

**QUESTIONS FOR
GROUP DISCUSSION**

for

Pulling Back the Shades

Chapter 1

1. What is your opinion about the five longings Juli and Dannah discussed? Do you think they accurately express why women are drawn to erotica?
2. Where in the Bible do you see each of these longings validated?
3. Talk about how each legitimate need has been tarnished by the world's system of thought.
4. Which unmet longing do you personally identify with the most?

Chapter 2

1. Discuss how moral and spiritual laws are changed in erotic literature. Why is this dangerous?
2. Share about a time when you thought you could “beat the consequences” of immoral or foolish behavior.
3. How can you discern if a book or movie is inspiring you toward discontentment?
4. Read Philippians 4:12–13. Why is contentment so important to spiritual growth and joy?

Chapter 3

1. What do you think about the thesis that “mommy porn is spiritual”? Do you agree? Why or why not?
2. Why do you think Satan has such a great agenda to destroy and distort sexuality?
3. Discuss ways that our world has made an idol out of “romantic love.” Describe a way that you’ve fallen for this.
4. If mommy porn is spiritual, what practical steps can you take to make sure you are on the right side of the battle?

Chapter 4

1. What are some areas where you see confusion about what is right and wrong in the area of sexuality?
2. What do you think about the four questions (Paul's filter) that help you decide if something is right or wrong? Would you add another?
3. Talk about the Enemy's agenda to paint God as the "killjoy." Read Genesis 3:1-6. How does this strategy still apply today?
4. If a Christian friend asked you if you thought reading *Fifty Shades* was okay, how would you answer?

Chapter 5

1. Why do you think sexual practices like BDSM are becoming commonplace in our culture?
2. Talk about the tension of wanting a strong man but not wanting to be controlled.
3. Read Genesis 3:16. How do you think this passage applies to the discussion?
4. What do you think of Dannah and Juli's thoughts on "healthy power"? Do you agree or disagree?

Chapter 6

1. A married friend of yours says, “I read erotica because it makes me want sex with my husband.” Based on what you read in this chapter, how would you respond?
2. Do you believe there is a difference between erotica and porn? Why or why not? Why do you think erotica is more “acceptable” in Christian circles than pornography?
3. How would you explain to someone (married or single) that a sexual release alone is a poor substitute for intimacy?
4. What practical steps can you take toward true intimacy in your life—with God, with your husband, with your community?

Chapter 7

1. Why do you think many Christian women have difficulty feeling sexually unrestrained in marriage?
2. Why does the struggle to experience sexual freedom make books like *Fifty Shades* more attractive to Christian married women?
3. What would it look like for the Christians to play “offense” instead of just “defense” in the battle for sexuality? As a married woman, what does it look like to play “offense”?
4. As a single woman, how might you hold to a standard of purity while also acknowledging that your sexuality is a good thing? What does this look like practically?

Chapter 8

1. Do you think it's unrealistic to believe that your relationship with Jesus can meet your needs for intimacy? Why or why not?
2. G. K. Chesterton once wrote, "Every man who knocks on the door of a brothel is looking for God." Talk about how his observation applies to the popularity of *Fifty Shades*.
3. Read the account of the woman at the well in John 4: 1–26. What is the most profound aspect of this account for you personally?
4. You read Dannah's and Juli's testimonies of how they took a step toward being filled with the Living Water of Jesus. What step might the Savior be asking you to take?

Chapter 9

1. Throughout this book, you've read about some very bad news related to the assault against Christian women. How has this "news" touched you personally?
2. Read Nehemiah chapter 1. How did the "bad news" affect Nehemiah? How does his response challenge you personally?
3. The workers who rebuilt the wall in Jerusalem were often assigned to begin by rebuilding the section of wall in front of their own home or neighborhood. They began at home. How do you need to begin rebuilding a "wall of holiness" in your own home?
4. What is the Lord specifically asking you to do in response to the "broken walls of holiness" around His women?