

Discussion Questions

The Ladies of Ivy Cottage, by Julie Klassen

1. Were you familiar with subscription or circulating libraries – the forerunners of today’s public libraries – or was this new to you?

2. Rachel Ashford struggles to accept charity from others – even from God. Can you relate to this at all? How easy or difficult is it for you to ask for help from others?

3. Both Mercy Grove and Jane Bell yearn for children of their own, but feel they must surrender those dreams. Have you surrendered a dream? What did you learn?

4. A few characters in the book experience the sometimes high cost of telling the truth (Mercy handing over Mary-Alicia’s letter, Jane revealing her past losses to a suitor, etc.). Have you ever paid a high price for being truthful? What are the risks and rewards of being honest?

5. What did you think about brusque Thora Bell’s relationship with Hetty and Betsey? Did anything surprise or touch you?

6. If you were transplanted to Ivy Hill in 1820, what kind of shop or business might you open?

7. Do you belong to any kind of book club or group like the ladies Tea and Knitting Society? If not, do you think you would like to?

8. What are you looking forward to in Book 3 of the TALES FROM IVY HILL series? Do you have any predictions to offer