

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Maggie thought she could walk away from her past and lead a new life, but her sin caught up with her. Numbers 32:23 talks about our sin finding us out if we do not obey the Lord. Discuss how this was manifested in Maggie's life.
2. At some point in their lives, at least 8 percent—and there are estimates as high as 17 percent—of the American population experience severe depression like Maggie's. If you have ever experienced a form of depression, discuss how you felt and how you handled it. How did others treat you?
3. Ben was unaware of Maggie's problems and was shocked when things finally unravelled and she left. Have you ever been in a relationship where your spouse or significant other was clueless to a significant emotional trial you were experiencing? How did that make you feel? How did you overcome those feelings?
4. Some believe that for Christians to seek professional counseling for emotional problems is taboo. They believe that Christians should never be depressed and just need to pray more if they are dealing with some kind of frustration. What are your feelings about this belief?
5. Why was Maggie so quick to blame Ben for what she did, while Ben was quick to blame Maggie? What was the main obstacle keeping them from accepting the responsibility for their own actions?
6. The Lord kept bringing to both Ben's and Maggie's minds Proverbs 3:5: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." Why is that so important? Why is it so important to memorize Scripture and teach it to our children? What part does Scripture play in this story?
7. Emotional healing takes time and is hard work. What finally brought about Maggie's breakthrough in her healing? How will she maintain her healing?

8. Discuss ways in which you can be a support to someone exhibiting signs of depression and perhaps their family members.
9. Not all foster homes are bad, but unfortunately, there are people who take in foster children for the wrong reasons. Discuss ways in which you can be a support to a foster parent or child, a case worker, or how you can become more aware of the signs of abuse and what to do about it. You may want to invite a special speaker to address these issues.
10. The title *When Joy Came to Stay* is based on Psalm 30:5b: “Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.” When one is dealing with depression, the length of the night often depends on the willingness of the person to deal with the issues causing the depression. If you are currently experiencing any form of depression, take some time to get away to evaluate your situation. Then seek out a confidant who can pray for you and share your burden. And if needed, make an appointment to see a professional counselor. As you have learned from Maggie’s story, the way we deal with sin affects the lives of those around us, as well. Give God a chance to pour out His grace and bring peace back into your life.