

Discussion Questions – *Fair Game*

1. Dinah came to Chicago with two specific goals—to make a new life away from the farm (and Cousin Gladys) and to find her father. But God had other plans in mind. Can you share a time when God steered you in an unexpected direction?
2. What was Dinah’s real motive for attending the tent meeting? Sometimes God confronts us when we least expect it. In Dinah’s case, what finally got her attention?
3. Although Dinah became a believer at an early age, she realized she had become absorbed with her own interests instead of following God. Think about your own life. Is it focused where it should be? If not, what can you do to change that?
4. Dinah experienced an unmistakable sense of calling at the tent meeting. Contrast that with her sense of inadequacy and self-doubt once she started working with the girls. How can we tell the difference between God calling us and responding to something out of our own desires?
5. What were the first clues Dinah had that her father’s character might not be as upstanding as she hoped? In hindsight, things like that can be easy to spot, but is there a way to recognize them when they occur? Do you always trust your first impression about a person or situation? Why or why not?
6. Was Ernie Mayhew conscious of his cruelty toward Dinah, or was he just self-absorbed? Have you ever known anyone like that? Is there any way to deal with a person like that in a positive manner? What do you think about the way Dinah dealt with her father?
7. Acting as a sparring partner isn’t a typical pursuit for a pastor, but Seth used that as a way to “go outside the box” and minister to people he wouldn’t otherwise come in contact with. What are some ways you can think of to go beyond the church setting in reaching out to others?
8. In chapter 15, Seth wondered if he was wasting his life trying to share God’s love with people who didn’t seem to care. Dinah often felt like a failure when the girls and their families showed a lack of interest or, in some cases, outright hostility. In your opinion, did these setbacks mean they were failures? How do you draw strength to keep on doing what you believe is right when it seems you aren’t making any headway? How do you think God measures success?
9. What motivated Dinah to try to rescue Gladys in spite of her cousin’s obvious dislike? Do you have someone like Gladys in your life? How do you deal with that person?

10. Did Gladys have a legitimate reason for her dislike of Dinah? Why or why not? Have you ever been in a position like Gladys's, when it seemed like someone else received favor that should have been yours? How did you respond to that?

11. When Dinah was a prisoner, she felt like even God wasn't able to hear her. Have you ever felt like that? If so, did your feelings change later? Why or why not?

12. Being abandoned by her father left Dinah hesitant to trust her heavenly Father. Has something in your life kept you from giving God your full trust? How could you be able to put your trust in Him completely?

13. During their imprisonment, both Martha and Dinah drew strength from God's Word. Have you experienced times when a passage of Scripture helped you through a difficult situation? If you feel comfortable doing so, share one of those times and the Scripture that helped you through it.

14. Dinah came to accept the fact that there was nothing she could do to change her father. Have you ever had to quit trying to change someone and let God deal with them instead? What were the results, both in that person and in you?