

**WARNING:** These questions contain spoilers for *NOBLE: The Story of Maakah!*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Early in the story, a character from the previous book in the KING DAVID'S BRIDES series, Eglah, steps into the picture. Eglah has suffered at the hands of her Amalekite slave owner since we saw her last, yet she reenergizes the faith of all the women present with her undying faith in Yahweh, even after losing her mother and becoming a captive. Name a time when Yahweh sent just the right person into your circumstances to encourage you.
2. David is described in the Bible as "a man after God's heart" (1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22). But he was human and continued to make mistakes (sin), even as he was certain of God's guidance in his life. Do you think it's possible to walk closely with God and still make misguided decisions—sin?
3. Maakah was forced to swallow hard truths concerning her parents' identities. Unfortunately in life, everyone we love will at some time disappoint us. But there is One who always keeps His promises. Name one of God's promises that He has never failed to keep in your experience and describe its impact on your life.
4. David and his men are exhausted after years of destroying Canaanite villages, just as God commanded them to do. God's command was hard to digest for many Israelites—to kill so many men, women, and children. We don't always understand why God tells us to do what He does, but we are required to obey. Discuss a time when you felt God asking you to do something you did not understand, and how that situation turned out.
5. Maakah states, "*I needed time to sort out the harsh experiences of these past days so I could hold fast to the hard lessons they'd taught me.*" Taking time to reflect after seasons of hardship enables lessons to be learned. What are some ways you deliberately take time to learn from mistakes and/or sins of your past?
6. While telling Maakah and Zulat about her time with Nabal, Abigail states, "*Sometimes we need only take one brave step, and Yahweh cares for the rest.*" Reflect on a time when faith in God was the only thing that got you through a hard season.
7. David tells Maakah the truth about his destruction of her fellow Geshurites in the southern kingdom. Earlier, Joab had advised him to marry her and then tell her, or kill her so her father and uncle would never find out. However, David cared more about taking care of Maakah than trying to hide the truth. Have you ever had a time when in order to help someone, you had to hurt them first?
8. In a key transition point, David hears Maakah praying to her false goddess, Asherah. But instead of yelling at her, or rightfully killing her, David took the time to explain God's

loving nature without demanding her allegiance. In this way, how does David foreshadow some of Jesus earthly interactions with people?

9. David advises Maakah of the three things he has learned concerning the LORD: 1) That he can never anticipate the LORD's plans, 2) that His plans are always better than David could imagine, and 3) that the fulfillment of His plans always come with a sacrifice. Would you agree or disagree? Why?
10. Toward the end of the story, David and his men surrender to King Talmai while David waits to hear from God what he should do. Discuss a time when you stayed still and waited for an answer from God before making a decision.