

KELLI GOTTHARDT

Unlikely
Rebel

Discussion Questions

1. Each chapter relays different personal stories, some poignant, some funny, some sad. Did you find yourself identifying with any particular story? If so, why did it resonate with you?
2. How easy is it for you to say “no” to someone who asks you to do something? Is it more difficult for you to say no to a spiritual request? Would you want to recreate Kelli’s experiment of saying no to *any* new thing for a year? Why or why not?
3. At the beginning of chapter 8, Kelli states that “Nice is not a fruit of the Spirit.” How might the compulsion toward niceness stunt emotional and spiritual growth?
4. Kelli’s spiritual practices influenced the direction of her journey and led to life-changing results. What spiritual practices do you find most life-giving? In which do you feel you fall short?
5. What does “rule-breaking obedience” mean to the author? What does it mean to you?
6. Kelli considered her husband’s jobless time a “year of abundance” and even stayed committed to the church that fired him. What can you learn from this viewpoint? Would you have the same attitude?
7. Discuss the concept of having a number of different marriages as one couple.
8. What emotions arose for you as you read the chapter on how women are sometimes viewed in the world and in the church? Have men in your past or present inflicted wounds—however small—that you think might influence those emotions? What lessons from Kelli’s journey do you think might help your own wounds heal?
9. When Kelli dreams of losing her finger, she gets a sense that God is trying to tell her something important. Throughout Scripture, God speaks to his servants through dreams. What role—if any—do

dreams play in your spiritual journey? What other ways does God speak to you?

10. This memoir is a vulnerable and at times unflattering look into Kelli's life. Do you think it is a good idea for Christian leaders to be so open about their weaknesses? Are you grateful for shared vulnerability or worried by it?
11. In the end, Kelli makes the powerful discovery of a deeper love for God, others, and herself. Would it surprise you to find a similar ever-increasing capacity for love in yourself? Where have you seen love grow unexpectedly in your own life?
12. There is value in telling our stories to others, both for us and for our listeners. What experiences or lessons learned in your life do you think might be helpful for someone to hear? Which could be helpful for you to share?

Unlikely Rebel: A Church Girl's Journey out of Shoulds and Shame

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