



Discussion Questions for
IN THE SHADOW OF SINAI
By Carole Towlriss

1. What is Bezalel's initial attitude toward God? Why do you think he feels this way? Have you ever felt the same?

2. Why do you think his art gives him so much joy?

3. How does Moses's arrival affect the Israelites? How do you think they viewed God before Moses came?

4. The plagues each target an Egyptian god. What are some of the plagues, and how do they shake the Egyptians' confidence in their deities?

5. How does Bezalel's attitude toward God begin to change as the plagues continue?

6. Sabba says, "He gave us the name El Shaddai (God Almighty) for a reason. He is powerful, mighty, strong. You can cling to that, or you can be blown about like a leaf in the winds of a *khamsin*." (A *khamsin* is a powerful, sometimes destructive wind that blows through in the spring.) What do you think he means by that?

7. Moses says, "We can only obey what Yahweh reveals, one step at a time." How does Bezalel try to do that? Have you tried to do that?

8. Sabba tells Ahmose, "So, sometimes, good things happen, even when they look very bad. We just have to trust Shaddai, and believe He will always do the best thing for us." Have you ever experienced good things coming from bad?

9. Just as Bezalel is ready to trust God, he has to leave Meri behind. Have you ever felt like you had the rug pulled out from under you?

10. The Israelites fail to trust God even though he performs miracle after miracle. How do you—or can you—explain this?

11. What lesson does Bezalel finally learn on the mountainside? How does he apply it later? Have you ever had to leave something like that in God's hands?

12. What does the change from El Shaddai to Yahweh signify?



From the Author

I often get asked how much of the story is in the Bible and how much is from my imagination. My answer is, *generally* everything that happens to the group is from the Bible, while things that happen to one character are fiction.

[WWW. CAROLETOWRISS. COM](http://WWW.CAROLETOWRISS.COM)