bookreporter

A Voice in the Wind: Mark of the Lion #1

by Francine Rivers

About the Book

This classic series has inspired nearly 2 million readers. Both loyal fans and new readers will want the updated editions of this beloved series. These editions include a new foreword from the publisher, a new preface from Francine Rivers and discussion questions suitable for personal and group use.

A VOICE IN THE WIND: Mark of the Lion #1

This first book in the classic bestselling *Mark of the Lion* series brings readers back to the first century and introduces them to a character they will never forget --- Hadassah. Torn by her love for a handsome aristocrat, a young slave girl clings to her faith in the living God for deliverance from the forces of decadent Rome.

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Discussion Guide

When writing this story, Francine had a key Bible verse in mind: “In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father” (Matthew 5:16). Our deeds, be they words, actions, or the lack thereof, define our character and allude to our motivations. With this in mind, let me encourage you to get together with some friends and discuss your favorite scenes, characters, and personal insights from this novel. May your insights never end, and may your discussion “runneth over”!

1. CHARACTER REVIEW

1. Choose a favorite moving or disturbing scene and discuss the elements that caught your attention.

2. Compare Hadassah leaving Jerusalem to Hadassah in the coliseum. What events caused the change?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Describe Hadassah’s internal conflict.

2. In what ways did Hadassah rely on God’s unfailing love?

3. How does God’s unfailing love motivate you?

PERSONAL INSIGHTS/CHALLENGES

1. In what ways do you identify with Hadassah? And how are you different?

2. Do you think Hadassah's faith was realistic? How does your own faith compare?

3. "Without wavering, let us hold tightly to the hope we say we have, for God can be trusted to keep his promise" (Hebrews 10:23). What is the basis for unwavering faith?

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

As you think about Hadassah and decisions she made as a result of her faith in God, read the following Bible verses. They may ¬reveal her motivations and even challenge you in your own life decisions.

If anyone acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will openly acknowledge that person before my Father in heaven. But if anyone denies me here on earth, I will deny that person before my Father in heaven. MATTHEW 10:32-33

For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved. ROMANS 10:9-10

In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father. MATTHEW 5:16

But the Lord watches over those who fear him, those who rely on his unfailing love. PSALM 33:18

Author Bio

New York Times bestselling author Francine Rivers began her literary career at the University of Nevada, Reno, where she graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in English and journalism. From 1976 to 1985, she had a successful writing career in the general market, and her books were highly acclaimed by readers and reviewers. Although raised in a religious home, Francine did not truly encounter Christ until later in life, when she was already a wife, a mother of three, and an established romance novelist.

Shortly after becoming a born-again Christian in 1986, Francine wrote REDEEMING LOVE as her statement of faith. First published by Bantam Books and then rereleased by Multnomah Publishers in the mid-1990s, this retelling of the biblical story of Gomer and Hosea, set during the time of the California Gold Rush, is now considered by many to be a classic work of Christian fiction. REDEEMING LOVE continues to be one of the CBA's top-selling titles, and it has held a spot on the Christian bestseller list for nearly a decade.

Since REDEEMING LOVE, Francine has published numerous novels with Christian themes --- all bestsellers --- and she has continued to win both industry acclaim and reader loyalty around the globe. Her Christian novels have been awarded or nominated for numerous honors, including the RITA Award, the Christy Award, the ECPA Gold Medallion, and the Holt Medallion in Honor of Outstanding Literary Talent. In 1997, after winning her third RITA Award for inspirational fiction, Francine was inducted into the Romance Writers of America's Hall of Fame. Francine's novels have been translated into over 20 different languages, and she enjoys best-seller status in many foreign countries, including Germany, the Netherlands and South Africa.

Francine and her husband, Rick, live in northern California and enjoy time spent with their three grown children and taking every opportunity to spoil their grandchildren. Francine uses her writing to draw closer to the Lord, and she desires that through her work she might worship and praise Jesus for all He has done and is doing in her life.

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