



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Who is your favorite character in *Loving Isaac* and why? Who is your least favorite?
  - Did you see yourself in any of the characters? If so, which one(s)?
  - Describe Lynn in three words. What do you think of her intentions and Hana's response to her? What might they both need to learn from the relationship?
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- How would you describe Hana and Charlotte's friendship? Why do you think they connected so quickly?
  - In chapter 12, Matt tells Hana, "Feelings are not an enemy, but they are not the final word either" (163). Describe a time when feelings and purpose collided. What was the outcome?
  - Julie's heart toward Hana changes after speaking with her at the Madisons' picnic. How did this incident shift Julie's thinking? Have you ever developed a surprising friendship?

- Describe the trajectory of Kara and Hana’s relationship. What things drove a wedge between them? What eventually pulls them back together?
- Throughout the book, we get glimpses of Zeke as depicted in the letters from Hana to Isaac. Based on what you know of him, what might a letter from Zeke to Isaac sound like? Did you find Zeke to be a sympathetic character? Why or why not?
- In chapter 17, Julie counsels Hana, “I’ve found that sometimes you do yourself more harm by waiting for an apology than if you just accept that you may not get one and move on” (234). What can happen when we hold out for an apology that may or may not come?
- Kara feels the “familiar mother guilt” over not monitoring Clem’s technology usage more. What role does technology play throughout *Loving Isaac*? Specifically, how does it play into the mother/daughter relationship?
- In chapter 22, we learn Kara withheld details of Hana’s past from her children because she’d “convinced herself that they were too young, didn’t need to know” (300). Discuss the tension in parenting between shielding and informing our children.
- Hana’s past is described as a giant, surrounded by a wall. Have you ever felt (or perhaps currently feel) this way? What might be an apt analogy for the way you view your own history? How does knowing Christ play into this, and in what ways does it (or should it) challenge the way we view our pasts?

- Hana is unable to reciprocate Matt's feelings. After Matt's confession, Hana is "too empty and too full to respond" (322). Expound on this idea and discuss the role timing plays in relationships. What needed to happen before Hana was ready to return Matt's feelings?
  
- Physical objects that trigger remembrance are important in *Loving Isaac*. At the very end, we see Hana keep a rock from the park, a stone of remembrance of sorts. Have you ever marked an event, relationship, or season of your life in such a way?