**BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS**

***GOD'S DAUGHTER***

1. In the prologue, we were given a glimpse into Gudrid's childhood. What are some ways this incident shaped the woman she became?

2. What does Gudrid's initial encounter with the wolf tell us about her personality? Does the wolf play a symbolic role in this story, and if so, what is it?

3. Gudrid is very tolerant of Freydis' often unpredictable behavior. Can you think of some reasons she is so forgiving toward her sister-in-law?

4. Gudrid recalls a time after she became a Christian when she agreed to sing the rune chants of the *volva* (pagan women). This event was described much as it was in the Icelandic saga, which stated that Gudrid initially refused to do the chants because she was a Christian. It does appear she did this to appease the farmer and her father. Do you think she was right to agree to help the prophetess in her chants to divine the future?

5. Recount some specific ways Gudrid was tempted by Snorri Thorbrandsson. Do you think she overcame her temptations completely?

6. Thorfinn Karlsefni ("Finn") is a man of very few words, yet he wields great power in the camp. How does Gudrid's personality complement his? How does this "power couple" fall short in the way they relate to each other?

7. Gudrid was historically known for being beautiful, kind, and a Christian. It is also a fact that she married three times. Do you think jaw-droppingly beautiful women might struggle with a different set of problems and temptations than those of us who might not be as attractive? Is it possible Gudrid's beauty could have felt more like a thorn in the flesh than a blessing? How does Gudrid's struggle translate into how you relate to exceptionally gorgeous women (even our own daughters!)?

8. How does Gudrid's Christianity inform how she behaves with her husband Finn, as compared to her mother-in-law Thjodhild's Christianity and behavior with her husband, Eirik the Red? Were they similar in any ways?

9. Leif Eiriksson is obsessed with Gudrid. Do you think Gudrid should have reacted differently to his advances?

10. Gudrid seems to have the gift of mercy, helping everyone from the stray wolf to the abused Skraeling children to the slaves she frees. Do you have the spiritual gift of mercy, or do you know someone who has it? Is the modern-day gift of mercy drastically different from Gudrid's gift in Viking times?

11. How did you feel about Thorfinn Karlsefni by the end of the book? About Gudrid? About Freydis? Freydis is the protagonist in the second novel in this series, *Forest Child*, and in that book, she will see Gudrid again. How do you guess these two women will interact in the future, based on the way they parted?