

Reading Guide for *Holy is the Day: Living in the Gift of the Present* by Carolyn Weber

1. From the very preface, the author frames her story as a journey. What does this journey as chronicled in the book entail, and where does it lead?
2. How does the birth story in the opening chapter prepare us for themes to be explored in the book?
3. Which chapter spoke the most strongly to you in your current life and why?
4. On p. 39, the author quotes a line from a T.S. Eliot play: "You don't need therapy, you need salvation." The author concedes to needing both. What are your cultural and/or personal thoughts on these two poles?
5. What does it mean to "appreciate" in the terms the author describes on p. 64?
6. How has your life been affected by what the author terms a "u-turn friend"?
7. How does practicing "Carpe Deum" challenge your spiritual walk?
8. "Trauma prepares us for resurrection," claims the author. Have you found this to be the case in your own life?
9. Why is bitterness so dangerous? (see p. 140, for instance)
10. "To obey is better than sacrifice," Samuel tells the fallen king Saul (1 Sam 15:22), as the author notes on p. 159. How is this reminder relevant to our own lives?
11. The author identifies Scripture, prayer and fellowship as forms of "manna," or ways that we are fed God's provision in proportion from His hand. Which of these ways do you find most fulfilling or, conversely, troubling?
12. How would you define entering His sanctuary, "this Holy Place of the Present"?
13. How do you understand the act of "Holy Waiting," as discussed in chapter 11?
14. "When we give to God, He replenishes us in return" (p. 89). How might this statement be related to the book's overall title and theme?
15. Christianity can seem to be full of so many clichés, especially to those considering the faith from the outside. The author is intrigued at dissecting "trite from truth" throughout the book. Which example of this distinction did you find most compelling and why?

16. Discuss the following statement: "It is the loving, not the longing, that matters most" (p. 148).
17. Think of the author's description of time in the first chapter (p. 33), or the distinction between "chronos" and "kairos," in the final chapter (p. 184). How does the author illustrate notions of time?
18. Even Jesus went out in a boat, as this book reminds us. How does this inform your understanding of God-as-Man, and in particular His relationship to us?
19. What are some practical ways to practice "retreat" with our Lord in our day-to-day busy lives?
20. At the very end of the book, the author notes how the Hebrew word "Hosanna" stands for both "help" and "praise." She identifies it as the shortest psalm, the single-worded prayer that says it all. Do you see these entities (help and praise) as separate or interrelated?