

Unwavering Faith Book Club Kit

Book Club Kit: Unwavering Faith

A Bounty Brothers Novel by Melissa LaShure

About the Book

Genre: Historical Christian Romance

Setting: 1873 American West (Dodge City, Kansas and Colorado Territory)

Main Characters: Claire Belonge and Brody Young

Publication Year: 2025

Synopsis: When Claire Belonge flees her abusive uncle to find her long-lost brother Lionel in Dodge City, she becomes the bounty of notorious hunter Brody Young. To protect her from being committed to an asylum by her uncle, Brody agrees to a marriage of convenience. What begins as a paper-only arrangement becomes a journey of faith, healing, and unexpected love as they face dangerous outlaws and personal demons from the past.

Discussion Questions

Part 1: Characters and Relationships

1. **Character Development:** How does Claire's character evolve from the frightened woman fleeing New York to the brave wife willing to sacrifice herself for Junior? What key moments drive this transformation?
2. **Brody's Internal Conflict:** Discuss Brody's struggle with guilt over his sister Rose's death. How does this past trauma affect his relationships with Claire and Junior? Do you think his self-blame is justified?
3. **Found Family:** The concept of chosen family is strong throughout the novel—from the Bounty Brothers to Claire becoming Junior's mother. How do these relationships compare to blood family bonds in the story?
4. **Uncle Thomas as Antagonist:** What makes Thomas Belonge an effective villain? How do his motivations (greed, entitlement) reflect broader social issues of the era?
5. **Supporting Characters:** Which secondary character made the strongest impression on you? Consider Margaret, James, Lionel, Junior, or the other Bounty Brothers.

Part 2: Themes and Faith

6. **Faith Journey:** Trace Claire's spiritual journey throughout the novel. What prevents her from initially accepting faith, and what finally allows her to find God?
7. **Redemption and Forgiveness:** Several characters seek redemption (James, Brent McClain, even Fredrick). How does the theme of second chances play out differently for each character?
8. **Marriage and Partnership:** How does the author portray the difference between a true Christian marriage and a marriage of convenience? What makes Claire and Brody's relationship authentic?
9. **Protection vs. Control:** Brody struggles with being a protector without being controlling. How does he learn to balance keeping Claire safe while respecting her independence?
10. **Social Class Differences:** How do Claire's Fifth Avenue background and Brody's frontier life create tension? Do you think their different backgrounds ultimately matter?

Part 3: Historical Context and Setting

11. **1870s American West:** How accurately does the author portray life in Dodge City and the frontier? What aspects of Western life surprised you most?
12. **Women's Rights:** Claire's situation—needing male permission for commitment to an asylum, limited legal rights—reflects women's status in 1873. How do these historical realities drive the plot?
13. **Law and Order:** The Bounty Brothers operate in a time when formal law enforcement was limited. Do you think their methods are justified given the circumstances?
14. **Violence and Justice:** The novel contains several violent scenes and moral dilemmas about killing in self-defense. How does the author handle these themes within a Christian framework?

Part 4: Writing and Structure

15. **Pacing:** Did you find the romance developed at a believable pace? Were there moments where you wanted the relationship to progress faster or slower?
 16. **Multiple POVs:** The story shifts between Claire, Brody, and other characters. Which perspective did you enjoy most? Did any feel unnecessary?
 17. **Cliffhangers and Tension:** Which scenes kept you most on edge? How effective were the action sequences?
 18. **Series Setup:** As the first book in the Bounty Brothers series, how well does it establish the world and supporting characters for future books?
-

Character Analysis Guide

Claire Belonge Young

- **Background:** Wealthy New York socialite, orphaned, abused by uncle
- **Strengths:** Courage, compassion, adaptability, fierce loyalty
- **Growth Arc:** From victim to survivor to fierce protector
- **Key Relationships:** Brody (husband), Junior (adopted son), Lionel (brother)
- **Faith Journey:** Struggles with feeling abandoned by God to finding personal relationship with Jesus

Brody Young

- **Background:** Bounty hunter, ranch owner, leader of the Bounty Brothers
- **Strengths:** Leadership, protection instincts, integrity, fighting skills
- **Internal Conflict:** Guilt over sister's death, fear of failing those he loves
- **Growth Arc:** Learning to trust God with protection while still taking action
- **Key Relationships:** Claire (wife), Junior (adopted son), his "brothers"

Junior

- **Background:** Orphaned by Indian attack, adopted by Brody at young age
- **Role in Story:** Catalyst for showing Brody and Claire's parenting instincts
- **Significance:** Represents hope and healing for traumatized characters

Themes for Deep Discussion

Faith and Doubt

- How different characters experience and express faith
- The difference between inherited faith and personal faith
- Dealing with unanswered prayers and feeling abandoned by God

Trauma and Healing

- How past wounds affect present relationships
- The role of community in healing
- Forgiveness of self vs. forgiveness of others

Love and Sacrifice

- Different types of love portrayed (romantic, familial, fraternal)
- Self-sacrifice as an expression of love
- The costs and rewards of truly loving someone

Justice and Mercy

- When violence is justified in protecting innocents
- The balance between human justice and divine mercy
- Redemption for different types of wrongdoers

Historical Context Discussion

Women's Legal Status in 1873

- Married women's property rights
- Commitment laws and men's authority over female relatives
- Limited options for women escaping abuse

The American West

- Role of vigilante justice
- Economic opportunities and dangers
- Social structures in frontier towns

Christian Faith in the 19th Century

- Evangelical movements and personal salvation emphasis
- Role of faith in frontier communities
- Biblical literacy and family devotions

Questions for Personal Reflection

1. Have you ever had to choose between safety and principle like Claire does?
2. How do you handle guilt over past mistakes or failures to protect others?
3. What does "unwavering faith" mean to you personally?
4. How do you balance independence with accepting help from others?
5. What role should faith play in romantic relationships?

Activities for Your Book Club

Creative Extensions

- **Recipe Sharing:** Bring dishes mentioned in the book (chocolate cake, hearty stew)
- **Historical Research:** Research 1870s fashion, weapons, or frontier life
- **Character Casting:** Discuss which actors would play the main characters
- **Playlist Creation:** Choose songs that represent different characters or scenes

Service Projects

- **Support Organizations:** Research and support groups helping abuse survivors
- **Historical Preservation:** Learn about local historical sites or museums
- **Literacy Programs:** Donate Christian historical fiction to libraries or book drives

Recommended Further Reading

Other Christian Historical Romance

- Books by Liz Tolsma, Misty M. Beller, or Karen Witemeyer
- Other Western historical fiction with faith themes

Historical Context

- Books about women's rights in 19th century America
- Frontier life and law enforcement in the American West
- History of evangelical Christianity in America

Bible Study Connections

- Stories of redemption and second chances (David, Paul, Peter)
- Faith during trials (Job, Joseph, Daniel)
- God as protector and provider (Psalms, Isaiah)

Series Discussion

Since *Unwavering Faith* is the first book in the Bounty Brothers series:

1. Which Bounty Brother are you most interested in reading about next?
2. What questions about the world and characters do you hope future books will answer?
3. How do you think James and Tom's stories might unfold based on hints in this book?
4. What role might Claire and Brody play in future books?

This book club kit is designed to enhance your reading experience and provide meaningful discussion topics for groups of all sizes. Enjoy exploring the themes of faith, love, and redemption in the American West!

Print This Game

UNWAVERING FAITH

Character Bingo - Player Cards (Cut apart to play)

BINGO

Claire	Brody	Junior	James	George
Margaret	Tom	Lionel	Walter	Jennings
Allie	Rebecca	FREE	Gramps	Madeline
Henry	Phillip	Thomas	Lena	Allie
Captain Burns	Madame Isabelle	Sheriff Dozier	Paul Harrington	Charles Young

BINGO

Junior	James	Brody	Margaret	Walter
Claire	George	Tom	Lionel	Henry
Rebecca	Gramps	FREE	Thomas	Allie
Phillip	Jennings	Captain Burns	Madeline	Lena
Madame Isabelle	Paul Harrington	Sheriff Dozier	Charles Young	Catherine Young

BINGO

Lionel	Claire	Margaret	Brody	Tom
James	Junior	George	Walter	Henry
Phillip	Gramps	FREE	Rebecca	Allie
Thomas	Jennings	Lena	Madeline	Captain Burns
Madame Isabelle	Paul Harrington	Charles Young	Catherine Young	Sheriff Dozier

BINGO

Catherine Young	Tom	Walter	James	Madeline
Brody	Margaret	Sheriff Dozier	Claire	George
Lionel	Junior	FREE	Henry	Gramps
Rebecca	Allie	Thomas	Madame Isabelle	Lena
Phillip	Captain Burns	Paul Harrington	Jennings	Charles Young

UNWAVERING FAITH

Character Bingo - Calling Cards (Cut apart for host)

B

"I got you, sweetheart."

I

The adopted son who calls everyone "uncle"

N

Bounty hunter with a traumatic past

G

Six feet six inches tall, built like a Clydesdale

O

Rescued from brothel by James and Tom

B

Flees New York to find her brother

I

Reformed charmer; Brody's best friend

N

Silent bounty hunter; exceptional marksman

G

Owns the L.B. Saloon in Dodge City

O

Bartender turned fiancée; fierce protector

B

Rescued from brothel by James and Tom

I

Ranch overseer; provides wisdom and strength

N**Twin brother; charming and skilled****G****Twin brother; clumsy with women****O****The abusive uncle seeking the Belonge fortune****B****Hired assassin; cold and calculating****I****Former brothel madam; reformed woman of faith****N****Severely beaten prostitute Claire helps****G****Kidnapped with brother Danny****O****Army captain interested in Claire****B****Runs brothel called House of Pleasure****I****Pinkerton Detective; locates Lionel****N****Brody's father; provides wise counsel****G****Brody's mother; helps Claire find faith****O****Local sheriff; ally to the Bounty Brothers**

UNWAVERING FAITH

Character Bingo - Host Answer Key

How to Play:

1. Give each player a bingo card
2. Players mark off characters as you read the calling cards
3. First player to mark 5 in a row (horizontally, vertically, or diagonally) wins
4. The center FREE space is automatically marked
5. Verify the winning card against this answer key

Answer Key - All Characters & Clues

B**Brody Young**

"I got you, sweetheart."
Bounty hunter with a
traumatic past
"Forever and always,
darlin'"

I**Junior**

The adopted son who
calls everyone "uncle"
Brody's son; loves
chocolate cake

N**Lionel Belonge**

Owens the L.B. Saloon
Civil War veteran;
Claire's brother

G**George**

Six feet six inches tall
Built like a Clydesdale;
jovial personality
Part of the Bounty
Brothers

O**Claire Belonge Young**

Flees New York to find
her brother
"Forever and always,
darlin'"
Becomes a real wife
and mother

B**James McPherson**

Reformed charmer;
Brody's best friend
Has doctor skills; voices
wisdom
Former ladies' man

I**Tom**

Silent bounty hunter
Exceptional marksman;
rarely speaks
Never misses his target

N**Walter**

Lost wife and child to
outlaws
Calm and wise;
grounded
Part of the Bounty
Brothers

G**Margaret**

Bartender turned
fiancée
Fierce protector;
maternal
Engages Lionel to
marry quickly

O**Henry & Phillip Sharpe**

Twin brothers; early 20s
Henry: clumsy with
women
Phillip: charming tracker

B**Rebecca**

Rescued from brothel
Young, traumatized
survivor
Rescued by James and
Tom

I**Gramps**

Ranch overseer
Provides wisdom and
strength
Cook; father figure to all

FREE**G****Thomas Belonge**

The abusive uncle
Seeks Belonge fortune
Murders the Flynn's

O**Jennings**

Hired assassin
Cold and calculating
Works for Uncle
Thomas

B**I****N****G****O**

Allie Jones

Former brothel madam
Owns boardinghouse in
Gambel
Reformed woman of
faith

Lena

Severely beaten
prostitute
Claire helps her recover
Benefits from Claire's
compassion

Madeline Flynn

Kidnapped with brother
Danny
Claire's best friend
Sets up book two

Captain Jesse Burns

U.S. Army officer
Stationed at Fort Dodge
Interested in Claire

Madame Isabelle

Runs House of
Pleasure
Brothel owner
Helps James and Tom

B**Paul Harrington**

Pinkerton Detective
Childhood friend of
Lionel
Hired to locate Lionel

I**Charles Young**

Brody's father
Provides wise counsel
Helps Brody heal

N**Catherine Young**

Brody's mother
Helps Claire find faith
Loving wife and mother

G**Sheriff Dozier**

Local law enforcement
Ally to Bounty Brothers
Helps protect Claire

Unwavering Faith Trivia Game

Test Your Knowledge of Melissa LaShure's Novel

EASY QUESTIONS (10 points each)

1. What is the name of Claire's horse?

Answer: Deborah (named after the Biblical warrior)

2. What city does Claire flee from?

Answer: New York City (specifically Fifth Avenue)

3. What is Brody's profession?

Answer: Bounty hunter (and ranch owner)

4. How old is Junior approximately?

Answer: Around 8-10 years old

5. What is the name of Lionel's saloon?

Answer: The L.B. Saloon

6. What type of cake does Claire specialize in making?

Answer: Chocolate cake

7. What is Claire's uncle's first name?

Answer: Thomas

8. What injury does Claire suffer during her kidnapping?

Answer: Dislocated shoulder (and various bruises)

9. What does Junior call Claire?

Answer: Ma

10. What year is the story set in?

Answer: 1873

MEDIUM QUESTIONS (15 points each)

1. What are the names of Claire's deceased parents?

Answer: Her father was French, her mother was German (specific names not given, but mother had blonde hair and blue eyes)

2. Who are Mr. and Mrs. Flynn, and why are they important to Claire?

Answer: They were Claire's guardians after her mother's death and like parents to her; they were murdered by Uncle Thomas

3. What tragic event from Brody's past haunts him?

Answer: His sister Rose was killed by outlaws while under his protection when they were children

4. What are the names of the twin brothers in the Bounty Brothers?

Answer: Henry and Phillip Sharpe

5. Why does Brody initially agree to marry Claire?

Answer: To protect her from being committed to an asylum by her uncle (only closest male relative can commit a woman)

6. What is the name of the town near Brody's ranch?

Answer: Gambel

7. Who owns the boardinghouse in Gambel?

Answer: Allie Jones (former brothel madam)

8. What happens to Lionel on his wedding day?

Answer: He gets shot by an assassin and nearly dies

9. What is the name of the young girl rescued from the brothel?

Answer: Rebecca

10. How much is the bounty on Claire's head?

Answer: \$1,000

HARD QUESTIONS (20 points each)

1. What are the names of Claire's two siblings who died in childhood, and how did they die?

Answer: Pierre (stillborn) and Sophie (died of scarlet fever at age 3)

2. What is the full name of the man who becomes an informant and helps Brody rescue Claire?

Answer: Brent McClain (son of outlaw gang leader)

3. What method does Uncle Thomas use to physically abuse Claire while making it appear she's mentally unstable?

Answer: He burns her with his cigar at night, then appears as if coming to help when she screams

4. What are the names of Brody's parents?

Answer: Charles and Catherine Young

5. Which Bounty Brother has medical training, and how did he get it?

Answer: James McPherson; trained by his doctor father

6. What is the name of the hired assassin who works for Uncle Thomas?

Answer: Jennings

7. What happened to Junior's original family?

Answer: They were killed by Indians; Junior was wounded (arrow in shoulder) when Brody found him

8. What business does the Belonge family own?

Answer: A shipping company

9. What is Margaret's role at the L.B. Saloon before marrying Lionel?

Answer: Bartender and manager

10. What is the name of the brothel owner who provides information to James?

Answer: Madame Isabelle

EXPERT QUESTIONS (25 points each)

1. What specific Bible verse theme runs through the story regarding the Bounty Brothers' mission?

Answer: Proverbs 31:8-9 - "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy."

2. What is the name of the cemetery in Dodge City where gunfighters are buried?

Answer: Boot Hill

3. What does Brody's father tell him about God's view of sin when counseling him about Claire's lack of faith?

Answer: That God sees sin as an illness - He hates the sin because it's killing His child, but He loves His child and wants to heal them

4. What is the name of the ranch where Brody and the Bounty Brothers live?

Answer: The Circle 7

5. What traumatic event caused Walter to join the army seeking death?

Answer: Outlaws killed his wife and child

6. What does Claire's mother's watch represent, and how does Claire wear it?

Answer: It represents keeping her mother close to her heart; she wears it on her left wrist

7. What is the fake name used by the man working at the livery stable who spies for Uncle Thomas?

Answer: Jim Smith

8. What happens to Fredrick "The Fighter" at the end, and what's significant about it?

Answer: Brody kills him in a gunfight, but Fredrick accepts Christ as his savior before dying

9. What does Mrs. Young tell Claire about the difference between inherited faith and personal faith?

Answer: That Claire has been living through her mother's faith instead of having her own personal relationship with Jesus

10. What is the name of the next book in the series, and which characters will it feature?

Answer: "Uncharted Trials" featuring James and Madeline Flynn

BONUS QUESTIONS (30 points each)

1. Quote the exact words Brody's father used when describing how he met his wife.

Answer: "God answered his prayers by dropping Ma in his lap, literally" (when little Caroline hid from her sister and caused their mother to trip and fall into his lap)

2. What specific injuries does the prostitute Lena have when Claire helps her?

Answer: Her face was swollen beyond recognition, covered in cuts and bruises, with either bruised or broken ribs

3. What does Junior say about why he and Claire are alike?

Answer: Both have scars from being wounded and healed by Brody (he shows her his scar from the arrow wound)

4. What prayer does Brody say for Claire when he thinks she might be dying from fever?

Answer: "Lord, protect my wife from the lies of the enemy. Open her heart to fully receive you. Help her to know she is your daughter, and you have loved her from the day you knit her in her mother's womb."

5. What does Claire realize about her faith journey by the end of the novel?

Answer: That she had been trying to find God out of obligation or to get what she wanted, rather than surrendering her heart because she wanted Him and loved Him

TRIVIA GAME VARIATIONS

Speed Round (5 points each)

- Quick-fire questions with 10-second time limits
- Good for energizing the group

Picture Round

- Show images related to 1870s frontier life, horses, Western towns
- Players identify connections to the story

Quote Identification

- Read memorable quotes and have players identify the speaker
- Mix in some red herring quotes from similar novels

Character Matching

- Match character names with their descriptions or roles
- Include both main and minor characters

Timeline Challenge

- Put major events in chronological order
 - From Claire's flight from New York to the final resolution
-

SCORING SYSTEM

Individual Play:

- 0-100 points: Casual Reader
- 101-200 points: Devoted Fan
- 201-300 points: Bounty Brothers Expert
- 301+ points: Unwavering Faith Scholar

Team Play (2-4 people per team):

- Multiply individual scores by number of team members for comparison

GAME MASTER TIPS

1. **Mix difficulty levels** - Start with easy questions to build confidence
2. **Allow discussion time** for harder questions in group settings
3. **Provide page references** for disputed answers if using physical books
4. **Create themed rounds** focusing on characters, plot events, or themes
5. **Include discussion questions** after trivia to extend engagement
6. **Offer small prizes** like bookmarks or gift cards to Christian bookstores

This trivia game works great for book clubs, church groups, library events, or any gathering of Unwavering Faith fans! Adjust difficulty based on your audience and have fun testing your knowledge of Claire and Brody's journey.

UNWAVERING FAITH

Trivia Game Answer Sheet

Team/Player Name:

Date:

Instructions: Write your answers clearly on the lines provided. Each section has different point values. Add up your points in each category at the bottom. Good luck!

EASY QUESTIONS (10 Points Each)

1.

(10 pts)

2.

(10 pts)

3.

(10 pts)

4.

(10 pts)

5.

(10 pts)

6.

(10 pts)

7.

(10 pts)

8.

(10 pts)

9.

(10 pts)

10.

(10 pts)

MEDIUM QUESTIONS (15 Points Each)

11.

(15 pts)

12.

(15 pts)

13.

(15 pts)

14.

(15 pts)

15.

(15 pts)

16.

(15 pts)

17.

(15 pts)

18.

(15 pts)

19.

(15 pts)

20.

(15 pts)

HARD QUESTIONS (20 Points Each)

21.

(20 pts)

22.

(20 pts)

23.

(20 pts)

24.

(20 pts)

25.

(20 pts)

26.

(20 pts)

27.

(20 pts)

28.

(20 pts)

29.

(20 pts)

30.

(20 pts)

EXPERT QUESTIONS (25 Points Each)

31.

(25 pts)

32.

(25 pts)

33.

(25 pts)

34.

(25 pts)

35.

(25 pts)

36.

(25 pts)

37.

(25 pts)

38.

(25 pts)

39.

(25 pts)

40.

(25 pts)

BONUS QUESTIONS (30 Points Each)

B1.

(30 pts)

B2.

(30 pts)

B3.

(30 pts)

B4.

(30 pts)

B5.

(30 pts)

SCORING

Easy Questions: ____ / 100

Medium Questions: ____ / 150

Hard Questions: ____ / 200

Expert Questions: ____ / 250

Bonus Questions: ____ / 150

Subtotal: ____ / 850

FINAL SCORE: ____ / 850

0-100: Casual Reader | 101-200: Devoted Fan

201-300: Expert | 301+: Unwavering Faith Scholar

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." - Philippians 4:13