

Book Club Study Questions for *Dolley and James*

1. How did Dolley Madison use hospitality to ease political tensions and create unity among people who strongly disagreed?
2. What role did kindness and inclusion play in Dolley's Wednesday Drawing Rooms?
3. In what ways did James and Dolley complement one another in both marriage and public life?
4. How did their differences in personality strengthen their partnership?
5. Why do you think unity became such an important theme throughout their lives?
6. James Madison believed some national problems would need to be solved by future generations. Was this wisdom, avoidance, or a combination of both?
7. How did the novel portray the moral and emotional complexity surrounding slavery in early America?
8. What responsibilities do historical leaders have when facing injustices accepted by society at the time?
9. How did Dolley Madison redefine the role of First Lady and influence the culture of the young nation?
10. Why were conversation, civility, and hospitality powerful political tools during the Madison era?

11. In what ways are today's political divisions like those faced by the Madisons?
12. What modern lessons about leadership and compromise can readers learn from James and Dolley Madison?
13. How did the novel portray the cost of public service on marriage, family, and personal peace?
14. Which scene or moment in the story best demonstrated courage or grace under pressure?
15. How did James and Dolley each leave a lasting mark on the identity of the United States?
16. Dolley often welcomed people with differing opinions and backgrounds. How does her example reflect biblical principles of hospitality, grace, and loving one's neighbor?
17. James Madison wrestled with difficult moral questions about slavery and the future of the nation. How should faith influence the way leaders face moral conflicts and injustice?
18. Unity was central to both the Madisons' marriage and public lives. What does Scripture teach about unity, forgiveness, and reconciliation in divided times?
19. Which quality in James or Dolley Madison did you most admire, and why?
20. After reading their story, what message or lesson feels most relevant for America today?