

***When God and Cancer Meet***  
**Discussion Guide by *When God and Cancer Meet* author Lynn Eib**

*(Note: Questions marked with an asterisk (\*) are specifically intended for cancer patients, caregivers, and support groups.)*

**Introduction & “God, you are making a really big mistake here”:**

Did you ever feel like God was “making a mistake” when He allowed a trial or suffering to come into your life or the life of a loved one? Why or why not?

Have you seen God bring any blessings through your trials? If not, do you believe He can?

\* Lynn writes that a woman named Pat was the first cancer survivor she ever knew personally and that Pat gave her great hope as she faced chemotherapy (pg. xii). Do you recall the first cancer survivor you met who gave you hope?

**Close Encounters of the Divine Kind:**

How hard or easy is it for you to “let God simply be God” (p. 14)?

How have you been able to find joy in the midst of your difficult circumstances (p. 16)?

Lynn asks, “How is your walk in the desert going?” (p. 18). Are you seeking God or just what you want Him to do for you?

Describe a “close encounter of the divine kind” that you have experienced.

**The Fear behind the Smile:**

What prayers have you seen God answer that perhaps you didn’t think He would?

Respond to Lynn’s assertion that sometimes we are given more than we can handle (pp. 27–28).

Describe a time when you felt like David facing Goliath?

\* Lynn writes that she didn’t feel as if she had anyone who really understood what she was facing as a young mother with cancer (p. 21). Do you have anyone who understands what you are facing?

**When God Did the Heimlich Maneuver:**

Respond to the statement “Life is not fair. But God is not life” (p. 37).

How have you, like Jane, had to learn about “letting go and letting God” (p. 39)?

\* Were you angry like Jane was when you heard the diagnosis of cancer?

**“We don’t think she’s going to make it”:**

Share a story of someone you know who is still alive after being told they wouldn’t “make it.”

How have your trials increased your trust in God?

\* When you heard the diagnosis of cancer, did you think you or your loved one was going to die?

**“This peace just came over me”:**

Describe a time when you, like Huberta, experienced “the peace that passes understanding.”

Do you know for sure how to get to heaven?

\* How hard is it for you to live with the uncertainty of cancer?

**“It was our first prayer together”:**

Have you experienced a “coincidence” like Jack and Jeannette, which you believe was God working?

Do you ever wonder why God allows trials in your life?

Respond to Jeannette’s comment, “It’s really hard to pray for God’s will because I know it may not be the same as mine” (p. 62).

\* Do you pray more or less since you or your loved one received a cancer diagnosis?

**A Cup of Cold Water:**

Have you ever seen a miracle?

Do you agree with Lynn’s assertion that we should not “tell God when and where and how to respond to our needs” (p. 71)?

What do you think of the notion of “naming and claiming” a miracle?

**“You’re my best friend”:**

Have you, like Alice, ever felt that you were not accepted by a church?

Has God ever “spoken” to you like He did to Alice (p. 79)?

Do you ever feel like you’re not good enough for God?

Respond to Lynn’s statement, “God’s love for you has no strings attached” (p. 82).

**The Other “Cancer”:**

Is there anything in your life that you feel is separating you from God?

How have you experienced God’s healing touch through a congregation?

How hard is it for you to allow people to care for you?

**“It’s not the miracle we prayed for”:**

How do you deal with unanswered prayer?

How have you, like Doris, found God “showing up in things everyday” (p. 98)?

Are you absolutely convinced that nothing can separate you from God’s love?

\* Do you feel as if cancer has been a dividing point in your life (p. 93)?

**“God’s giving me back my momma”:**

How has your upbringing helped or not helped you deal with your trials?

Have you been able to be really honest with God?

What do you think about the incident Lynn describes at Rosh Pina (pp.106–109)?

\* What has cancer taken away from you?

**Miracle Lady, a.k.a. Hospice Dropout:**

Which of Ruth’s miracles—physical, emotional, or spiritual—is most amazing to you?

Respond to Lynn’s assertion that “anyone can beat cancer, because being victorious is not only about being cured” (p. 120).

\* Are you beating cancer (pp. 118–119)?

**The Horse Lady:**

\* Describe something that you or your loved one has done since their diagnosis that you think is amazing.

How easy or difficult is it for you to praise God when things are not going well in your life?

Have you ever felt so overwhelmed that you couldn’t pray? What did you do?

Share your favorite psalm of comfort.

**So Much Hurt, So Little Time:**

Have you or your loved one ever experienced depression?

Are there or were there ever walls between you and God?

Do you believe that the healing touch of God is deeper than any pit you could be in?  
Why or why not?

**“Either way she wins”:**

How hard is it for you to stand by and watch a loved one suffer?

How does George’s “message from God” encourage you (pp. 144–145)?

Do you really believe that God loves your loved ones more than you do?

**“I can’t tell you how much better I feel”:**

How do you feel about being spiritually ready to die?

Describe the first time you remember feeling forgiven by God.

Do you have a longing for heaven?

**A Physician Meets the Great Physician:**

Tell about any Jewish people you know who believe in Jesus as the Messiah.

What do you think about a physician who combines faith and medicine in his practice?

What have you been able to thank God for in the midst of your trials?

**The Heart, Mind, and Soul of a Cancer Survivor:**

Are you a pessimist, an optimist, or a realist (p. 171)?

What are the two things Lynn says a person needs to do to find peace (p. 180)?

What are you hoping for?

How have your trials in life helped you to trust God more?

\* What was your attitude like when you got the cancer diagnosis? Did you ask “why me?”

\* How much do you worry about lumps, bumps, aches, and pains?