

Discussion Questions

1. What was your initial impression of Claire? Did that change at all as you got to know her?
2. Do you think the rejection from her parents made it more difficult for Claire to believe in and trust that her heavenly Father loved her? Have parent wounds affected your view of God? How can we separate the two?
3. When the story began, Miranda wanted to isolate herself. She wasn't initially happy with the arrival of Claire and the children. David Campbell, in particular, brought new life and new perspectives to Bluebell Wood. How did David's intervention both challenge and help Miranda? Claire? The refugee children? What does that tell you about isolating yourself and your thinking?
4. How did Claire and others at Bluebell Wood help the refugee children cope with the loss of their families? Is there something more they could have done?
5. Some countries were more willing to take in refugees than others during the Holocaust and WWII. In 2015, it was reported that 51 percent of the world's refugees were children. Has this story fostered thought or given you insights into the plight of the world's refugees today?

How should we respond to this crisis, especially given Scripture's directive to care for orphans? (See James 1:27.)

6. Both Miranda and Mrs. Newsome lost their husbands during the Great War. Contrast their forms of grieving and how they responded to life. What helped Miranda turn a corner in her grieving for Gilbert and Christopher?
7. What did you think of Miranda's longtime refusal to acknowledge the love and courtship of Dr. MacDonald?
8. Though Dr. MacDonald urged her to move forward, Miranda put off needed medical tests and treatments for a long while. Why do you think she did this?
9. As Miranda's health worsened, she prepared for the end of this life and even prayed that the Lord would allow her to die with grace and dignity. However, she eventually came to believe that the Lord was teaching her to live with His grace. If you were in her position, do you think that challenge would be difficult? How would you move forward?
10. Claire journeyed from unbelief, to blatant doubt, to skepticism, to fearfulness, to faith, to joy. What was the turning point in faith for her? Has there been a turning point in your faith's journey? What difference has it made?