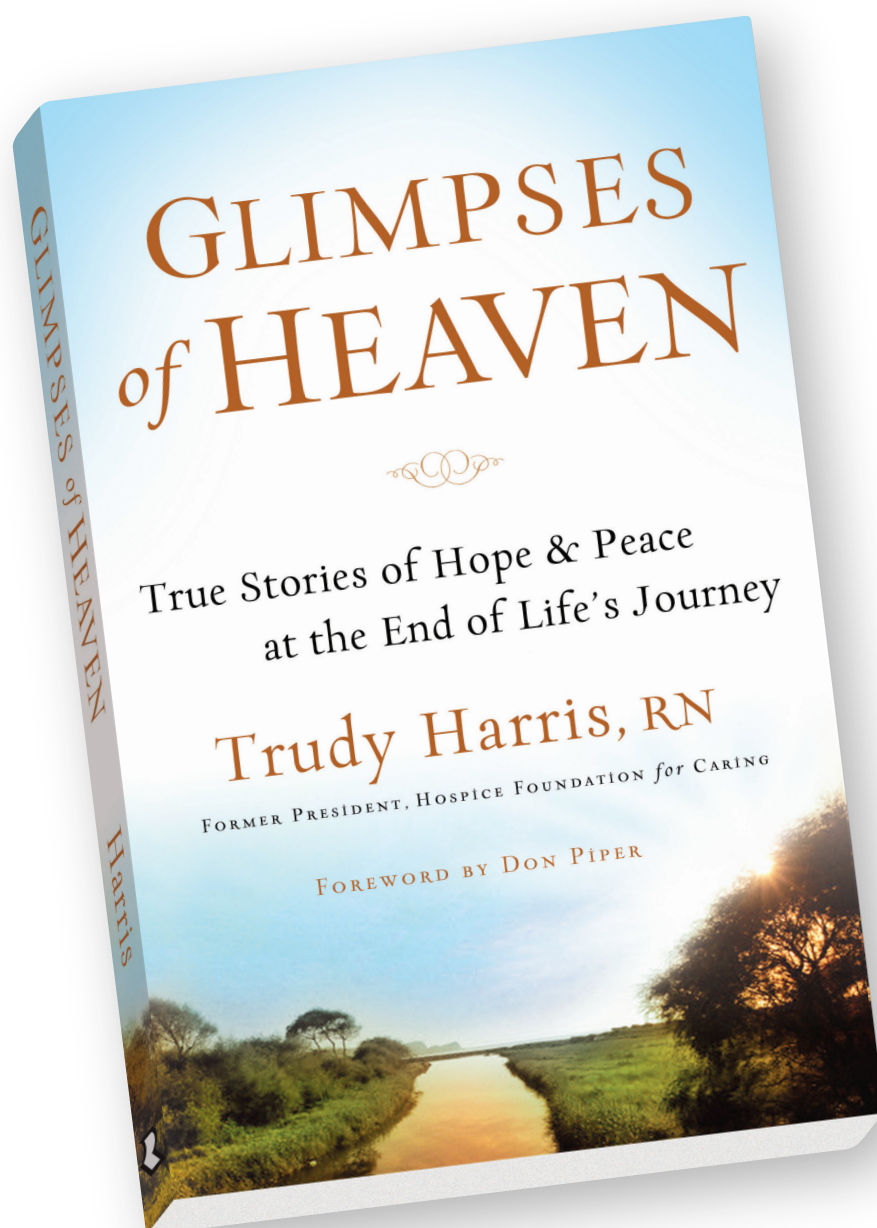



GLIMPSES *of* HEAVEN

DISCUSSION GUIDE



www.glimpsesotheavenbook.com



TRUDY HARRIS began her career with Hospice in 1981, eventually becoming the president of the Hospice Foundation for Caring. *Glimpses of Heaven* is a collection of more than forty true stories of Harris's patients, offering readers an incredible glimpse at what lies beyond and what the living can learn from the dying. Tender, heartbreaking, and eye-opening, *Glimpses of Heaven* offers a window into the world beyond and into life after death. Download a free excerpt or watch the book video at www.glimpsesofheavenbook.com.

HOW TO USE THIS DISCUSSION GUIDE:

The publisher recommends this guide for use in book clubs and grief support groups. To plan your discussions, have your group select a certain number of chapters to cover for each meeting.

DADDY

What enabled this man, at sixty-eight years young, to die with such peace and dignity? Did the fact that he loved God and trusted him affect the way he was able to leave this world?

MARY ANNE

What made Mary Anne begin her search for understanding and meaning? Why did she live so much longer than the doctors said she would? How did her life affect others?

GRANDFATHER

Did this man die the way he had lived? How did his simplicity of life affect the last days of his life? How did God make himself known to Grandfather and why do you think he seemed unafraid?

FRANK

This man died very quickly. Did the experience of seeing the son who had died before him influence his feelings about leaving this world? Why do you think his wife always seemed so happy?

BRIAN

What meaning did this little boy's life have for others? How might the dream his mother had help her to move forward in life?

GLORIA

Who or what was Gloria waiting for? Where do you think she was during those days when she did not respond to people around her? In what way did Gloria raise her children so that they were ready for her to leave?

JOSHUA

What kind of relationship existed between this man and his son, and did it play a role in the father's peaceful death? What was the lasting gift Joshua's son gave to him?

LENORA

Was the experience that Lenora had of seeing an angel valid? Do you believe this is a common experience as a person is dying? When Lenora's children reflected on that experience later, how do you think they may have felt?

GENE

Do you believe those who know and love Christ have an easier time when dying? Is Gene the kind of person you would have liked to have had for a friend—why or why not?

ELLIOTT

What do you suppose Elliott's frightening experiences were all about—and do you think they were real or imagined? How did he come to peace about it, and how might anyone find peace when facing issues from the past?

STEVEN

Why did Trudy realize Steven was dying when his doctor didn't? What three things did Steven do that made his leaving time so much easier? Did the doctor come to think differently, and how?

ROBERT

How had Robert conducted his life? How did he tell those around him what he needed? What put his heart and mind at peace at the end of his life?

JACK

Was this story unique, or do you believe this kind of experience happens often? What gave Jack the ultimate peace? Were you surprised by this?

MARK

Mark was so young and handsome as he was facing death—why was he so peaceful in the face of his illness? What did Mark see just before he died? Would it comfort you if a dying loved one had this experience?

MARIAN

How did the openness of Marian's son help her to die in peace? And how did her coming to peace with God impact her son's future?

LENNIE

What was Lennie's one and only concern? Do you think that is how God, our heavenly Father, loves us? Do you think this experience laid the groundwork for whom the sons became later in life? How?

JACKSON

How did this weary old sailor understand God's love so completely? Can you learn something important from Jackson's story about God's forgiveness? If so, what is it?

HANK

Do you believe God orchestrated Hank's experience with his son? Do you think God manifests Himself to us in similar ways today? And if so, do you think we recognize Him when he does?

MERIDETH

When we refuse to forgive people, who is hurt most? Describe the gift Merideth gave Walter and her children.

RALPH

Do you think each of us has a hidden desire to find God? Why was Ralph open to knowing Him now: was it only fear, or was it a longing to be deeply loved in a way he had never been loved before?

CARL

What role did seeing the Living Nativity have in moving Carl closer to the peace Jesus wanted him to have? What role did the priest play in comforting Carl and his family?

LOUIS

Do you think Louis was prepared to die at such a young age? What did the experience in the last few moments of his life say to you?

DELIA

Do you think God puts people together for specific reasons? What did it mean to Delia and Trudy to be together now? Do you think Delia knew she was about to die—why or why not?

KATHLEEN

Why was Kathleen so composed and peaceful? What lessons might she teach us about God?

ROBIN

Do you think God chose this priest to be with Robin? What did Trudy discover as she listened to God about the priest? What did you learn from Robin's story?

TIM

What were Tim's goals after he knew he was dying? How did he find his peace? How do you think Tim's girls remember this time in their lives?

JESS

What intangible gifts did Jess's family give to him at the end of his life? What do you think of the scene in the last paragraph of the story?

JOHNNY

Do you believe grouchy, mean-spirited people hurt the most and are trying to find a way to love and be loved? What did the picture mean to Johnny? Do you think he prayed the way Trudy had suggested? Did the end of the story surprise you—and if so, why?

MARGARET

Who were the people God sent to Margaret in the last twenty-four hours of her life? Why do you think that Margaret was ninety years old before she seemed to have her first real glimpse of God?

KATY

Why did Katy want to see Trudy “one more time before she died”? Do you think it was just by chance that Trudy called that doctor’s office that day? What did it mean to each of them to share this time together?

ZACH

How did Zach’s drawing speak to his dad in this story? Can you imagine how it felt to be that father and not be able to help your son? What might God teach you about loving others through this story?

EILEEN

Why would anyone think only Catholics could pray with Catholics? What do you believe Jesus would say about this view? Are we all called to minister to one another without thought to denominational differences?

WILLIAM

Can you understand a God so loving as to allow the son to come and share such a wonderful visit right before his own death and that of his dad’s? How did embracing God’s love and forgiveness change William?

LORRAIN

Does the telling of Lorrain’s story teach others to recognize God’s hand in everyday life? After reading this story, are you more likely to watch for signs of God showing up in your life?

JOEL

In our hurry to “get everything right,” do we sometimes miss the most important things of God? What might Joel’s experiences and words have taught others around him? What do they teach you?

SAM

What happens when God draws people of very different backgrounds together? How do you think Betty felt as Sam quietly died?

MADELEINE

How did you feel about Madeleine’s frank questions about dying? Do you think this discussion about what would happen to her when her time came was important? And if so, why?

HANNAH

Do you think Hannah could have raised her sisters at such a young age without God by her side? Do you believe, as Trudy said about Hannah, that “you always seem to get back in abundance what you have given away during your lifetime”?

FREDERICK

Why do you think it took so long for Frederick to tell Trudy about his experience of seeing Jesus? Why might God have allowed Frederick to have this experience?

IRA

When Ira held on to the nurse’s hand, what was he trying to communicate? Do you think it was comforting for Ira to be told that God loves him very much? And if so, do you believe Ira trusted in what Trudy said about Jesus—or not?

AUNT HELEN

Do you think people like Aunt Helen who are kind, non-judgmental, and full of life remain that way until the end? Why do you think she asked her nephew if she could see a priest? Talk about why Aunt Helen seemed to die with such joy and peace.

DIANE

When did God first begin to draw Diane closer to his heart? Do you believe God healed her spiritually and emotionally through the “slain in the spirit” experience? How do you think Diane’s family has been affected over the years by the gift of faith given to her so many years ago?

GRANDMOTHER

Do you believe God allowed Grandmother to live for ten more years with Trudy’s family so she would experience unconditional love? How did God visit her in the last few weeks of her life? What did the “tail boat” experience say to her, and do you believe people experience God’s peace in unique ways based on their personal experiences?

MOMMY

What was Mommy’s relationship with God like—and how did that companionship express itself as she prepared for heaven? Describe how you think Trudy felt as she gently walked her mom into heaven. Do you think you would respond the same way if your loved one died? Why or why not?

This discussion guide courtesy of Trudy Harris, author of *Glimpses of Heaven: True Stories of Hope and Peace at the End of Life’s Journey*, and Revell. Visit www.glimpsesofheavenbook.com for more information.