

## Discussion Guide for The Astronaut's Wife

1. How much did you know about NASA and the modern history of space travel prior to reading this book? Were you among those fascinated by space as a child, or who had a formative memory of landmark events like the Challenger disaster or Discovery launch?
2. As Stacey readies for Drew's launch, the biblical story of Esther runs through her mind. What elements of the story strike a chord with her and why? Have you ever had a defining "for such a time as this" moment?
3. Stacey says: "While we are in the midst of our own unique, difficult situations and circumstances . . . God gives each of us the ability to choose the decision path of either hope or fear. Whether we like it or not, we will live our lives dictated by either one or the other, and if we don't make an active decision to choose hope, our default will always be fear." Do you agree that hope is an active decision while fear is a default? Why or why not?
4. "Find your people" is a core lesson that Stacey learns through relocations and Drew's deployments. What does this look like for her? Does it look similar or different in your own life? Who are "your people" and what draws you together?
5. Stacey shares about being on both the giving and the receiving end of vulnerability. Think about some times you've cared for others and been cared for. Which was more of a challenge for you and why? What came out of the experience?
6. What are some of the ways Drew and his family stayed connected during the mission? What *didn't* work out so well, and how did they adapt? What did Stacey and Drew learn about their kids and themselves during this time?
7. Stacey introduces us to the perils of Survivor-Me, saying: "My children are watching me, every moment of every day, to see what it means to live a full life. Just because I'm in a challenging season does not mean I should be any less of myself. God made me an adventure seeker, a lifelong learner, a risk taker, and a woman who laughs easily. Switching to auto-pilot may make life easier today, but I'll pay tomorrow with interest. If I don't feed my own soul, if I don't remember to have fun and laugh, if I'm just surviving day-to-day, I am not living a full life." How would you complete these sentences:
  - a. God made me a \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. If I don't do \_\_\_\_\_ to feed my own soul, I'm not living a full life.
8. "Why do we accept risk in the boring, inconsequential parts of our lives," Stacey asks, "like driving on the highway at night, climbing a ladder to hang Christmas lights, or eating expired yogurt, but then reject it when it's attached to something new and exciting? Why do we limit ourselves and talk ourselves out of taking risks?" What do you think the answer is?
9. Drew returns from space in the midst of a global pandemic. Do you relate to any aspects of the Morgans' COVID-19 experience? If so, how?
10. What takeaways from *The Astronaut's Wife* most resonate with you and why?