

Discussion Questions for Different: Intro - Chapter 2

How did reading this section affect you?

Did anything cause you to view yourself or your children with a new perspective?

Intro

On page XXV, Sally shares how Nathan found her a safe person to confide in.

Do your children have a safe place in you?

What do you need to change in the power of the Holy Spirit so that they will find you safe?

Chapter 1

On page 5, Sally discusses how she was influenced profoundly by her family, and in particular, her mother. “She also (inadvertently taught me a valuable lesson that has served me well as a mama- that it is easy for parents to pass on unnecessary guilt, shame, and insecurity to their children because we fear the rejection of critical and judgmental people in our lives.”

How has being rejected caused you to pass on guilt, shame and insecurity to your kids?

How can you grow in this area in order to bring them health and security instead?

Page 7 “Learning to love ourselves, to be humble enough to admit our limitations, to truly appreciate the gifts our differences bring while also being willing to accept help and healing for the most painful ones, gives us greater mental, emotional, and spiritual health.”

Where might you need to accept help and healing or how have you done this in the past?

Chapter 2

How did reading of Nathan’s experiences affect you? Did hearing from his perspective bring new compassion for anyone in your life?

Page 21 “Patience and focused attention would often help him to respond and talk to me about what he was feeling. I prayed, pondered, and sought wisdom and education to find a way to reach him in the impossible moments, which still happened so very often.”

What have you noticed about your children when you’ve paid close attention? Are you calm and attentive enough to really see them?

Page 26, “I am not a naturally selfless woman, nor a patient one. I’m the type to fly through life so that I can get a lot done- now! I usually have a strong sense of the way life should be, and I tend to get irritated when someone gets in my way or I can’t make things “right.” But none of these qualities were practical or effective in responding to this one who needed my slowness and my attention in the midst of my busyness. And I had made a commitment to God to begin to see Nathan as a blessing.

Who needs your slowness and attention? Are you willing to make the sacrifice and find the self-control to give it?

Did anything else in this section stand out to you?