

Discussion Questions for *Wagered Heart*

1. Describe the differences between Bethany and Ingrid. What are their strengths and weaknesses? How do their personalities affect their circumstances throughout the novel?
2. After Hawk finds out about the wager Bethany made with Ingrid, he begins to suspect her tenderness toward him is an act. Why does he think this? Are there other factors in Bethany's treatment of him that tell him otherwise?
3. Hawk holds strong pride for himself and his heritage. How is this a positive attribute? Negative?
4. Compare Hawk's desire for Bethany with that of Vince Richards. How do they differ? What is the driving force behind each of them? Why doesn't Hawk pursue her when Vince does?
5. After Bethany returns to Philadelphia, she realizes God is calling her back to Sweetwater and to Hawk. Hawk has a similar experience when he takes his own journey away from home and discovers God's desire to be part of his life. Have you ever taken a physical journey that has led to spiritual growth? How did it shape your life from then on?
6. Compare Ingrid and Rand's relationship with Bethany and Hawk's. Why are Ingrid and Rand able to show their love for each other right away, and Bethany and Hawk are not? What virtues are instilled into each relationship throughout the novel?
7. Following the death of her parents, Bethany is frustrated that her father had worked so hard to build a church in Sweetwater only to preach there two Sundays. Is her frustration justified? How does the legacy of her parents affect Bethany, Hawk, and the rest of the townspeople?
8. Vince tells Bethany that he is not a patient man. How does patience affect the characters and their relationships in the book? What message does the story convey about being patient with God, others, and ourselves?
9. Vince underestimates his servant Hutchens. What are the similarities and differences between Hutchens and Hawk? How does each man handle his situation? How do they each surprise Vince in the end?
10. Bethany's relationship with Hawk begins with a wager she makes with Ingrid. Does that wager sabotage her relationship with Hawk, or strengthen it? Who does Hawk say the winner is in the end? How does this show that he has changed?