1. The Seamstress was inspired by a minor character in Charles Dickens’s A Tale of Two Cities. Have you read that novel? If so, did The Seamstress change anything about your view of that story? Is there another Dickens novel that is a particular favorite of yours?

2. Marie Antoinette is portrayed sympathetically throughout the story. How often do you think there is a difference between a highly visible figure’s private life and public persona? What effect do you think the passage of time has on our perceptions?

3. Do you think Renée’s decision to remain with the queen stemmed from compassion, or was it motivated by pride? Or some other reason?

4. Patriotism and love of country can take many forms. How would you compare and contrast Gagnon, Marcel, and Bertrand in terms of their love and dedication to their country? In what ways are patriotism and love of one’s country the same thing? In what ways, if any, are they different?

5. In general, should people in positions of power choose their duty to their nation over the well-being of their family? Why or why not?

6. What do you think motivates Marcel to get involved in the revolutionary cause? What motivates him in his relationships with others? What consistent themes or attitudes do you see in his character? Is there anything about him you admire? Why or why not?

7. Despite a series of bad decisions, Laurette finds herself with a safe, blessed life. Can you think of a time when God turned a bad choice into a blessing for you or someone you care about?

8. Although Renée’s role is purely fiction, the women’s march on Versailles (during which the character of Bertrand is killed) actually happened. Is it ever appropriate for social reform to find its voice in anger and violence? Give reasons to support your answer and, if you can, other historical examples.

9. Suppose Renée’s final “confession” could have saved her from the guillotine. Did she make the right decision in refusing this offer of help from Marcel? Why or why not? What do you think you would have done in her place?

10. Romans 13:5 says, “Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience” (NIV). Do you think this holds true when authorities are in clear violation of God’s Word? Should Christians ever consider disobedience to authorities a righteous act? If so, how and when?