SO SHINES THE NIGHT

BY TRACY HIGLEY

BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. At the start of the story, Daria believes that she must ensure her own safety and survival by her wits alone. How common is it for us to feel we are in control of our own story?
2. In what ways is Daria’s desire to redeem herself with a second chance challenged by Paul? Do you think that one person can save another person from himself?
3. With what character did you most identify? Why?
4. How familiar were you with this portion of Paul’s life? Did the characters of Paul and Timothy, Priscilla and Aquila come alive for you in a new way?
5. Even Paul learns something in this story – the difference between physical *safety* and ultimate *security*. Did this idea speak to you?
6. What did you learn about the city of Ephesus?
7. How did you feel about the author’s portrayal of the spiritual warfare and demonic oppression in the city? Was the story too dark for you, or did you feel it helped you understand the time and place in an authentic way?
8. Does the passage in chapter 6 of Paul’s letter to Ephesus, regarding the “full armor of God,” have more meaning after reading this story?
9. Daria learns that she does not need to have all the answers, nor is she truly in control of all the events of her life. How difficult is this truth in your own life?
10. Did you enjoy the relationship between Daria and Lucas? The author included elements of a traditional “gothic romance,” as in classics like *Jane Eyre* and *Rebecca*. Did you pick up on these elements?
11. In what ways do you feel the author’s travels through Ephesus and other ancient lands have informed her writing? What Bible locations would you most enjoy visiting?
12. The believers in Ephesus are just beginning to come together in the time of this story, and much persecution is ahead. Do you think they are equipped for it? How ready are we for persecution if it should come?