

Discussion Questions—*The Domino Effect*

- Esther Larsen, the story's principal character, faces three challenges. The first is to recognize that for her sense of calling to become reality, she must allow herself to grow beyond her comfort zone.
 - Are you involved in a project or life activity that carries the overarching awareness of a divine calling? Are you allowing yourself to develop beyond who you are, where you are, in order to bring this to pass?
- Esther's second challenge means doing this for the greater good, working for the success of those with whom she has no direct contact and most likely will never meet.
 - Have you focused on your life goals from the standpoint of others—your church, your community, your nation? Maybe this requires redefining those goals, shifting from a self-oriented perspective to one aimed at serving others.
- Esther's third challenge has to do with friendship. She is by nature a loner, reinforced by her background. But for her to succeed she needs to realize that she must join with others, bond with them, trust them, and confide in them.
 - Is there one person with whom you might need to forge closer bonds, and during the process of which your own life goals might be achieved?
- The theme of *The Domino Effect* features the prospect of preparing for an economic downturn.
 - What is one aspect of your personal financial situation that was most impacted during the 2008 recession? Were this to happen again, are your finances in better shape? What can you do to be even better prepared, just in case?
 - Are you comfortable with your current debt level? If not, is there one action you could take today that would improve this? Can you commit to taking that step now?