

She's Got Sole

by Judi Geake, p. 40

“Sensible Shoes” author Sharon Garlough Brown shares the inspiration behind her best-selling series and how its success has changed her own journey in ministry.

1. “Sensible Shoes” by Sharon Garlough Brown is set at a spiritual retreat. What was the last retreat you participated in? Why are retreats so often fertile ground for spiritual transformation and deep relationships?
2. Garlough Brown refers to Jesus’s use of the power of story. She says, “Story is stealthy. So is the Holy Spirit.” Can you think of an example from Scripture that illustrates what she means?
3. The messiness of the characters’ lives leads both Garlough Brown and her readers to identify with them. When has seeing the “messiness” in the lives of others helped you in your own struggles?
4. Garlough Brown felt the Lord removed her from ministry so that she could learn that his love was not based on her usefulness or productivity in the kingdom. Why does it seem so much easier to earn God’s love than to be still and receive it?
5. In the sidebar story, “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Interview,” Judi Geake found it hard to be gracious and forgiving of her own mistakes. Do you tend to be hardest on yourself when you make mistakes? What do you think of Garlough Brown’s advice to Judi Geake?