

**DEVOTIONAL** for **Mr. Shipley's Governess**, by Joanne Troppello

For more info, visit author's website: <http://www.joannetroppello.weebly.com>

Mr. Shipley's Governess is available on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), [www.BarnesandNoble.com](http://www.BarnesandNoble.com) and [www.allromancebooks.com](http://www.allromancebooks.com)



**Author's Note:**

These study questions should be used in conjunction with reading **Mr. Shipley's Governess**. Each of the four sections, dealing with grief, faith, God's plan for your life and healing, can be utilized for a single Bible study meeting. There is a main scripture verse, followed by discussion questions. I have listed scriptures for further reading on each topic and an inspirational word, then a prayer focus.

I pray for God's blessing upon your lives and that my book will impact you in some way.

God bless,  
Joanne Troppello

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## Dealing with Grief

“Surely He has borne our grief and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.”

~Isaiah 53:4 (NKJV)

1. In the beginning of this story, we find Sophie overcome with grief over the tragic death of her parents. How did she initially deal with her grief?
2. Are you or someone you know dealing with a time of grief? How are you coping?
3. Sebastian also was dealing with grief with the death of his wife. Did he still have issues with completely letting go of her and trying to begin a life with Sophie?
4. How can you support friends or family members who are going through a time of grieving right now? What is the best approach to encouraging them?
5. Did God bring Sophie through her grief into a new peace with Him over her parents' deaths?

**For further reading:** Job 16:5; Job 16:6; Psalm 6:7; Psalm 31:9

*As Christians, our focus should be on our eternal home in glory with God; however, we are human and life gets in the way. Of course, this is only normal. We must daily lay down our lives again and live for the Lord. It's not easy, but that's why Jesus said we can do all things through Christ who gives us strength. Grief is real and we will go through it in our lives, but God will carry us during that time.*

**Prayer focus:** Pray for God to give you healing and peace in your grief. If you are not in the middle of the valley of grief, pray for someone you know who is dealing with this sad circumstance. Ask God to give you the right words to speak to this person or the wisdom to just be there and say nothing at all.

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## Finding Faith Again

“So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

~ Romans 10:17 (NKJV)

1. Who was the first main character to exhibit a strong sense of faith in God? How did the other characters learn from this one and did they learn their own lessons in faith?
2. Do you have struggles with keeping your faith in the daily grind of life? How does God’s Word instruct us to increase our faith?
3. How strong or weak is Sophie’s faith in the beginning of the book and does this change by the end of the story?
4. Did you relate to Sophie’s struggles in any way?
5. Did Sophie’s journey of faith inspire you in any way in your own spiritual life?
6. In chapter twelve, Sophie dreams that her parents are safe in Heaven, but she is also struggling with her faith, wishing she had faith like Anastasia. Did you ever wish for a more child-like faith?
7. What’s the importance of reading God’s Word and memorizing it? How does knowing God’s Word increase your faith?

**For further reading:** Hebrews 11:1; 2 Timothy 1:5; Isaiah 25:1; Ephesians 3:12; Hebrews 10:22

*As Christians, we are daily living out our salvation and as we spend time in God’s Word and in prayer, we open our hearts to hear from Him and grow spiritually. If we do not spend time with God, we won’t get to know Him as He wants us to know Him. Just as with Adam and Eve, He wanted fellowship with them in the Garden of Eden; our Lord wants to spend time with us. We are His children and dearly loved.*

**Prayer focus:** Pray for God to increase your faith as you daily spend time in His Word. Ask for God to open your eyes to the scriptures and spiritual enlightenment.

## Does God have a Plan for me?

<sup>11</sup> For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. <sup>12</sup> Then you will call upon me and go and pray to me, and I will listen to you. <sup>13</sup> And you will seek me and find *me*, when you search for me with all your heart. <sup>14</sup> I will be found by you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back from your captivity; I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive.

~ Jeremiah 29:11-14 (NKJV)

1. Did Sophie feel that God had a plan for her? Do you believe that God has a plan for you?
2. Did Sebastian trust God that He had a plan for his life? How did he try to figure out that plan?
3. Was it hard for Sophie to believe that Sebastian could be part of God's plan for her life?
4. Are there times when you feel that good things are not part of God's plan for your own life?
5. Do you have trouble trying to discern God's plan?
6. In the end, did Sophie and Sebastian find God's plan for their lives?

**For further reading:** Proverbs 3:5-6; Isaiah 28:29; Romans 8:28; Jeremiah 33:3;

*God has a wonderful plan for each of our lives; we just need to trust Him to guide us every day through this journey called life. We will go through valleys to the mountaintops and back down to the valleys, but God is with us every step of the way and He will never leave us nor forsake us. We need to trust that He truly does have a specific plan for our lives.*

**Prayer focus:** Pray for God as you commit your plans to Him, that He will guide you into every step that you need to take. Thank Him for his perfect plan for your life and expect Him to do great things in and through you. No matter what happens, He is in control.

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## Is healing for today?

“But He *was* wounded for our transgressions, *He was* bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.”

~ Isaiah 53:5 (NKJV)

1. Does Anastasia believe healing is for today? When she shares with Sebastian and Sophie that God is going to heal her, do they believe her?
2. Is there a physical or a spiritual healing that you believe for in your life?
3. Do you think that Sebastian lacked faith for Anastasia’s healing?
4. Have you prayed for someone’s healing and God did not heal that person? How did you feel? Did it hurt your relationship with God?
5. Do you believe physical healing is for today?
6. When Anastasia was sick and in the hospital was it hard for Sophie to believe for her healing? Who was there to encourage her to believe?
7. Which do you think is more important, physical healing or emotional healing or spiritual healing?

**For further reading:** Isaiah 58:8; Jeremiah 33:6; Malachi 4:2; Matthew 4:23

God’s Word is the same, yesterday, today and forever, so that means healing is also for today; however, not all of our prayers for healing are answered. We don’t know the mind of God, but He does have a plan and purpose and we have to trust that He knows what He is doing even if physical healing doesn’t come.

**Prayer focus:** Pray in faith and go boldly before God’s throne, believing for healing. Trust that God’s ways are not our ways. Pray for God’s perfect peace to surround you.

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