

## SUGGESTED INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

### BONNIE GRAY - AUTHOR OF *SWEET LIKE JASMINE*

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**Bonnie Gray** ([TheBonnieGray.com](http://TheBonnieGray.com)) is an author, speaker, blogger, and podcaster. Her new memoir, ***Sweet Like Jasmine: Finding Identity in a Culture of Loneliness***, releases Oct. 2021. She says of her latest book, “This is my story of God whispering, ‘What no one wants, I cherish. You are worth loving. You are My beloved.’”

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- Bonnie, your new book is a memoir that recounts a journey to make peace with your past. You returned to Chinatown (in San Francisco) to find your childhood home and the father who abandoned you – and what you discovered changed your life. *Why did you choose to revisit Chinatown when you had sworn never to return? How does exploring stories from the past help women flourish today?*
- In ***Sweet Like Jasmine***, you describe striving for a cookie-cutter life during childhood, a life that would fit in with all the “normal” people. Yet you also write: “Well into my adult years I was hiding the things that made me feel different & broken. I was following everyone else’s journey, except my own.” *Tell us more about the cookie-cutter life. How did you begin to follow your own journey?*
- You grew up Chinese American as the responsible older sibling who cared for her family. Yet inside you carried invisible wounds from living a dual life – you were “Chinese Bonnie” at home and “American Bonnie” at school – and you shared that struggle with no one. *How did you resolve the loneliness of living two different lives? Why is it so hard for women to talk about what goes on in our families?*
- ***Sweet Like Jasmine*** describes the beauty of Chinese culture, walking readers through bok-choy-fish markets and all the sights and sounds of Chinatown. But traditional Chinese culture also treasured sons more highly than daughters. *How did this cultural value affect you? How did God help you embrace your true worth?*
- Your memoir explores the range of struggles women encounter over a lifetime, such as depression, low self-worth, emotional trauma, and sexual assault. *How did you find beauty in your brokenness? What encouragement can you offer to women who feel terribly alone in their struggles?*
- Since neither of your parents were people of faith when they immigrated to the U.S., *how did you become a Christian? Who helped guide you into deeper faith?*
- In an early chapter of the book, you describe trying on one of the Chinese silk dresses embroidered by your seamstress mother. It was your first experience of what is called “Imposter Syndrome”. *Tell us what happened and what we can learn from it.*
- You conclude each chapter of ***Sweet Like Jasmine*** with a ‘Letter to My Younger Self’ plus three questions designed to help readers see God at work in their own life stories. *What inspired you to include those questions?*
- What are your thoughts on a godly response to the racial division and anti-Asian hate which has escalated recently? *How does your book promote unity, hope and peace?*
- ***Sweet Like Jasmine*** is your story of (finally) being seen and known. *What do you say to readers who are tempted to hide parts of themselves that make them feel unworthy?*