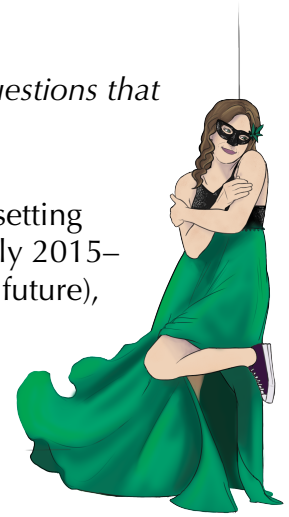


The *Sweet* Experiment

Book Club Discussion Questions

Some questions contain spoilers. Chapter references are provided for questions that pertain to specific scenes or events.

1. Payton attended college on the Southern California coast, a fictional setting based on the campus of Westmont College in Santa Barbara in roughly 2015–16. If you could choose anywhere to attend college (past, present, or future), where would you choose?
2. Which character did you most identify with in *The Sweet Experiment*? Why?
3. Do you think it's true that men and women can't really be "just friends"? (Chapter 1)
4. Payton notes that she and Alyssa are polar opposites. Do you have friends who are very different from you?
5. Have you ever felt a conflict between your personal comfort level and a commonly accepted practice of the culture around you? (Chapter 2–3)
6. How did you meet your best friend?
7. Have you ever overheard someone saying something about you that you weren't supposed to hear? How did that affect you? (Chapter 3)
8. What do you think it means to be "sweet"? Is that a desirable trait?
9. During their interview, Payton realizes she wants to impress Dr. Davudi. Who is an older person that you respect, and why? (Chapter 5)
10. Do you tend to view God more as a Righteous Policeman or a Loving Father? If neither, what is the dominant analogy in your view of God? (Chapter 5)
11. Have you ever tried to change yourself for someone else?
12. If you had been in Payton's shoes and were worried about losing your friendship with Wyatt, would you have made similar choices? If not, what would you have done differently?



chelsee elise young

The *Sweet* Experiment

Book Club Discussion Questions

(continued)

13. Payton has a very different kind of relationship with each of her family members (Henzlee, Mom, Don). Do any of these relationships remind you of your own relationships with family members?
14. Have you ever had someone pray for you in what you considered “the wrong way”—where they prayed for something you didn’t want? (Chapter 7)
15. At Rylynn’s party, Payton wore her purple sneakers under her dress because she needed something to make her feel like she was still herself, though she was trying to essentially be a different person. Why do you think that is? (Chapter 8)
16. Do you have any items that make you feel authentically yourself? (Chapter 8)
17. Do you find it difficult to trust God when bad things happen?
18. What does the Bible say about the bad things that happen? (John 9:1–3, Romans 5:3–5, Romans 8:28, Genesis 3, Job)
19. In thinking about the pro-life picketers, what are your thoughts on balancing truth and love? Do you tend to lean more toward one or the other? (Chapter 25)
20. Are there elements of your identity that conflict with what God has said of you? How can you find freedom in God’s view of who you are?
21. Do you find it easy or difficult to share with others about what God has done in your life?

chelsee elise young