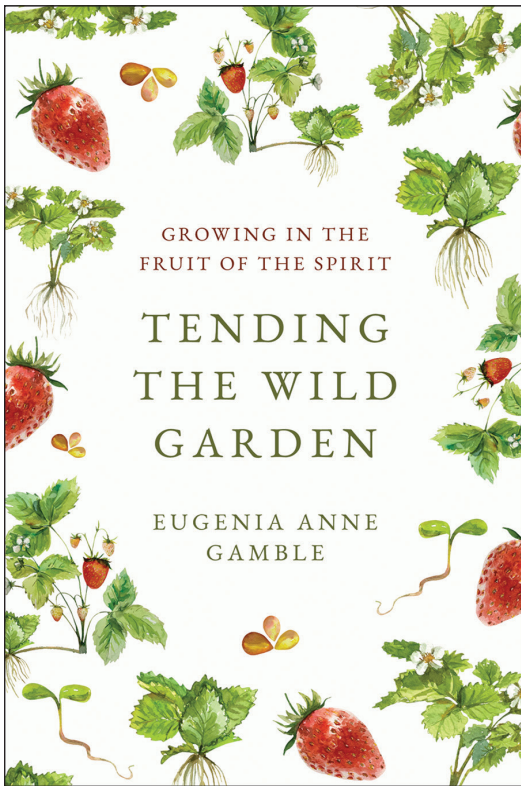


Book Club Questions for Eugenia Anne Gamble's *Tending the Wild Garden*



How did reading this book change your understanding of the Holy Spirit? Have you ever had a specific experience of the Spirit in your life that you are willing to share?

The author emphasizes that the fruit of the Spirit is not a list of qualities or behaviors to master, but a multi-faceted manifestation of the Spirit's activity in your life. How did this insight change the way you think about the fruit of the Spirit?

The author explores many Greek words in the book, illuminating the nuances of how each aspect of the fruit is described in the Scripture's original language. Did any of these Greek terms bring insight for you that the English words did not?

Words like "love," "joy," and "peace" can be overused and even misused in our culture. Which aspects of Spirit's fruit seem most misunderstood or even weaponized? How so?

Which aspects of the fruit seem to flourish most naturally for you? Which do you need most help cultivating? Did this book provide you with any new insights for nurturing the Spirit's work in that area?

Of all of the weeds in Spirit's garden, which do you find most troublesome? Have you found ways to deal with them in your life? Share with others what has worked for you.

On p. 204, the author says, "Sin is whatever stops the flow of Spirit in us. The weeds in the garden are the result of a dammed-up flow. Each instance of sin is a lost opportunity to love, and we pay a price for that." How does that definition affect the way you think about sin and its consequences?

How do you see our culture impeding certain aspects of the fruit's growth? What obstacles make it harder for you to nurture the Spirit's fruit in your life? Are there any ways in which culture encourages spiritual growth?

The fruit of the Spirit is personal, as it matures in each of us. In what ways can it also be communal, growing and blossoming in churches, groups, and even cultures?

What did you find most illuminating, meaningful, thought provoking, or distressing in this book?

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