

***Sensible Shoes* by Sharon Garlough Brown**

Discussion Questions:

1. If you could sit and have a conversation with one of the characters in *Sensible Shoes*, whom would you choose? Why? What would you want to talk about?
2. With which character did you most identify? Least identify? Did your opinion change as the story unfolded?
3. Think about some of the childhood experiences for each character. How did some of these events shape each woman's sense of identity?
4. Identify some of the turning points for the main characters. Why were these moments significant?
5. Name some of the images or metaphors that were significant in each character's process of self-discovery and transformation. Which of these images connect with your life or your longings?
6. What are some of the important growth points or unresolved issues for each character? What next steps do you hope each one takes?
7. Mara says, "I hate the word 'discipline.' I already feel guilty." What is your reaction to the concept of spiritual disciplines?
8. How do you define "spiritual formation?"
9. What do you find either appealing or frightening about taking a sacred journey with other people?
10. Dr. Allen says, "The things that annoy, irritate and disappoint us have just as much power to reveal the truth about ourselves as anything else. Learn to linger with what provokes you. You may just find the Spirit of God moving there." What provoked you as you read the book?
11. Meg says, "It's easy to lose sight of how far I've come if I'm only looking at how far I have to go." When do you feel overwhelmed or discouraged by the distance you still have to travel? What helps you keep a God-ward perspective on your journey?
12. How would you respond to an invitation from New Hope?
13. What is God stirring in you as a result of reading this book?