

The
Forgiving
JAR

WANDA E.
BRUNSTETTER

Sara's Pumpkin Bread

Ingredients:	1 cup pumpkin puree
4 eggs	$\frac{2}{3}$ cup water
3 cups sugar	2 teaspoons baking soda
1 teaspoon cinnamon	1 cup olive oil
$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt	$3\frac{1}{2}$ cups flour
1 teaspoon nutmeg	1 cup chopped nuts

In large bowl, beat eggs. Add remaining ingredients and mix well. Pour into three well-greased loaf pans. Bake at 300 degrees for 1 hour or until done in center.

Mary Ruth's Turkey Vegetable Soup

Ingredients:	1½ cups peeled, diced potatoes
1 cup diced carrots	2 teaspoons chicken bouillon granules
½ cup diced celery	½ teaspoon salt
⅓ cup chopped onion	½ teaspoon pepper
2 tablespoons butter	2½ cups milk
2 cups diced cooked turkey	3 tablespoons flour
2 cups water	

In large saucepan, sauté carrots, celery, and onion in butter until tender. Add turkey, water, potatoes, bouillon, salt, and pepper. Bring to boil. Reduce heat, cover, and simmer for 10 to 12 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Stir in 2 cups milk. In separate bowl, combine flour with remaining ½ cup milk. Blend until smooth. Stir into soup. Bring to a boil. Cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened.

Discussion Questions

1. Could you be as brave as Michelle when, after Ezekiel's urging, she returned to the Lapps' to confess in person what she did and to apologize?
2. Sara didn't like the idea that Michelle got to know her grandparents before she did. Can you understand why Sara felt the way she did about Michelle? Was there a better way for Sara to cope without allowing resentment to take over?
3. Willis and Mary Ruth each had a talk with Sara and Michelle but let the girls work it out themselves. Do you think they should have intervened more?
4. Were you ever in a situation where you longed to have someone love you the way Sara saw how Michelle and Ezekiel cared for each other? Were you envious of the couple or happy for them?
5. Could you have been as patient as Ezekiel, giving Michelle time to decide for herself if she wanted to learn the ways of the Amish and join the church?
6. Were you happy to find out Michelle made a commitment to join the Amish church? Did you feel she found her faith through the prayer jar notes and was not just persuaded by her love for Ezekiel and wanting to have a life with him?
7. Do you think Sara was right in not questioning her grandma about the prayer jar and forgiving jar messages?
8. What did you think about the way Ezekiel's mother and sister acted toward Michelle? Do you understand why they

were concerned about him being interested in a woman who wasn't Amish?

9. Has someone close to you passed away and afterward you discovered that they had deceived you, the way Sara learned that her mother kept her heritage a secret? Since you could not confront the person, how did you handle your feelings?
10. Have any of your children ever upset you by going to someone else's house for a meal on Christmas, when traditionally your family has always been together on this special day? Would you have reacted the way Belinda did when her son Ezekiel went to the Lapps' for Christmas dinner instead of staying at home with the family?
11. Do you think Michelle handled herself well when she waited on her ex-boyfriend Jerry and his new girlfriend at the restaurant where she worked as a waitress? Could you have confronted your ex as bravely as Michelle did Jerry?
12. Was it wrong for Sara to deceive Brad by telling him she was a Christian when she wasn't? After feeling guilty for lying to Brad, should she have confessed right away and told him the truth?
13. Even though Brad told Sara that Terri Conners was only a friend, she still had doubts. Do you think she should have shared her doubts with Brad instead of remaining quiet and just observing?
14. In this story, did you learn anything new about the Amish and the way they handle certain situations?
15. What scripture verses in this book were your favorites and why?