

JourneyForth Discussion Questions

Buying Samir

**by Kimberly Rae
a JourneyForth book © 2014**

Part 1

Chapters 1–9

1. Jasmina is told to hide her intelligence. Why? Do you think girls are more attractive if they are smart? Less attractive?
2. Unlike many girls around the world, Jasmina learns to read and write. How would your life be different if you could not read or write, or if you had been denied an education?
3. Jasmina says Samir has become what he hates. Have you ever read of or known someone whose desire to fight back eventually made them as angry or evil as what they fought? What kinds of choices lead down that path?
4. If asked to help rescue a victim, would you feel excited like Jasmina or more fearful like Dapika? Why?
5. If you had to wait in a tiny dark space, would you be afraid? What would you do to keep from panicking?
6. How do you feel when you read that some families are so poor the children must work to keep their family from starving? Do you think if these children had an education it would change things for their families? If so, how?
7. The idea of a whole store full of nothing but shoes is an unbelievable luxury to Jasmina. What are some other things we think are normal that from Jasmina's perspective would be amazing riches?
8. Jasmina didn't ask an adult how to use the shower, and she created a big mess trying to figure it out herself. Can you remember a time when you tried something on your own that you should have asked about first? What happened?
9. Jasmina wants to put her family back together again. Are you or friends you care about in a broken family? How can becoming part of God's family help heal that hurt?
10. Statistics say there are over 20 million slaves in the world today. Many of them are children. How can you help them? (If you don't know, go to www.kimberlyrae.com and look under the "Causes" button.)
11. Grandmother talked about a horrible old practice called *suttee*, that missionaries generations ago in India had a part in stopping. Do you think the things we do (or don't do) to fight human trafficking will affect future generations? How?

Part 2

Chapters 10–19

1. On page 32, Grandmother stops the baby taxi and prays in public out loud for Jasmina. Has someone ever prayed for you like that? How did you feel? Would you ever pray for someone right in the situation—out loud—with them? Why or why not?
2. In chapter 12, Jasmina is upset because her plans were overridden by the need to help two girls who were escaping. Could you have shared a verse with Jasmina that would help her have the right perspective? What verse would you share?
3. Grandmother is horrified when Jasmina assumes her little figurines are idols. Can you think of other ways Christians might give the wrong impression to people who believe differently? If a Christian goes to another culture or has a friend from another culture, what are some things he or she could do to avoid misunderstandings like these?
4. How does Jasmina manipulate Grandmother to carry out her secret plan? How does that turn out? What do you think would have happened if she had just told Grandmother the truth?
5. Were Jasmina's reasons for lying good ones? Did that make what she did good or right?
6. Jasmina becomes afraid when Dapika says she has believed in Jesus as her Savior. Why do you think she is resistant to hear about Jesus?
7. Jasmina's one lie leads to many more lies. Can you remember a time when you or someone you know lied and the lie just got bigger until it took over? Why do you think one lie grows into many?
8. Jasmina thinks she has no choice but to trust Fayed. Does that turn out well? Have you ever had the gut feeling that a situation or person was dangerous? Did you listen to it or not? What happened?
9. Jasmina's lie leads to stealing money. Do you think one sin leads to more sins? Why or why not?
10. Jasmina was too ashamed to go back and ask for help. Can you think of a Bible verse or principle about God that would have helped her in this situation?

Part 3

Chapters 20–28

1. Terrible things could have happened to Jasmina in the quarry and in the building with the traffickers. Are there places you can think of that you should stay away from? Are you ever tempted to go to those places because they seem exciting? What might happen if you did go there?

2. If Jasmina had thought through her decisions to the end, do you think she would have made different choices? Why or why not? Example: “If I do this, then this might happen, and then this, and then this, . . .”
3. Jasmina is shocked to discover her brother has joined the traffickers. He drinks and curses and hates. He says he is free. Do you think he is free? Why or why not?
4. Samir is not the helpless slave Jasmina planned to rescue. In your opinion, is it possible to help someone who does not want to be helped? Explain.
5. Do you think Samir’s hatred for his parents is reasonable? Do you think it helps his hurt to heal? Why or why not?
6. Samir wants everyone who has hurt him to suffer for it. If they did suffer and he got his revenge, do you think it would give him happiness?
7. Samir thinks Christians pay money for people to convert and become Western like Americans. What would you tell Samir about these thoughts?
8. Jasmina is naïve about the danger of being young and pretty. Is it wise to believe parents or trusted leaders when they say there is a danger you might not yet understand? Do you think God places older and wiser people in our lives to keep us from having fun or to protect us?
9. Jasmina despises those who are thieves and liars, but then she realizes she is now one too. Have you ever thought of someone else as more of a sinner than you are? What does Romans 3:23 say about better or worse sinners?
10. Jasmina believes the only way she can be forgiven is to do enough good to make up for the bad. What does the Bible say about that?
11. Samir tells Jasmina that no one is truly free. Do you agree? Explain.

Part 4

Chapters 29–41

1. Jasmina discovers Fayed is luring girls through the Internet. How could a trafficker do something similar in America? Do you think it would be easy or hard for a predator to find vulnerable targets on sites like Facebook?
2. Kiya ran away from home looking for a better life, but the promises turned out to be lies. Runaways are traffickers’ number one targets. If you knew someone who was considering running away, what would you do?
3. In the US, the average age for a girl to get trafficked is 12–14. Why do you think predators target that age group?
4. Do you think parents should have full access to their kids’ social media sites? Why or why not? Do you think they might spot danger that their children might not recognize?

5. How easy do you think it would be for a trafficker to pose as a young, attractive, friendly guy on social media? How can you tell if someone online is who he says he is? If a 40-year-old man pretended to be a 13-year-old girl, would you know? If so, how?
6. Kiya continued to believe the lies fed to her, partly because she wanted so much for them to be true. Do you have someone you trust, who you could ask for advice in a questionable situation?
7. Slaves are seen as products. How would defining people as things change the way a trafficker treats them or feels is okay to treat them?
8. Traffickers say that their scheme will make girls' dreams come true. The Bible says Satan appears as an angel of light. How do traffickers use Satan's tactic to trap victims?
9. Kiya says she can never go back home because she has shamed her family. Do you think your parents would want you back, no matter what? If you ran from God, do you think He would want you back, no matter what? (If you don't know, read Luke 15:11–32.)
10. Jasmina says she has no pride left, only need. Do you think it is good for a person to end up in a helpless situation if it shows him his need for Jesus? Why or why not?
11. The way the missionaries care for Kiya, and the way Grandmother forgives, shows Jasmina Jesus. Do you think your actions, big and small, can make a difference? Do you think people are watching how you act? Why or why not?
12. Jasmina says people act like whatever god they follow. Do you agree? What do you think your life says about your God? Would your actions and words offer hope to a Jasmina or a Kiya or even a Samir?