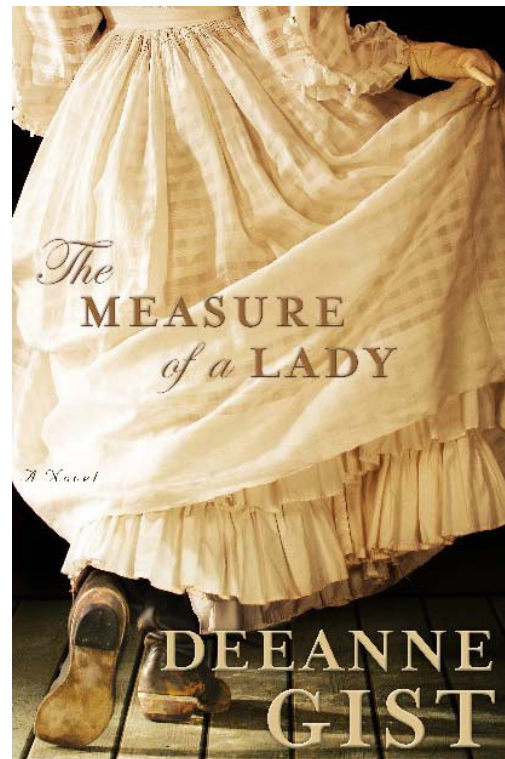


DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR  
**The Measure of a Lady**

by Deeanne Gist

1. Now that you know the story of San Francisco's beginnings, do you see any ways its history has influenced the personality and topography of modern-day San Francisco?
2. What character did you most relate to and why?
3. What was your favorite scene and why?
4. Rachel experienced culture shock upon arriving in San Francisco. What is culture shock and have you ever experienced it or seen someone who did? What did you do to help acclimate yourself to the new environment?
5. Two part question:
  - a. Rachel felt as if it was her responsibility and obligation to instill morality into the town. Was that wrong of her? Why or why not?
  - b. Rachel felt that her self worth equated to her success (or failure) of reforming others. What is the danger of using success as a measuring stick for our self worth? What should our self worth be based on?
6. Toward the end of the book Rachel decided the prostitutes were not evil. Do you agree? Why or why not?
7. Some readers have complained about Lissa's failure to "come back into the fold" at the end of the story. They felt the book would have been better if she had repented. What do you think? Why do you think the author allowed Lissa to continue with the way of life she had chosen?
8. Was this book believable to you? Why or why not?
9. On a five star system, how many stars would you give this book? Why?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR

# The Measure of a Lady

by Deeanne Gist

Additional questions for Christian groups:

10. Rachel's upbringing emphasized personal purity, supported by quotes from Scripture such as "*Not to keep company with anyone who is sexually immoral...not even to eat with such a person.*" Yet she struggled to balance this with other verses that urge forgiveness and comfort toward sinners. She explained her dilemma saying, "If I were to compromise my standards, what kind of witness would I be?" How do you maintain your Christian witness and separation from evil and simultaneously exhibit the love of Christ to unrepentant sinners?
11. Rachel's sex education was limited to medical books which taught that the full force of sexual desire is seldom known in a virtuous woman. This left her completely unprepared for the natural urges of her own towards Johnnie. Even today, Christian girls may find themselves expected to practice abstinence, but confused as to how to handle the intensity of their own feelings. Is the phrase "Christian sex education" an oxymoron? Do we give proper balance to education about how to handle sexually charged situations as well as the mechanics of sex?
12. Johnnie challenged Rachel to find quotes in the Scripture proving that it was a sin to drink and to gamble. She was unable to respond to this, but still maintained her position that drinking and gambling were wrong. Discuss both sides of the issue. Remember that there may be honest differences of opinion over this.