

## Discussion Questions

Based on the novel *All in Good Time* by Carolyn Astfalk

1. Melanie laments the lack of support she felt just weeks after her husband's untimely death. How can you reach out to those who are still grieving—even long after a death—to offer support or acknowledge their loss?
2. Brian is surprised when he realizes God may have taken his flippant comment seriously by literally dropping a woman—the woman—into his lap. Has God ever surprised you by answering a prayer or a challenge clearly and completely?
3. Melanie explains that she chose her first husband more with her head than her heart. Can a marriage thrive when it's based on an intellectual decision rather than an emotional one?
4. When Brian is diagnosed with a serious illness, he doesn't ask 'why me?' but 'why now?' Can you recall a time when God's timing puzzled you?
5. Brian has a love/hate relationship with confessing his sins aloud. How is it beneficial to name and speak your sins to another person? ("Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed." James 5:16)
6. Melanie tells Brian that she and her kids must start thinking more of others and less of themselves. How can helping others be a blessing to those doing the helping? Do you think service to others is an effective means of coping?
7. Is watching pornography the same as reading sexually-explicit books? What makes something pornographic?
8. How do you respond to those who maintain pornography is "harmless?"
9. Brian and John were first exposed to pornography, unwittingly, through their father. Brian speculates that Raymond Boyle shared his proclivity for child pornography with his stepson, Jason. Do you think children are more or less at risk from adopting the sins of their parents than from outside sources?
10. Melanie muses, "Parenthood seemed to require hypervigilance about a million different harms—real or imagined" and yet she "couldn't help but think something about that

hypervigilance itself could be detrimental.” Do you think parents sometimes go too far in trying to “protect” their children?

11. In light of Brian’s confession of habitual pornography use, Melanie struggles with discerning whether to continue a relationship with him. Have you encountered a situation where you’ve had to balance forgiveness with prudence?