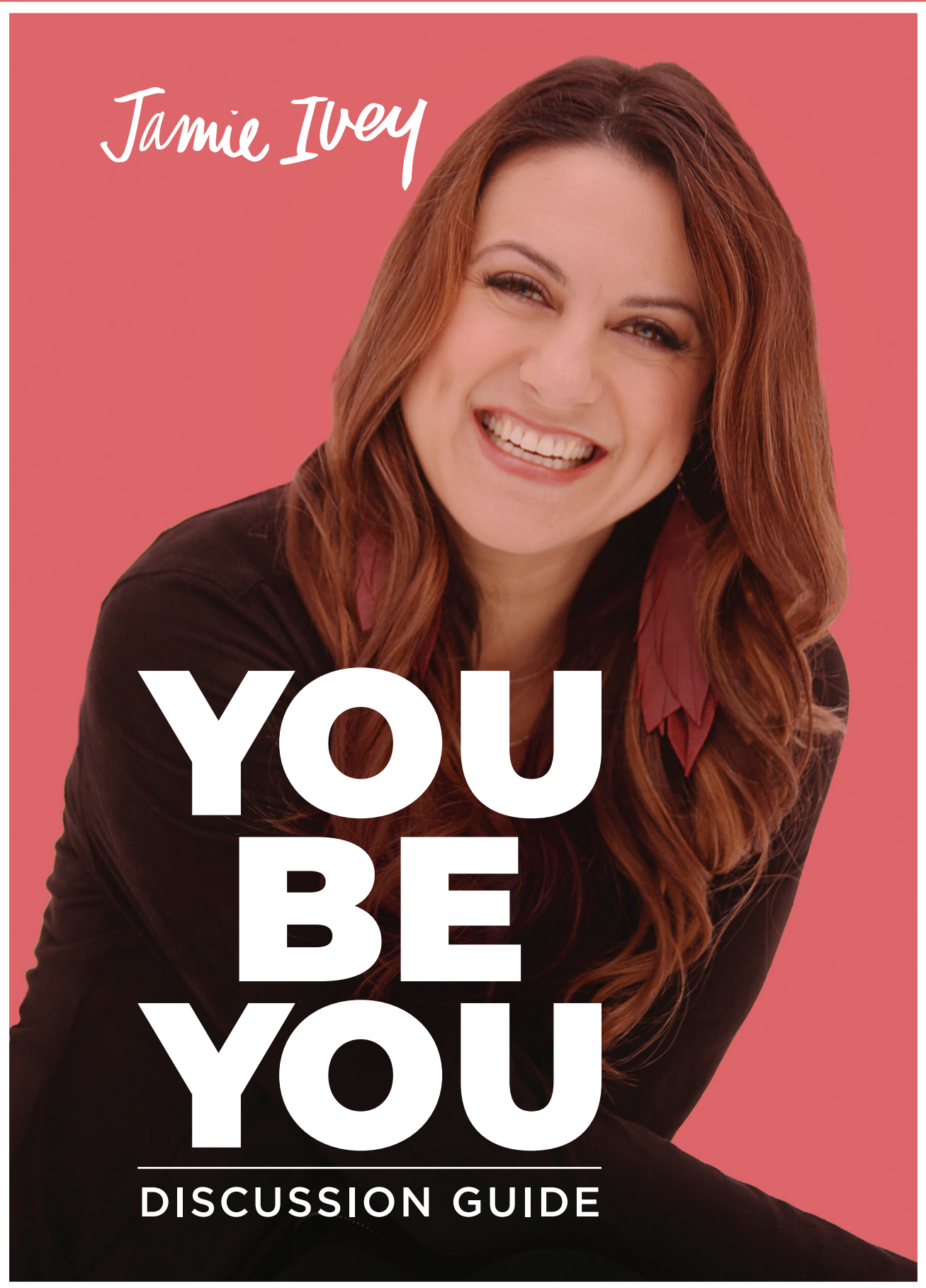


Jamie Ivey

A portrait of a woman with long, wavy brown hair, smiling broadly. She is wearing a dark-colored top with a large, light-colored floral or leaf-like detail on the shoulder. The background is a solid, vibrant red color. The portrait is framed by a white border.

**YOU
BE
YOU**

DISCUSSION GUIDE

YOU BE YOU

DISCUSSION GUIDE

for individual or group use

CHAPTER 1

- 1 At the end of your life, what do you hope you will have accomplished?
- 2 How do you see the popular inspirational sayings on Pinterest, such as “Girl, you got this”; “Hustle more”; “Your control your own destiny”; and “You are your own boss,” having a destructive influence in your life?
- 3 How does today’s culture—including media, online influencers, authors, and celebrities—encourage your pursuit of God’s calling? How does the culture distract you from it?

- 4 Jamie writes this:

YOU have a strength of calling that originates in the mind of God. I’m saying YOU have a voice and platform that matters immensely today simply because it’s the voice He’s given you. I’m saying YOU have talents and giftings that He’s invested in you, designed for a purpose way bigger than yourself. I’m saying YOU can be definitely, biblically assured that no trial, no tragedy is oppressive enough to suffocate what He’s put you on this earth for.

And this means YOU can experience satisfaction today. YOU can experience success today. Real satisfaction, real success, comes from doing what YOU do, doing it where YOU are, and doing it in faithfulness to the God who has lovingly, strategically put YOU there.

How do these ideas encourage you? What holds you back from believing them?

Spend several minutes asking God to reveal to you the talents and gifts He’s given you and ask Him to make clear your calling.

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CHAPTER 2

- 1 Jamie shared how God called her family to leave their lives for a new job, only then to be led to stay instead. How does this encourage you in the twists and turns of your own life?
- 2 How does Jamie describe our primary calling in chapter two? What holds you back from fulfilling it?
- 3 If your calling is “where your talents and burdens collide,” as Rebekah Lyons is quoted to say, what is your calling?
- 4 How do you respond to Jamie’s statement that “your highest calling in life is not marriage or motherhood”?

CHAPTER 3

- 1 How do you define making an impact?
- 2 When have you used your voice to speak up for something that mattered to you? What was the result?
- 3 How do you relate your own experience of standing up for what is right with the story of Esther? How does her story inspire you? Challenge you?
- 4 How can you use your voice for good right where God has planted you now?

CHAPTER 4

- 1 How have you struggled to appreciate the talents and gifts God has gifted you?
- 2 How has comparison to others impacted the way you view the talents and gifts God has gifted you?
- 3 Why do you think you’ve been burying your talent?
- 4 How are you multiplying the talent you’ve been given?
- 5 What do you need to do to stop hoarding your talents?

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CHAPTER 5

- 1 In your life, what is the connection between lack of trust in God and believing the lie that “the grass is greener on the other side”?
- 2 How has comparison led to pride and envy in your life?
- 3 In what areas do you need to stop comparing yourself to others and instead, boast only in Christ?
- 4 How will you commit to set your mind on things “above” in those areas where you’re tempted to compare?

CHAPTER 6

- 1 What areas of life are you discontented with right now?
- 2 How does social media feed you discontentment? Discuss a few specific examples.
- 3 How do you feel about the truth that contentment is not dependent upon your circumstances?
- 4 Describe how you are abiding with Jesus right now. What is competing with Him for your devotion and what shifts could you make this week to prioritize abiding with Him?

CHAPTER 7

- 1 How does believing that God is in control and has a plan affect your daily life?
- 2 What is your reaction to Jamie’s statement:
I believe He makes things happen, even painful things, in order that they can become a cause for bringing deeper growth in us and more glory to himself.
Describe how you have or have not experienced this perspective during trials in your life.
- 3 What do you need in order to walk out your calling, even in the midst of doubt, fear, and anxiety?
- 4 Read Romans 5:3-5 and James 1:2-4. How have you seen these verses play out in your life?

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CHAPTER 8

- 1 What does the phrase, “bloom where you’re planted” mean to you, and how does it apply to your life, specifically?
- 2 How do you define *success*?
- 3 Who is in your circle of influence? How is God calling you to influence them?
- 4 Why are we tempted to focus our eyes on everything around us instead of what’s right in front of us?

CHAPTER 9

- 1 Ask yourself, “Who am I becoming?” How will your answer guide you on your journey toward a more resolute faithfulness?
- 2 If God gets only a little of your time, who are you becoming?
- 3 How does care you receive and give in community help you become someone who looks more like Christ?
- 4 When has work—not God—become your goal?

CHAPTER 10

- 1 How will you bring light to our dark world?
- 2 What is your response to God’s redeeming you and saving you?
- 3 What do you need to “throw off” in order to run with endurance the race that is set before you?
- 4 How will you live your days well, in faithfulness to your calling?