



*The
Two
Collars
Study Guide*

by Carol Diehn

For the novel
by Jeri Massi



Table of Contents

Note to Instructor.....	4
Synopsis.....	5
Background Information	6
About the Author.....	7
Ideas for Discussion and Class Projects	8
Chapters 1–4	10
Chapters 5–8	16
Chapters 9–12	20
Chapters 13–16	24
Chapters 17–20	30
Chapters 21–23	34
Chapters 24, 25, and Epilogue.....	41
Summary Questions	45
Word Scramble and Search	47
After-you-read Activities	48
Additional Resources	49
Answer Key	Separate File

Synopsis

“But the greatest difference between your old Master and me is this: he owned you one way, and I must own you another. You must belong to me—not because I have broken your collar or paid gold for you—but because you have truly come to love me.”

The Two Collars, Jeri Massi’s third book in the series of novels written about the tiny island kingdom of Bracken, introduces us to a humble slave girl named Krea. Krea is a juggler in a traveling troupe led by a wicked master. She is rescued by the Wise Woman from a life of drudgery and slavery.

The Wise Woman nurses Krea back to health with comfort, love, and acceptance. She teaches the little slave girl not only a physician’s trade but honor, loyalty, and compassion.

The Kingdom of Bracken is in danger and Krea finds herself a courier in the service of King Reynald. Reynald’s cousin, Frederick has treacherous plans to overthrow Reynald’s throne. In the midst of her forays as a messenger, Krea finds herself captured by her former master. Once again the Wise Woman comes to her rescue and together they seek to assist Reynald in his plight.

The Two Collars Study Guide

5. What was Frederick taught as a little boy? What does this say about the things we learn as small children?

6. Krea wasn't sure if she could be merry at a table with just Reynald and Peridan, for she was nervous around royalty, but when she met them later she found herself perfectly at ease. Why is she at ease? How is her self-confidence changing?

7. How does Reynald decide to try to resolve his conflict with Frederick? Why does he try to avoid war? How is Krea involved in King Reynald's secret plan?

Talk about it:

8. Krea often struggles with feeling worthless because of her previous status of being a slave. Yet she is accepted and even loved by royalty. How is this like our acceptance in Christ?

The Two Collars Study Guide

9. Read John 3:16, 1 John 4:9–11, John 15:13–15, and Ephesians 2: 8, 9. Discuss the fact that we cannot be good enough for the love of God, but God considers us so valuable that He freely extends His love and forgiveness to us. He provided a way to Him that cannot be earned by our “good deeds” or works. What do people do to try and earn their way to heaven? What does the Bible say is the only way to God?

Writing and Art Project:

Write a one-page paper describing the castle and castle grounds. Use your imagination and creativity and add your own details of what you think it might be like along with those found in the book. Include in this description the dress of the royalty and others attending the dinner table. Draw or paint a picture, or create a 3-dimensional scene depicting the courtyard, castle, or dinner hall. Use books about castles and medieval times for ideas. (Model castles, villages, and cathedrals are available through some sources.)

The Two Collars Study Guide Answer Key

2. The summary should mention: Krea is weary and ill; their first performance is bad; when Krea sees the Woman and Dolly screams, Krea panics and runs away; Krea is beaten by the Master; Dolly defends Krea; The Wise Woman comes for Krea and buys her from the Master; The Woman removes Krea's slave collar and takes Krea to her cottage.
3. Yes. Reasons will vary.
4. Answers may include: herbal medicine, caring for wounds, loving and trusting the Mistress, gardening, and reading and writing.
5. They were couriers for Bracken. They came at night secretly to stay in hiding.
6. She dropped to her knees and felt small, frightened, and confused. Krea feared that being a servant made her worthless.
7. Frederick is challenging Reynald for the throne. Reynald is rightful ruler. Their fathers were twins and the law of the land says that the first born of either twin will succeed to the throne. Reynald was the first born and so became King when Frederick's father, King Pall, died. Krea becomes involved by helping the couriers of King Reynald.
8. Paraphrases will vary but should mention: We are more important than sparrows that God cares for, Christ died for us while we were still sinners, His love is great and He has removed our sins from us as far as the east is from the west, God created us, we are fearfully and wonderfully made.
9. Krea will serve and do more for the Wise Woman out of love than she ever did for the Master out of fear. The Mistress wanted Krea to come to love her completely.
10. She lives with the Wise Woman for three years, and learns slowly to love and trust her. She learns how good the Woman is and how much the Woman loves her.
11. Answers will vary, but should mention that duty is appropriate when we don't feel like doing what is right, but know that we should do it anyhow.

Chapters 9–12

Vocabulary:

1. clumsy; 2. invincible; 3. understandable; 4. uncertain; 5. cheerful; 6. abandon; 7. encounter; 8. hurry;
9. dry, active; 10. well-kept.

Questions:

1. To inflict harm in return for a wrong. The Wise Woman does not allow her personal dislike of a person or situation to prevent her from being a physician to all and helping them. Do not take revenge, but help your enemy. Love your enemies. Turn the other cheek.
2. To make up for having ignored his plea for a drink.
3. Tellrinetor. Descriptive words will vary. Krea keeps her distance from him because she wasn't sure how much she trusted him. He had been a rebel soldier and a deserter.
4. Answers will vary.
5. Answers will vary.
6. Act = a deed, to exert oneself; React = to respond to a stimulus. Action is rational and thought about. A decision. Reaction is emotional and not under control. The difference is that in action, one is in control; in reaction, the stimulus is in control.