

### Discussion Questions – *A Bride So Fair*

1. Read Romans 13:1-5 and Hebrews 13:17. Emily and Lucy decided to care for Adam themselves, in direct violation of Miss Strickland's orders. Do you think they made the right choice in doing this? Compare the above verses with Acts 5:29. Which passage do you think applies in this case?
2. In order to take Adam out of the Children's Building and keep his whereabouts from being discovered, both Emily and Lucy resorted to telling some half-truths. In your opinion, were they right in doing this? Is it ever justifiable to tell only part of the truth? If your answer is yes, can you give an example?
3. Emily tried to be gracious in her early attempts to discourage Raymond Simmons's attention, but eventually she had to put her foot down in order to make him understand she wasn't interested in him. Have you ever been in a similar situation, where someone refused to listen to you? How can you deal with a person like that while still honoring the Lord with your actions and attitude?
4. While growing up in the Collier Children's Home, Emily never felt she was good enough to be accepted by an adoptive family. Eventually she invited Jesus into her heart and was adopted into God's family. Have you experienced times of acceptance by God when you felt abandoned and rejected by the rest of the world? If you're comfortable doing so, talk about one of those times.
5. Stephen liked to base his decisions on logic, while Emily tended to rely on emotions and intuition. Which one of them was right, or did each have a legitimate point of view? What do you use as the basis for making your own decisions?
6. When Stephen sought Seth Howell's advice, Seth told him that Jesus didn't always go along with manmade rules and advised Stephen to look beyond the rulebook and see if there wasn't a bigger issue at stake. Do you agree with Seth, or do you think Stephen should have strictly adhered to the guards' official procedures?
7. At one point, Emily considered accepting Ian McGinty's "proposition" with the idea that it might somehow draw him to the Lord. Are there times when the end justifies the means? Does God ever ask us to violate His teachings in order to bring about a good result?
8. Emily would never have chosen to grow up in an orphanage, but God allowed her to gain strength and insights there that proved invaluable in dealing with the situations in this story. Read Romans 8:28 and name some ways God has brought about good in your life despite difficult circumstances.

9. Finding the letter from Rosalee Sawyer gave Emily and Stephen new insight into the kind of person she really was. Rosalee saw herself as having strayed too far to ever be able to come back to Christ, until she attended one of D.L. Moody's tent meetings and learned that restoration wasn't outside her grasp after all. Is anyone ever beyond redemption? Why or why not?

10. At first glance, Mrs. Purvis seems to be an odd, quirky woman, with her constant tapping and her penchant for matchmaking. But she also has a childlike faith in the Lord and occasionally comes up with deep spiritual insights. Which is the true reflection of her character? Have you ever known someone like this? It's often easy to make a snap judgment of a person based on first impressions. Do you feel your first impressions are usually accurate? How do you make assessments of someone as you get to know them?

11. Some people believe heredity plays a major role in determining a person's character. Others feel a person's environment is more influential. Based on heredity, Adam's chances of growing up to be a godly man might be rather slim, but Emily and Stephen were willing to give him a home filled with love and Christian teaching. Which do you think plays a more important part in a person's development?

12. Emily's heart was set on doing the right thing, but she often acted impulsively. In your opinion, would she have done better if she had taken time for more forethought and planning, or was she right in acting as she did? How might the outcome of the story have changed if she had behaved differently?