

SAMANTHA: AN AMERICAN GIRL ADVENTURE  
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1.) Samantha was living with her Grandmother due to the death of her parents in an accident. Have you or someone you know been raised by extended family?
  - a. Or have you raised grandchildren or nieces or nephews? Discuss what that was like.
  
- 2.) When Nelly and her family came to live next door as servants, Samantha and Nelly became fast friends. Why do you think it is so easy for children to befriend others of a different socio-economic class?
  - a. I Samuel 16:7b “ **For<sup>[b]</sup> the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.**” How can this verse help us to see others?
  
- 3.) What things did Samantha and Nelly have in common?
  - a. **Proverbs 22:2 “The rich and the poor have this in common, the Lord is the maker of them all.”**
  
- 4.) Edward, the boy next door was a terrible bully! Have you ever had to deal with a bully? What did you do?
  - a. King David had to deal with bullies. **Psalms 35:15 “But in my adversity they rejoiced and gathered together; attackers gathered against me, and I did not know it; they tore at me and did not cease.”**
  
- 5.) When Samantha’s uncle Gard came to visit and announced his engagement to Cordelia, Samantha was obviously unhappy. Why do you think this was so difficult for her to accept?
  
- 6.) When Grandmother talks to Samantha about her feelings, she says, “We must accept change with grace.”
  - a. Do you think that is sound advice?

- b. Can you think of a time you had to accept “change with grace?”
  - c. Here is a verse from Psalms 147:3 that can be helpful when others are hurting: “**He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.**”
- 7.) Can you recall things that Cordelia did to win Samantha’s friendship? Name them.
- a. Cordelia seems to reflect this principle from Proverbs 16:24  
“**Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, Sweetness to the soul and health to the bones.**”
- 8.) Samantha had a lot of her mother’s things in the boat house. She said Grandmother didn’t want to talk about her mother. Do you choose to keep things belonging to a loved one who has passed on or does it make you too sad to think too much about that person? Why do you feel that way?
- 9.) When Cordelia’s veil is accidentally burned and Samantha offers her mother’s veil for the wedding, do you think that was difficult for Samantha to do?
- a. How did that change the relationship between Samantha and Cordelia?
- 10.) When Nelly found Edward’s “Bully Money” in the jar, do you think Samantha did the right thing by putting it in the offering plate at church? Why or why not?
- 11.) What changes did Samantha find when she moved from the country to New York City?
- a. What changes do you find in moving as you age?
- 12.) Samantha helps her 3 friends escape from the orphanage. Do you think it was the right thing to do? Why or why not?
- a. Have you ever done something to help others when you weren’t sure it was the right thing to do? Explain.
  - b. Proverbs 17:17 is a great verse about friends: “**A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.**”

- 13.) When Samantha went to the factory to get Nelly and saw what was being done to the children who worked there, how did that change her opinion of factories and progress?
- Has a grandparent you know worked in a factory when they were young?
  - What do you think of the changes Samantha made to her speech? Was it worth being disqualified?
  - Do you think Samantha was brave?
  - James 1:27 is a verse that comes to mind with this scene. ***“Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this; to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.”***
- 14.) Samantha always seems to be trying to find the solution to every problem that arises. Do you admire that in a person?
- Are you that kind of person?
  - In our problems there is One we can turn to and lean on. Proverbs 3:4-5 says, ***“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths.”***
- 15.) What Christmas traditions from this story set in 1905 are still observed today?