



Giver of Roses ***Guardians of Gadiel – Book 1***

By Kathleen Morgan
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Reader Guide / Discussion Questions

1. Though several characters play important roles in *Giver of Roses*, Vartan and Danae are the main story protagonists. What are your hopes for them by the end of Chapter 1? By the end of Chapter 28, have your hopes for them changed? If so, how?
2. Vartan gives Danae several reasons why he cannot let himself accept Athan. Are any similar to the ones you may have had before you finally gave your life over to Christ? What helped you to overcome them? Are any ones you still struggle with? If so, what are some things you can—or are currently doing—to finally put them to rest?
3. Good man that he is, Vartan has his weaknesses. What are they? How does he grow and change through the course of the book? By the end of the book, what insights and experiences bring him to the man he is meant to be?
4. Vartan is plagued with guilt over what his pride and stubbornness in marrying Aelwyd has done to her. How does this tragedy impact on his budding relationship with Danae? Have you ever regretted some action that, at the time, you felt completely justified in doing but later regretted? How did you come to a resolution of that inner conflict?
5. First called to aid Vartan, when does Danae begin to feel that Athan has other plans for her? What does she do about that? By the end of *Giver of Roses*, how has Danae changed and what does she feel is her new call? Have you ever felt God calling you to some new ministry or path? How did you finally decide which one to follow and why?
6. Athan calls Vartan into the Desert. What does a journey into the desert symbolize in the Bible? How was Vartan's journey similar? What did he learn from his sojourn in the Desert?
7. Through the course of the book, Vartan, Danae, Ra'id, Sharifah, and Ankiné all made significant progress on their spiritual journeys. Which one of the five's most resonated with you? Are there elements from some of the other character's experiences that you've also had?

8. Vartan Karayan and his nemesis, Ladon, chose to follow different masters. What personal decisions and influences led them to the choices each made? How were they alike, and how were they different?

9. Ankine Yerevan begins her tragic spiral down into darkness because of a personal weakness. What is the catalyst that finally pulls her from the pit of evil and despair, and why? Have you known anyone, or experienced it yourself, who was in such a situation? If so, what have others, as Christ's faithful servants, done to inspire and strengthen you, or that other person, on the spiritual journey?

10. All of us are given spiritual gifts to use in the Lord's service. What are some of Vartan's particular gifts? Danae's? Ra'id's? Sharifah's? Ankine's? Serpuhi's? Zagiri's?

11. Does Vartan remind you of any particular Bible character? If so, who?

12. Amma Serpuhi is a spiritual mentor for several characters in *Giver of Roses*. Who are they? Have you ever had a spiritual mentor? What were some of the things you learned from this person that have helped you most in your journey with Christ?

13. One of the themes in *Giver of Roses* is the call to conversion and transformation. What are some of the other spiritual themes, as evidenced by the various characters and their personal struggles?

14. It is said that the strength of fantasy fiction lies in its power to enrich a reader's understanding of the world, and touch readers' lives and hearts, in ways no other forms of fiction can easily match. Do you find this applies just as aptly to Christian fantasy fiction? If so, why? If not, why not?

15. By the end of the book, do you believe Vartan has finally accepted that he's the "Guardian" of the Prophecy? If so, how does he feel about that? Is he truly the *only* Guardian of Gadiel? If not, explain your reasons

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