

Reading Group Guide for
The Red Door Inn
by Liz Johnson

1. Who was your favorite character? Why? Did you relate more to the younger couple, Marie and Seth, or the more mature couple, Jack and Aretha? In what ways?
2. When Marie leaves Boston, she heads toward Prince Edward Island because she's always been fascinated by the book *Anne of Green Gables*. Talk about a book that you loved as a child that still holds a special place in your heart.
3. When Jack meets Marie, he thinks that her appearance in his life is "positively providential." Have you ever met someone and thought that it was a heavenly appointment? Share your experience. How did that person affect your life?
4. Seth and Marie both suffer enormous pain and respond very differently. Seth turns angry and surly. Marie pulls away from others and internalizes her hurt. When someone injured you, how did you respond? Were you surprised by the way you reacted? Would you respond differently now if you could?
5. Jack misses his late wife, Rose, so much that he can't see his own dreams. Have you ever experienced a time like that in your life? How were you able to move forward?
6. Seth is afraid of being blinded by love again, so he watches Marie constantly and suspects the very worst of her. Have you ever been so careful not to repeat a mistake that you treated someone else badly or made a worse mistake? How did the situation turn out? What did you learn from it?
7. Marie realizes that what she's been looking for is family. How would you describe your relationship with your family?
8. Do you have friends who have become adopted family? How did you meet them, and what has made you so close? What do you think is the most important aspect of close friendships?

9. When Marie and Caden talk about how they want to please their fathers, Marie points out that Caden's dad will love her no matter what, but she's afraid of disappointing him. Talk about a time when you worried that you might disappoint your parents or someone else you love. How did they respond? How do you think their reaction compares to God's?
10. The red door represents a safe place in the midst of a storm. Do you have a safe place that you go to during hard times? Where is it? What made you choose that spot?
11. Marie battles with the question of how a good God could allow such terrible things to happen. Have you ever asked that question? What answers have you found?
12. Marie comes to the conclusion that God is a good father who uses even the tragedies in her life to draw her to him. He uses the pain in her life to bring her to PEI, where she finds a family and love. Have you seen good things come out of pain in your own life? If so, what were they? What good gifts has God given you?