

FIFTEEN-TIME GRAMMY AWARD WINNER

CeCe Winans

with SUZANNE
GOSSELIN

BELIEVE
for it

Passing on Faith *to the* Next Generation

DISCUSSION GUIDE

From the best-selling female gospel artist of all time CeCe Winans comes a heartfelt guide full of spirit, music, and faith. CeCe's first book in over 10 years, *Believe for It* explores what it means to pass along wisdom and faith to generations to come.

Believe for It: Passing on Faith to the Next Generation beautifully recounts the pivotal experiences in CeCe's life that have shaped her faith. From her childhood in Detroit and the miracle of motherhood to her award-winning music career, CeCe brings readers along for a story full of heart, passion, and wisdom acquired from her walk with God. Inspired by Generations—her popular show and conference—CeCe includes thoughtful questions at the end of each chapter to help readers foster their own intergenerational conversations.

THE AUTHOR

CeCe Winans is the best-selling and most-awarded female gospel artist of all time. On her way to countless GRAMMY, Dove, and Stellar awards, CeCe has influenced a generation of gospel and secular vocalists. She founded Nashville Life Church with her husband, Alvin, in 2012.

In 1999, CeCe began to make her mark with the written word when she published her first book, *On A Positive Note*. CeCe has authored or co-authored four books, including a Moonbeam Gold Medal Award-winner, a Mom's Choice Awards Gold recipient, and a Teacher's Choice Award-winner. She lives in Nashville, TN with her husband. *Believe for It* is her first book in over 14 years.

Question 1.

We have all been influenced by those who came before us. -pg. 10

In *Believe For It*, CeCe talks heavily about what it means to influence—and be influenced by—generations. In her introduction, she establishes her family history surrounding faith.

Did your family have an established faith?

Did you have any religious traditions you grew up practicing?

Question 2.

My prayers of, “Lord, bring my son home,” changed instantly to, “Lord, you can keep him there for as long as you want. In fact, it’s fine if he never comes back as long as you’re working in his life.” -p.4

CeCe talks about being worried for her son, Alvin III, before he came back from Australia. Have you ever been worried about a loved one in this same way? Do you find that being prayerful, as CeCe was, has made a difference? Discuss.

Question 3.

They desired parental figures who could guide them spiritually, hold them accountable, and support them. And they found those things in Alvin and me. -p.7

CeCe talks about the importance of marriage and parenthood among members of her community and church. She notes that many people who joined the church longed to see an example of a healthy marriage. In your life, are there any couples that act as a good example of a healthy, Christ-centered marriage? If so, what makes you look up to them?

Question 4.

I thought back to my mom and dad. Though part of the silent generation, with the Lord's help, they had reversed the curse of a fractured family and given my nine siblings and me the blessings of a loving home centered on Christ. -p.7

The older generations of people in our own lives—those who raised us, or raised our parents—hold a heavy impact upon our development. Were there any generational “curses” or patterns you broke, or plan to break, once starting your own family or as you think about one day having a family?

Question 5.

Which part of CeCe's story spoke to you the most? Discuss.

Question 6.

After reading the book, what does the title, *Believe for It*, mean to you now?

Question 7.

The sense of connection I had at church strengthened me for the challenges I faced as I headed into my teen years and adulthood.
-p.28

CeCe talks about the importance of community as part of fostering generations of faith. Are you part of a faith-based community? If so, how have you seen the older members of this community help foster the younger members' faith?

Question 8.

When she had filled the final jar, she asked her son to bring her another... I love that the woman included her sons in the process. She gave them the opportunity to participate and feel invested. Along with their mother, I imagine they were also expectant to see how God would use their obedience. Imagine how their faith must have exploded as they watched God do a miracle for them. -p.49

If you have children, do you involve them in your faith? How so? Have you ever had your faith bolstered from an interaction with someone of a younger generation? Discuss.

Question 9.

Testimonies are powerful! And you have one. And the best part is, you don't have to be a great evangelist or orator to tell someone your story. -p.62

Have you ever told anyone your testimony before? Have you ever thought about it, or written it down? If so, explain that experience.

Question 10.

Has the check engine light of your soul turned on? These weak moments can create opportunities for the enemy to swoop in and attempt to “steal, kill, and destroy” what God is doing in your life. -p.120

In your life, when do you start to feel burnt-out?

When do you feel your “check engine light” turn on?

What are the things you do to recharge?

Question 11.

Losing him was the most difficult thing I’ve ever endured, the closest I’ve come to having my spirit crushed. Though I never considered giving up my faith, my faith was tested. -p.156

When CeCe lost her brother Ronald, she was devastated. Has there ever been a difficult or dark moment in your life when your faith was tested? How did you move forward?

Question 12.

Whenever we lament —whether over a broken relationship, medical diagnosis, or heartbreaking loss—Jesus, the “man of sorrows,” is right there with us. He knows when and how healing and restoration will occur, but He also sits with us in our pain. He invites us to bring our sorrow to Him and allow His Spirit to turn it to joy. -p.166

How does it make you feel that Jesus cares about you enough to enter your suffering?

Question 13.

What are some ways you can invest in the next generation?