

Larkspur Cove Discussion Questions

In the beginning of the story, Andrea feels cursed by the turn her life has taken. Have you ever felt as if a closed door in your life was the end of everything good, only to find out that something new and amazing was right around the corner?

Andrea worries that, because of the falling apart of her life and her marriage, her son might never again be happy and healthy. How do traumatic family events in our childhoods shape us, strengthen us, or change the ways we look at the world?

Mart has moved to the lake in an effort to leave behind the pain of his brother's death. Have you ever returned to a treasured childhood place in a moment of personal tragedy. In what ways do the places that harbor happy memories comfort us?

Andrea feels that, because she has lost faith in God, God has lost faith in her, and she deserves it. What is your opinion on this? What would you tell her?

Even though Birdie has clearly experienced trauma, and Len is in many ways unprepared to take care of her, Andrea and Mart elect to leave her with Len and try to work to improve the situation. What are the benefits of their plan? Risks? What would you have done?

In order for Len to succeed, the help of the community will clearly be needed. How can strong communities help members struggling through difficult situations? Has your community ever helped you in a time of need?

Even as adults, Andrea and Megan struggle with the after-effects of a strong sibling rivalry. How do old rivalries affect our adult relationships with siblings? Can we ever leave the past behind and be as gracious with siblings as we are with friends and acquaintances? How can we accomplish this?

Even though both of their children are grown and are raising children of their own, Andrea's parents have a difficult time letting go and allowing their girls to be independent adults. Have you ever struggled with the interloping of a parent? Have you ever been tempted to interlope? Are we always parents to our children no matter how old they are? How do we set boundaries?

Andrea realizes that, because of her own bitterness toward her ex-husband and members of her former church, she has helped to separate her son from his faith, causing him to be even more alone in the world. How do our parents' beliefs

affect us? Have you seen or experienced situations in which a parent's lack of faith affects a child?

In her new job, Andrea finally feels a sense of purpose and of finding herself. Have you ever found yourself blooming in an unexpected time or place? In what way? Do you have a dream that hasn't been realized yet? What it is?

Moses Lake is a favorite vacation spot for many. Do you have a favorite vacation spot? A favorite vacation memory?