

The Pharaoh's Daughter
Discussion Questions

1. Anippe tries to comfort Ankhe after the tutor reprimands her, but Ankhe shoves Anippe away. Is it possible to love/show love to someone that doesn't want to be loved?
2. The Nile River was the one constant in Egyptian life. As Anippe grew older and wiser, she perceived her name, *Anippe*, to mean different things because her understanding of the Nile's constancy changed. "Like the waters of the Nile, I will flow..." As you've grown and your life circumstances have changed, how have your perspectives on God changed?
3. Life as a woman in ancient Egypt was built on shifting sand—changing names, leaving home, adopting new families—nothing was safe or secure. In what ways is life more secure for women today, and in what ways is life still built on shifting sand? How can one learn to trust or live without fear under such circumstances?
4. Anippe's name changes several times throughout the book, and each time, she searches her inner being for the name's meaning. Do you know what your name means? Does your personality fit its meaning?
5. Anippe realizes that she and Ankhe are both in a sort of prison: "Anippe locked in Abbi's perfect approval, Ankhe in his perfect disdain." Can you think of examples, from your own life or from others, in which people's opinions have shaped a person's character or life-path?
6. "I am Anippe, *daughter of the Nile*, and now the Nile has given me a son." Because Anippe was desperate for a child yet terrified of childbirth, she believed the gods had answered her prayers. How can we guard against the same "God told me" pitfall when faced with a desperate situation today?
7. When Mered hears General Horemheb, Sebak, and Pirameses plan to kill the Hittite prince, he's startled that they "spoke of murder and missions like he spoke of flax and linen." But we learn that violence has indeed tortured Sebak. Mehy begins stuttering when he's traumatized by witnessing violent acts, but we hear of no such effect on Sety. Why do you believe some people are more affected than others when confronted with violence?
8. We first see General Horemheb as a hard but compassionate soldier; however, he spirals into depravity after Ay succeeds in his scheming. At one point Horemheb confesses to Anippe, "I won the war—but at too great a cost. I've failed so many people." Do you think Horemheb would have become so ruthless if he hadn't lost those he loved? Why or why not?
9. Compare the interactions of the royal women of Gurob with the slave women in the Hebrew camp? Do they interact differently? If so, why do they act differently? If not, do you believe all women interact with each other the same?
10. El Shaddai spoke to Miriam through a dream and songs. Mered often felt God spoke to him through circumstances, and even Mandai began to see "Mered's God" at work in the

situations around them. However, Jered was frustrated when his father told him to ask God for advice on his marriage decision. Do you get frustrated while trying to “hear” God speak? What are some ways you’ve experienced El Shaddai’s communication?

11. Mered’s faith is tested when he loses the one he loves most in the world. “But as much as he willed it, he couldn’t abandon his heartbeat or halt his breaths. And, remarkably, his faith would live simply because he could not summon death.” How did Mered keep living when the one he loved was taken from them?
12. When Anippe feels guilty about stealing Ankhe’s hope, Miriam tells her, “Hope can’t be lost or stolen. Hope is a choice we embrace for ourselves each day.” Do you agree or disagree? Why?
13. Miriam assured Anippe that she was content with being single because “a man can never fill the longing for the one, true God.” Whether married or single, how can a woman fully experience the kind of relationship Miriam had with El Shaddai?
14. Mered makes a distinction between someone who tells a lie and a deceiver, someone who lives a lifetime of lies. Do you believe there is such a distinction? Is withholding the truth a lie?
15. Anippe finally realizes that her “Egyptian gods of gold or stone are external and can’t work within to give [her] peace.” In what ways do we look to external “gods” to give us inner peace?