Before You Meet Your Future Husband: 30 Questions to Ask Yourself and 30 Heartfelt Prayers

by Robin Jones Gunn, Tricia Goyer · Language: EN

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Overview

Before You Meet Your Future Husband: 30 Questions to Ask Yourself and 30 Heartfelt Prayers by Robin Jones Gunn and Tricia Goyer is a non-fiction guide for single Christian women seeking to prepare themselves spiritually and emotionally for a future marriage. The book emphasizes that the season of singleness is a valuable time for personal growth, self-discovery, and deepening one's relationship with God, rather than merely waiting for a spouse. It posits that becoming the right person is more crucial than finding the right person.

The book is structured around 30 thought-provoking questions, each paired with a heartfelt prayer. These questions prompt readers to reflect on various aspects of their lives, including their identity in Christ, past relationships, personal values, desires for a future partner, financial habits, communication styles, and understanding of a healthy marriage. The accompanying prayers encourage readers to surrender their desires and anxieties to God, seeking His guidance and timing. The overarching message is to build a strong foundation of faith and self-awareness, trusting that God will orchestrate future relationships in His perfect plan.

Key Takeaways

- Prioritize personal and spiritual growth during your season of singleness, rather than passively waiting for a spouse.
- Engage in deep self-reflection to understand your values, strengths, weaknesses, and desires for a future partner.
- Cultivate a strong, intimate relationship with God as the foundational element for all future relationships.
- Address past hurts and learn from previous relationship experiences to foster emotional maturity.
- Clearly define what a healthy, Christ-centered marriage looks like to you before entering into one.
- Practice consistent prayer, surrendering your desires for a spouse and trusting God's timing and plan.

• Develop practical life skills, communication abilities, and financial wisdom that contribute to a stable partnership.

Chapter Summaries

Introduction

The authors, Robin Jones Gunn and Tricia Goyer, introduce the purpose of the book: to guide single women through a season of intentional preparation for marriage, focusing on personal growth, spiritual readiness, and prayer. They emphasize that this period of singleness is a gift from God, an opportunity to become the woman God intends before meeting a future husband. The introduction encourages readers to engage deeply with the thirty questions and heartfelt prayers, fostering a closer relationship with Christ as the ultimate foundation for a future godly marriage. It sets the tone for a journey of self-reflection, healing, and surrender to God's perfect timing and plan for their lives and relationships.

Part 1: Preparing Your Heart (Questions 1-6)

This section focuses on the inner work necessary for a healthy future marriage, emphasizing spiritual and emotional wholeness. It prompts readers to examine their identity in Christ, ensuring their self-worth is rooted in Him rather than external validation. Key themes include healing from past hurts and relationships, forgiving those who have wronged them, and surrendering control of their future to God. The questions encourage women to cultivate a deep, personal relationship with Jesus, making Him their first love and ultimate source of contentment. This foundational preparation aims to build a strong spiritual core, ensuring they enter marriage as a whole and spiritually mature individual, ready to give and receive love from a place of security in Christ.

Part 2: Preparing Your Life (Questions 7-12)

This part shifts to practical aspects of life management and personal stewardship. It encourages women to develop healthy habits, manage their finances wisely, and pursue their God-given talents and callings. Questions in this section prompt reflection on how they use their time, resources, and gifts, emphasizing responsibility and discipline. The authors guide readers to assess their current lifestyle, ensuring it aligns with biblical principles and prepares them for the responsibilities of marriage and family life. This includes becoming a good steward of their home, finances, and personal well-being, demonstrating readiness to contribute positively to a shared life with a husband. The focus is on building a stable and purposeful life now.

Part 3: Preparing Your Relationships (Questions 13-18)

This section delves into the importance of healthy relationships with family and friends, recognizing that current relational patterns often carry into marriage. It encourages readers to examine their communication styles, set appropriate boundaries, and seek reconciliation where

needed, particularly with parents and siblings. The book emphasizes cultivating godly friendships that offer support and accountability, and learning to love others well. Questions prompt women to reflect on how they handle conflict, express love, and maintain healthy connections. The goal is to develop strong relational skills and emotional intelligence, ensuring they bring a history of healthy, Christ-centered interactions into their future marriage, fostering a loving and respectful environment.

Part 4: Preparing for Your Future Husband (Questions 19-24)

This part directly addresses the future spouse, guiding women to pray specifically and intentionally for the man God has for them. It encourages readers to define the biblical qualities they desire in a husband, focusing on character and spiritual maturity rather than superficial traits. The authors prompt women to consider their own readiness to be a godly wife, understanding biblical roles and responsibilities within marriage. This section emphasizes trusting God's timing and sovereignty in bringing the right person into their lives, while also preparing themselves to recognize and respond to God's leading. It's about aligning their desires with God's will and actively seeking His guidance in this crucial area of life.

Part 5: Preparing for Your Marriage (Questions 25-30)

The final thematic section looks ahead to the marriage itself, encouraging women to develop realistic expectations and a strong vision for a Christ-centered union. It addresses topics such as commitment, intimacy (emotional, spiritual, and physical), conflict resolution, and the importance of keeping God at the center of the relationship. Questions prompt readers to consider how they will honor their husband, build a home filled with love and grace, and navigate the challenges inherent in any marriage. This part prepares women to enter marriage with a servant's heart, a commitment to lifelong learning, and a deep understanding that a successful marriage is built on mutual love, respect, and a shared devotion to Jesus Christ.

Conclusion/Epilogue

The concluding section offers final encouragement and affirmation, reminding readers that their journey of preparation is a continuous one, extending beyond the pages of the book. It reiterates the importance of continuing to trust God's timing and plan, and to remain steadfast in prayer. The authors emphasize that the ultimate goal is not just to find a husband, but to become the woman God created them to be, fully surrendered to Him. It serves as a final call to live a life of purpose, faith, and hope, confident that God is faithfully working all things together for their good and His glory, preparing them for every season of life, including marriage.

Themes

- Spiritual preparation
- Self-reflection

- Christian dating
- Marriage readiness
- Trust in God
- Personal growth

Notable Quotes

- "The best way to prepare for your future husband is to become the woman God created you to be." — A core principle reiterated throughout the book, emphasizing personal growth over spouse-seeking.
- "God is not holding out on you. He is holding out for you." — Encouraging readers to trust God's timing and plan for their lives and relationships.
- "Your season of singleness is a gift, not a waiting room." — Highlighting the value and purpose of being single as a time for growth and preparation.
- "Prayer is not a last resort; it's our first response." — Emphasizing the importance of prayer in navigating desires and decisions related to future relationships.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Before You Meet Your Future Husband: 30 Questions to Ask Yourself and 30 Heartfelt Prayers about?

This book is a Christian non-fiction guide for single women, offering 30 reflective questions and accompanying prayers. It encourages readers to use their season of singleness for spiritual and emotional growth, self-discovery, and building a strong relationship with God as preparation for a future marriage.

Is Before You Meet Your Future Husband: 30 Questions to Ask Yourself and 30 Heartfelt Prayers worth reading?

Yes, for single Christian women who are intentionally seeking to prepare for marriage by focusing on personal development and deepening their faith. It offers practical tools for self-reflection and spiritual guidance, helping readers become more ready for a healthy, God-centered relationship.

How does Before You Meet Your Future Husband: 30 Questions to Ask Yourself and 30 Heartfelt Prayers end?

Spoiler: The book does not have a narrative ending. It concludes by encouraging readers to continue their journey of faith and intentional preparation, trusting God's timing and plan for their lives and future relationships, rather than providing a definitive resolution or 'finding' a husband.

Who should read Before You Meet Your Future Husband: 30 Questions to Ask Yourself and 30 Heartfelt Prayers?

This book is primarily intended for single Christian women who desire to marry and want to use their time of singleness productively. It's suitable for those seeking to grow spiritually, understand themselves better, and prepare for a God-honoring marriage.

How long does it take to read Before You Meet Your Future Husband: 30 Questions to Ask Yourself and 30 Heartfelt Prayers?

Given its reflective nature, with each question and prayer designed for contemplation, it could take approximately 3 to 4 hours to read through the entire book. However, engaging fully with the exercises might extend the experience over several days or weeks.

Questions & Answers

What is the main purpose of "Before You Meet Your Future Husband"?

The main purpose of the book is to guide single Christian women through a period of self-reflection and spiritual preparation before they enter a serious relationship or marriage. It encourages readers to focus on their personal growth, relationship with God, and understanding of their own desires and needs, rather than solely on finding a spouse. The authors aim to equip women with a strong foundation for a future healthy and God-honoring marriage.

How is the book structured?

The book is structured around 30 specific questions for the reader to ask herself and 30 corresponding heartfelt prayers. Each chapter presents one question, followed by a prayer related to the theme of that question. This format encourages daily or regular engagement, prompting deep introspection and spiritual communication regarding personal readiness for marriage and the qualities desired in a future husband.

Who are the target readers for this book?

The target readers are single Christian women who are contemplating marriage, whether they are actively dating, waiting, or simply preparing their hearts for a future spouse. It's designed for those who want to approach marriage intentionally, grounded in their faith, and with a clear understanding of themselves and God's will for their lives. It's particularly helpful for women seeking to avoid common pitfalls in relationships by building a strong personal foundation.

What kind of questions does the book pose to the reader?

The book poses introspective questions that delve into various aspects of a woman's life and faith. Examples include questions about her relationship with God, her past experiences, her understanding of love and commitment, her personal values, her emotional health, and her expectations for marriage. These questions are designed to uncover areas for growth and to

help the reader clarify what truly matters to her and to God in a lifelong partnership.

What role do the prayers play in the book?

The prayers in the book serve as a direct response to the self-reflection prompted by each question. They guide the reader in bringing her thoughts, desires, fears, and hopes before God. The prayers are heartfelt and often specific, helping the reader articulate her needs for wisdom, healing, guidance, and preparation. They emphasize surrendering her future and her desires to God's perfect plan, fostering a deeper spiritual connection.

Does the book offer advice on dating or finding a husband?

While the book's title suggests a focus on a future husband, its primary emphasis is on personal preparation rather than active dating strategies or husband-hunting techniques. It indirectly offers advice by encouraging readers to become the best version of themselves, spiritually and emotionally, which in turn makes them better prepared for a healthy relationship. The core message is about readiness from within, not external pursuit.

What is the significance of the title "Before You Meet Your Future Husband"?

The title signifies the book's proactive approach to marriage preparation. It emphasizes that the most crucial work happens before a potential spouse enters the picture. It's about cultivating a strong personal foundation, spiritual maturity, and self-awareness so that when the right person comes along, the reader is ready for a healthy, God-honoring relationship. The focus is on internal readiness, not external searching.

How long does it take to go through the book?

The book is designed to be a 30-day devotional, with one question and one prayer for each day. However, readers can choose to go through it at their own pace, spending more time on certain questions or revisiting prayers as needed. The authors encourage a thoughtful, unhurried approach to allow for genuine reflection and spiritual growth, rather than simply rushing through the material.

What is one key takeaway about self-worth from the book?

A key takeaway regarding self-worth is that a woman's value and identity are found primarily in her relationship with God, not in her marital status or in a future husband. The book encourages readers to understand and embrace their worth as daughters of God, which prevents them from seeking validation or completeness solely from a romantic partner. This foundation of self-worth is crucial for a healthy future marriage.

Does the book address past hurts or relationship experiences?

Yes, the book implicitly and explicitly addresses past hurts and relationship experiences. Some questions prompt readers to reflect on their past, identify areas of emotional wounding, and seek healing and forgiveness. The prayers often include requests for God to mend brokenness

and prepare the heart for a fresh start. This focus on healing is vital for entering a new relationship with a whole and healthy heart.

What is the authors' perspective on God's role in finding a spouse?

The authors emphasize God's sovereignty and wisdom in the process of finding a spouse. They encourage readers to trust God's timing and plan, believing that He knows what is best for them. The prayers often involve surrendering personal timelines and desires to God, asking for His guidance and for Him to prepare both the reader and her future husband for each other according to His perfect will.

How does the book encourage spiritual growth?

The book encourages spiritual growth by consistently directing the reader back to her relationship with God. Each question and prayer is designed to deepen faith, foster reliance on God, and promote a more intimate walk with Him. It prompts readers to examine their spiritual disciplines, seek God's will, and align their desires with His, making spiritual preparation central to marital readiness.

Is this book suitable for women who are already in a serious relationship?

While primarily aimed at single women, the book can still be beneficial for women in serious relationships. The introspective questions and prayers about personal readiness, emotional health, and spiritual alignment are relevant for anyone preparing for marriage, regardless of their current relationship status. It can help a woman assess her own heart and readiness, even if she believes she has already found her future husband.

What is the overall tone of the book?

The overall tone of the book is encouraging, gentle, and deeply spiritual. It feels like a wise mentor guiding the reader through a personal journey of faith and self-discovery. It's not prescriptive or judgmental but rather inviting and reflective, fostering a sense of hope and intentionality in preparing for one of life's most significant commitments.

What practical application can readers take from this book?

Readers can practically apply the book's teachings by consistently engaging in self-reflection and prayer, making conscious efforts to grow in areas identified by the questions, and trusting God with their future. It encourages developing a stronger relationship with God, healing past wounds, clarifying personal values, and becoming a more whole and prepared individual, which are all foundational for any healthy relationship, especially marriage.

Does the book discuss specific qualities to look for in a future husband?

While the book's primary focus is on the reader's internal preparation, it indirectly guides her in discerning qualities in a future husband by prompting her to understand her own values and spiritual alignment. The prayers often include requests for a partner who shares her faith and

commitment to God. By understanding herself better, the reader is better equipped to recognize a compatible and God-honoring partner.

What is the authors' background that makes them qualified to write this book?

Robin Jones Gunn is a best-selling author known for her Christian fiction and non-fiction, often focusing on relationships and faith. Tricia Goyer is also a prolific author of Christian books, including many on parenting, family, and faith. Their combined experience in writing about Christian living, relationships, and personal growth lends credibility to their guidance on preparing for marriage from a faith-based perspective.