in a personal way?

5) Choose a significant event in your life that you have commemorated in a special way on an anniversary. What did you experience in this celebration or remembrance? How did God reveal Himself during this time?

GLIMPSES Study Guide
Chapter 36: Glimpses

1) Pray aloud the Lord's Prayer. What does "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven" signify to you? Read again Carrie's journal entry on pages 293-294. How can we begin to experience heaven right here on this earth? Write or discuss your thoughts.

2) Read Genesis 28:12-17. Why was Jacob's response when he awoke from his dream? Have you ever dreamed of heaven or had a supernatural vision? What was your response? Consider the words of the prophet Joel in Joel 2:28-32. Write or discuss your thoughts.

3) How is God's intricate arrangement of the meeting and friendship of Carrie and Jan evidence of His Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven? What were the Kingdom fruits that resulted? Share by writing or in discussion something in your own experience that was clearly orchestrated by God.

4) Consider what Jan wrote after the Lord had given her a vision of her unborn daughter: "God had allowed His Kingdom to come on earth to give me HOPE." Meditate on Romans 5:1-5. How do these words touch your heart?

5) Spend some time alone with God, asking Him to bathe you in hope as you reflect on these scriptures: Psalm 42:5; Isaiah 40:31; Romans 5:2; Romans 15:13; Hebrews 10:23; Colossians 1:27. Write a prayer of praise and thanksgiving to Him for being your hope now and forevermore.