

Discussion Questions – *Ticket to Tomorrow*

1. Fifteen months after losing her husband, Annie is still grieving. How long should it take to recover from a loss like that? Is there any given time frame, or does it vary from person to person? Read Isaiah 43:2. If you have experienced a loss—and are comfortable in doing so—share ways you experienced God’s presence and comfort during that time.
2. Nick’s goal to become a lead performer with the Wild West show conflicted with his desire to build a life with Annie. At one point, he toyed with the idea of having the best of both worlds by marrying Annie and continuing with the show. Do you think he made the best choice in giving up his dreams of stardom? Why or why not?
3. In his conversations with Annie and with Seth Howell, Nick revealed he once had a solid spiritual footing but let other things get in the way of his relationship with God. What are some ways you can keep your walk with God fresh and vital? Have you ever experienced the same feeling Nick did, of being disconnected from God? How can you go about reestablishing that connection?
4. Why was Annie willing to get involved in dangerous situations that didn’t concern her directly? Was this a wise thing to do? Why or why not? What is your response when you witness a wrong being done or see someone in danger?
5. What caused Richard Trenton to cut ties with his son? Did he have adequate reason for doing this? How else could he have dealt with the situation? Have you ever had someone disappoint you? How did you deal with that?
6. At one point in the story, Richard began to think about Will and Annie instead of himself. What made him harden his heart and refuse to follow through on those kinder feelings? Have you ever done something based on wrong motives and later seen an opportunity to make things right? What did you choose to do?
7. Annie had to make a choice to show forgiveness to Will’s mother. Have you ever been in a similar situation? How did you handle it?
8. What was Martha Trenton’s reason for treating Annie so harshly? Why did she soften toward Annie at the end? Do you think she will follow through on her promise to read Will’s Bible? Why or why not?
9. In order to reach out to her mother-in-law, Annie parted with her most treasured reminder of Will. What are some concrete ways you can show forgiveness to someone who has wronged you?
10. What did Annie do right in her attempts to reconcile with Will’s family? What could she have done differently?

11. Do you think Annie should have turned over control of the carriage to the Trentons? Why or why not? Do you think doing so would have helped draw them to Christ?

12. Even though Annie extended forgiveness to the Trentons by giving Will's Bible to his mother, her inner feelings toward them hadn't changed much. Is it necessary to feel forgiveness before acting in a forgiving way?