

Discussion Questions

1. Bethany has more than one reason to be nervous on her first day working with Thatcher. Have you ever started something new with negative thoughts dogging you? How do you put aside those emotions? What could Bethany have done to dispel some of those negative feelings?
2. As new partners, Bethany and Thatcher struggle with trusting each other. How do they overcome this obstacle? How do you establish trust with others?
3. The first victim, Alicia, had an abusive husband, yet she wanted to remain in her marriage until her elder daughter finished college. What did you think of her decision? What counsel would you have given Alicia?
4. As much as we want perfect families, we are all imperfect. In what ways do you relate with any of the issues in the “nightmare families” from *Deadlock*?
5. Before the FBI, Thatcher wanted to spend his life performing music, but his father didn’t approve. Why does Thatcher say the FBI is where he belongs? Has someone in your life steered you in a certain direction? How would your life have been different if you’d taken another path?
6. Bethany’s self-worth is largely wrapped up in her identity as a good FBI agent. How does this play out in her life? With Lucas? What good and bad qualities does she display because of this?
7. As a new Christian, Thatcher has a hard time telling his mother about his faith, and when he does, she isn’t very supportive. Have you ever encountered a similar situation? How did you handle it?
8. When Thatcher realizes he’s worrying about Bethany, he remembers hearing that “worry meant a lack of trust in God.” Do you agree with that idea? Why or why not?
9. In chapter 50, Bethany wonders why it seems God refuses to intervene in critical situations. How would you answer that question?
10. A few years ago, Houston (and other major US cities) began regulating who could feed the homeless on public property. Some pastors in Florida have even been arrested for passing out food. Do rules like this make sense? Why or why not? How do you respond when you hear about laws like these? How do you feel about people who break those laws?



