

Kathryn: Days of Struggle and Triumph  
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***Discussion Questions***

1. There are many “sodbuster” pioneer stories, but Idaho’s desert pioneers have quite a different story. What are some of the unique challenges they faced?
2. When Kathryn’s courage fails her she clings to long-remembered Bible verses. What were some of the times in the story this was most important to you? Have you had similar experiences?
3. It seems amazing that after their grueling days Kathryn and other pioneer women (on whose journals this book is based) would sit down at night and write. How do you think they managed to do this? Have you found writing—letters, journals, poems, etc. to be a comfort?
4. Community was essential to survival for the pioneers. How did neighbors help Kathryn survive? How is community still important?
5. Merrick and Kathryn both wrestle with the question of evil—terrible things happening to good people. Have you ever felt like this? What do you think of the answers Adam gives to Merrick and Kathryn gives to herself? What are your answers?
6. Throughout history the Church has been a civilizing, as well as a spiritual force in society. How is that so in this pioneer settlement? What are some other civilizing factors?
7. Kathryn had to make a hard decision when her father died. Of the several options open to her, which would you have chosen? What about the choice she makes at the end of the book?

8. Of all the hardships Kathryn and her fellow pioneers faced, what would have been the hardest for you?

9. Heritage plays a major part in Kathryn and Merrick's story. How is heritage important to them? Is heritage important to you?

10. This is a story of forgiveness. Mention some of the situations in the story that required forgiveness. Would you have found it difficult to be forgiving or to accept forgiveness in similar circumstances?