

# **DAUGHTER OF LIBERTY**

**By J. M. Hochstetler**

## **A Study Guide to the Spiritual Themes**

1. Read Psalm 37:4-5 and Proverbs 3:5-6. What do these passages mean to you? How do they relate to your personal life?
2. In Chapter 1, what concerned Colonel Stern the most about Elizabeth's behavior? When we face important or difficult decisions or crises, what should be our response as Christians? What underlying principles are we to follow?
3. How do you relate to Elizabeth's impulsiveness? When you face a crisis or an important decision, do you seek God's guidance and will before reacting? What steps do you take to determine God's will for you? How can you be sure that the choices you make are truly God's will? Find supporting scriptures.
4. In Chapter 2, read the discussion between Elizabeth and Dr. Howard about the patriots' rationale for rebelling against the authority of the British king. What arguments do they give to support their opposing positions?
5. Compare Isaiah 40:21-24 and 1 Peter 2:13-15. If God raises up and puts down kings, whom does he use to accomplish this? If we as Christians are called to be obedient to earthly governments under whose authority God has placed us and even to pray for them, then what are we to do when our government acts in defiance of God's laws? Is it right to protest, to actively oppose the government, even to take up arms against it? The American colonists held a variety of positions on this issue. What is your opinion? Back it up with scripture.
6. The patriots finally took up arms to fight against a government they felt was unjust. Jesus called us to turn the other cheek, yet the Bible recounts many wars and even says that God called the Israelites to fight the sinful and idolatrous nations that surrounded them. Paul wrote that we should not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Many Christians oppose war under any circumstances, while others serve in the military and fight in time of war. What should our response and the response of our nation be when we are attacked or confront the evil actions of governments who oppress and even engage in genocide against their own people or surrounding nations? Is there such a thing as a just war? Give scriptural support for your position.

7. How would God have you relate to Christians who honestly and thoughtfully believe differently on these issues than you do?
8. Was Carleton a believer when he fell into sin? When we as born-again Christians sin, what is the major consequence in our relationship with God and others? Are there any sins standing between you and God now? You and others? If so, what do you need to do to find restoration and healing for those relationships?
9. What were the obstacles that kept Carleton from receiving God's forgiveness? What was the deepest barrier? Have you ever felt that way? What is the only way to overcome it?
10. God used Elizabeth to call Carleton back to himself even though she was not fully submitted to him. Has God ever used you to minister to one of his prodigals or to a person who was lost, even though you weren't where you should have been in your relationship with him? Look at David and Abraham. God used them powerfully even though they often strayed from obedience to him. If God was limited to using only perfect people for ministry, how much ministry do you think would get done?
11. Elizabeth succeeded in her impetuous actions for a long time, but they finally led to disaster for both her and Carleton. Was she wrong in rushing ahead on her own willful path if she helped the patriot cause by doing so? Why do you think she was afraid to submit her actions to God's direction?
12. Have you ever been afraid that if you totally submitted to God, he might deny you some things you really want or call you to do some things you don't want to do? Have your choices ever led to a less than desirable result or even to disaster that could have been avoided if you had sought God's guidance first?
13. Both Elizabeth and Carleton frequently had to lie in their roles as spies, and both wrestled with their consciences because of this. Do you think the spies Moses sent throughout Canaan misrepresented the reasons for their presence in a hostile land? Corrie Ten Boom and her family were forced to lie to hide Jews from the Nazis during WWII. Do you believe there are circumstances under which it is acceptable in God's eyes to lie? Back up your position with scripture.
14. Each time Elizabeth and Carleton were tempted to trust the other, they pulled back. What clues did each discover that indicated the other was not what he/she claimed to be? What good reasons did each have not to trust the other?

15. What was the consequence of Elizabeth and Carleton's refusal to trust God's leading in their relationship? Have you ever experienced the brokenness of a relationship because of your refusal or inability at that point to allow yourself to trust God's leading? What could or should you have done differently?
16. When Elizabeth came face-to-face with the consequences of her willful actions, she surrendered her will to God's. What was the outcome? What did God then call her to do after all?
17. Have you ever discovered after a period of running from God that when you finally surrendered he gave you the deepest desires of your heart? If God gives you a deep desire for something, it is because he desires to give it to you. When you withhold your trust and obedience to God's will for your life, how does that block the blessings he has in store for you?
18. According to historical records, Margaret Gage probably did betray her husband's confidence as the British prepared to march to Concord. The Gage's relationship was broken and never restored. Were there other alternatives she might have chosen to help the patriots rather than betraying his confidence?
19. Have you ever been in a position where you betrayed the confidence of someone close to you, or has your confidence been betrayed in such a way? How did you or the other person respond and what was the result? Do you need to ask forgiveness of that person or to extend forgiveness to him or her?
20. In *Daughter of Liberty*, what does the oriole symbolize? Do you think it is an effective image?

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